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### **Hitting the Beach, What Do New Yorkers Find?**

**August 10, 2009—New York, NY,** New Yorkers for Parks inspected all seven City beaches for the *2009 Report Card on Beaches*, examining for cleanliness and safety. The report discusses the conditions of the beaches and recommends strategies for improvement.

“While Bathrooms and Drinking Fountains have improved since 2007, Shorelines and Pathways have declined,” said Cheryl Huber, Director of Research and Planning at New Yorkers for Parks. “Surveyors found that litter and broken glass continue to be a challenge on the Shorelines, while Pathways still suffer from loose boards and other damage. But, Bathrooms were open more frequently and Drinking Fountains had fewer maintenance issues than in 2007,” she added.

The ratings for the beaches surveyed are as follows:

<b>Borough</b>	<b>Beach Name</b>	<b>2007 Rating</b>	<b>2009 Rating</b>	<b>Mileage</b>
Brooklyn	Coney Island/Brighton Beach	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	2.7
Brooklyn	Manhattan Beach	Challenged	Satisfactory	0.3
Staten Island	Midland Beach	Satisfactory	Challenged	1.5
Bronx	Orchard Beach	Challenged	Challenged	1.1
Queens	Rockaway Beach	Challenged	Satisfactory	7.2
Staten Island	South Beach	Challenged	Unsatisfactory	1.7
Staten Island	Wolfe's Pond Beach	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	1.3

New Yorkers for Parks inspected the beaches during the summer of 2008 and based on the results, each beach was rated “Satisfactory,” “Challenged,” or “Unsatisfactory.”

The first *Report Card on Beaches* was issued in 2007 and though improvements were noted this year, results show that New York City’s 14 miles of public beaches still need additional maintenance attention.

To improve the conditions of beaches citywide, New Yorkers for Parks recommends that the City explore new ways of funding beaches, such as through developer contributions or concessions revenue; implement a “triage” advisory board for beaches that are in the most need, such as Wolfe’s Pond Park Beach; and increase transparency, accountability, and safety by dedicating a website to City beaches.

“From South Beach in Staten Island to Orchard Beach in the Bronx, New Yorkers depend on our City beaches to escape from the summer heat,” said Christian DiPalermo, Executive Director of New Yorkers for Parks. “We hope the City will enact our recommendations to improve the conditions of these urban oases.”

New Yorkers for Parks is a citywide, independent organization dedicated to ensuring that all New Yorkers enjoy a world class parks system.

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