

# Bathing Water Profile - Grattan Road Beach (2013)

Bathing Water:	Grattan Road Beach
Bathing Water Code:	IEWEBWT170_0700_0100
Local Authority:	Galway City Council
River Basin District:	Western
Monitoring Point:	128908E, 223718N

## 1. Profile Details:

Profile Id:	BWPR00217	Toilets Available:	No
Year Of Profile:	2013	Car Parking Available:	No
Year Of Identification	2011	Disabled Access:	No
Version Number:	1	First Aid Available:	Yes
		Sensitive Area:	No
		Dogs Allowed:	No
		Lifesaving Facilities:	Yes

Figure 1: Bathing Water



2. Bathing Water Details:

Map 1: Bathing Water Location & Extent



Bathing Water location and extent:

Grattan Road Beach is located to the west of Galway City, close to Salthill. It is a popular neighbourhood bathing area in the city, and is the closest beach to the city centre. It is particularly suited to families with young children and residents of the Whitestrand, Grattan Road and Claddagh areas. The beach was not a designated bathing area under the old bathing water regulations. The beach is approximately 180m in length and average number of daily bathers during the bathing season is estimated at approximately 500 on weekdays and 1000 on weekends.

The beach itself faces directly out to Galway Bay and boasts breathtaking views stretching for miles across the bay to County Clare and the Aran Islands. It is accessed from the Grattan Road. Limited free parking is available along the promenade adjacent to the beach, however there is additional parking at Toft park, which is in close proximity and approximately 750m from the beach.

Main features of the Bathing Water:

Type of Bathing Water

It has a safe, shallow, sandy beach of approximately 0.18km bounded on one side by a made outcrop and the other by the rock armour along the promenade. It is suitable for swimming at both high and low tide. The beach is used extensively all year round, due to its close proximity to the city centre.

Flora/Fauna, Riparian Zone

Vegetation is sparse along the upper zone of the sandy shore. On the rocky outcrops, colonies of mussels, periwinkles, limpets and common barnacles can all be found. Small stands of seaweed can be present on both the strand and the rocky outcrops, but they rarely pose a nuisance to bathers.

Birds commonly found on or along the beach include Grey Herons, Curlews, Gannets, Herring Gulls, and Common Terns.

Water Depth

The water depth at Grattan Beach at full tide is \*\*\*\*\*m

Tidal Range

The beach has a macro-tidal ranges (>4m) with medium and maxium depths of the bathing area varying in relation to the tide height and position.

Land Use

Land use immediately adjacent to the beach is predominantly of urban fabric – residential and recreational & amenity - residential estates, public parks, private domestic dwellings, hotels, and the commercial centre of Salthill all within close proximity.

### **Sensitive Area**

The entire area of Inner Galway Bay is covered by SAC and SPA designations, including Grattan Beach.

Max. number of visitor during a day in high season: 1000

Approx number of visitor during the bathing season: \*\*\*\*\* (Total from Mid May to Mid September)

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**Activities  
available at the  
Bathing Water:**

The beach is used extensively all year round, due to its close proximity to the City centre. Swimming and bathing are popular activities particularly during the Summer months.

Seating and picnic facilities are available closeby along the promenade, and the promenade is used intensively by walkers and runners alike.

Dogs are prohibited on the beach from 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., during May, June, July, August and September, by beach by-laws.

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**Contributing  
catchment  
details:**

Grattan Beach is located in the townland of Townparks, approximately 1.2km from Galway City centre. It is located in the Corrib Estuary coastal water body (WE\_170\_0000), in the Western River Basin District. The contributing catchment is approximately 5.2 km sq in area. The entire beach area lies within the Inner Galway Bay Special Protected Area, and Galway Bay Complex, a Special Area of Conservation and houses a number of habitats of high conservation status, being listed in Annex I of the EU habitats Directive. Water Bodies Draining to Bathing Water There are no streams/rivers discharging directly to the bathing water however there are a number of surface water outfalls which discharge surface water from the surrounding catchment.

**Topography**

The predominant soil group of the area is brown podzolics, on granite fill. Bedrock type is of the metagabbro & orthogneiss suite.

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**Monitoring point  
details:**

The location of the bathing water monitoring point is at the centre of the beach.

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**Reason for  
selection of the  
monitoring point:**

The location of the bathing water monitoring point at the centre of the beach is the location where most bathers use the bathing water.

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**Water quality  
assessment:**

For the 2012 bathing season, Grattan Beach achieved sufficient water quality status and complied with EU mandatory values. The bathing water was newly identified in 2011 and had sufficient water quality status in that year. Monitoring has been carried out at Grattan Beach annually for a number of years, and the water quality has generally been shown to be sufficient since 2006.

All water quality samples taken during the 2013 bathing season were good.

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### **3. Identified Pressures:**

### Map 2: Bathing Water Catchment



### 3.1 Potential pressures in the catchment assessed as posing no risk:

No pressures identified

### 3.2 Potential pressures in the catchment assessed as posing risk:

<b>Description:</b>	The mutton island waste water treatment plan services the city of Galway and is located on Mutton Island, 1.2 km from the beach. There is a potential risk of pollution due to failure of equipment, an overflow discharge, significant pressure on the plant or insufficient wwtp capacity.
<b>Source:</b>	Mutton Island Waste Water Treatment Plant
<b>Type:</b>	Waste Water Treatment plant
<b>Short Term Pressure:</b>	Yes
<b>Nature:</b>	Low Risk
<b>Frequency:</b>	<2 per season
<b>Duration:</b>	< 48 hours
<b>Risk Assessment Methodology:</b>	risk assessment methodology is as recommended in the EPA Guidance for Development of Bathing Water Profiles.
<b>Risk Assessment Results:</b>	The discharge is considered a long outfall. There is full treatment at the plant therefore the microbial pollution potential is very low. The 95th percentile monitoring result for intestinal enterococci for the period 2009-2012 is between 41-200, therefore the WQI grade is B. The microbial pollution risk (MPR) for this discharge is therefore very low.
<b>Details:</b>	During very heavy rainfall, or equipment failure at Mutton Island Treatment Plant there is a potential for discharges which can affect water quality at the beach.
<b>Management Measures:</b>	<p>A strong line of communication exists between the management at the treatment plant and the environment section of Galway City Council, so that in the event of a failure or discharge, a water sample is taken and bathers are notified by the erection of warning notices, advising bathers of the potential risk to water quality and not to bathe.</p> <p>Upgrade works to increase capacity at Mutton Island treatment plant are due to start in 2014.</p>

<b>Description:</b>	Use of beach by dog walkers and subsequent dog fouling may pose a risk to bathing water quality.
<b>Source:</b>	Dogs on beach
<b>Type:</b>	Domestic animals on beach
<b>Short Term Pressure:</b>	Yes
<b>Nature:</b>	Low Risk
<b>Frequency:</b>	< 1 per season
<b>Duration:</b>	< 24 hours
<b>Risk Assessment Methodology:</b>	Monitoring/survey of beach for dog faeces
<b>Risk Assessment Results:</b>	Monitoring showed that level of faeces on beach from dogs was low
<b>Details:</b>	There is potential for short term pollution at Grattan beach as a result of dogs, however the risk is very low.
<b>Management Measures:</b>	Bye-laws have been introduced which prohibits dogs from city beaches between 9am and 8pm during the months of May – September inclusive. Enforcement and awareness will be increased in advance of each bathing season.

<b>Description:</b>	Galway bay is used for shipping, including oil tankers, cargo ferries, cruise ships and fishing.
<b>Source:</b>	Discharge from Recreational Boating/Charter Shipping
<b>Type:</b>	Recreational boating and charter shipping
<b>Short Term Pressure:</b>	Yes
<b>Nature:</b>	Low Risk
<b>Frequency:</b>	< 1 per 5 years
<b>Duration:</b>	< 24 hours
<b>Risk Assessment Methodology:</b>	History of pollution due to discharges
<b>Risk Assessment Results:</b>	There is possible potential risk of discharge/leak from boats which could result in pollution at the beach
<b>Details:</b>	No pollution has been directly associated with discharge from boats/shipping
<b>Management Measures:</b>	In the event of a discharge, bathers shall be notified of potential risk to water quality and advised not to use the bathing water by signage at the beach and by informing lifeguards on duty.

<b>Description:</b>	There are a number of surface water outfalls which discharge close to the bathing water. In addition there is a storm overflow, connected to the surface water outfall to the west of the beach. During periods of very heavy rainfall, the combined system overflows through the storm overflow pipe to the surface water system which outfalls to the west of the beach. There has been evidence of a link between very heavy rainfall and pollution at the beach.
<b>Source:</b>	Surface Water Outfalls/CSO discharges
<b>Type:</b>	Rainwater discharges
<b>Short Term Pressure:</b>	Yes
<b>Nature:</b>	High Risk
<b>Frequency:</b>	< 2 times per season
<b>Duration:</b>	< 48 hours
<b>Risk Assessment Methodology:</b>	Risk assessment methodology as recommended in the EPA Guidance for Development of Bathing Water Profiles.
<b>Risk Assessment Results:</b>	Discharge considered short outfall. WQI - B MPP - High (conservative assessment)
<b>Details:</b>	Water quality monitoring history shows that during very heavy rainfall at the beach there is a high risk of pollution.

<b>Management Measures:</b>	Expected rainfall will be monitored. In the event of heavy rainfall, the bathing water will be monitored and bathers shall be notified of potential risk to water quality where such exists.  The Water Services Section of Galway City Council are in discussions with Irish Water in relation to proposals to address the problem.
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### 3.3 Other Risks:

Assessment of the potential for proliferation of cyanobacteria: N/A

Proposed management measures for cyanobacteria: The beach will be monitored and the HSE consulted to determine the acceptability and any potential health risks, and where required, consideration will be given to the removal of excess macro-algae. The public will be informed through the posting of notices at the beaches.

Assessment of the potential for proliferation of macroalgae: Monitoring of the beach indicates that there is a potential for proliferation of Macroalgae on this beach on occasion.

Proposed management measures for macroalgae: N/A

Assessment of the potential for proliferation of marine phytoplankton: Monitoring of the beach indicates that there is a potential for proliferation of Macroalgae on this beach on occasion.

Proposed management measures for marine phytoplankton: N/A

Additional Information:

Contact Details:

Galway City Council

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Name of contact person during holidays: Daithi Flood, Assistant Engineer or Eithne Murphy, Executive Engineer, Parks

### 4 Bathing Water Status From Previous Sampling Years:

	2011	2012	2013
Grattan Road Beach	Sufficient	Sufficient	Good

### 5 Contact Details:

<b>Contact:</b>	Galway City Council
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:environment@galwaycity.ie">environment@galwaycity.ie</a>
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