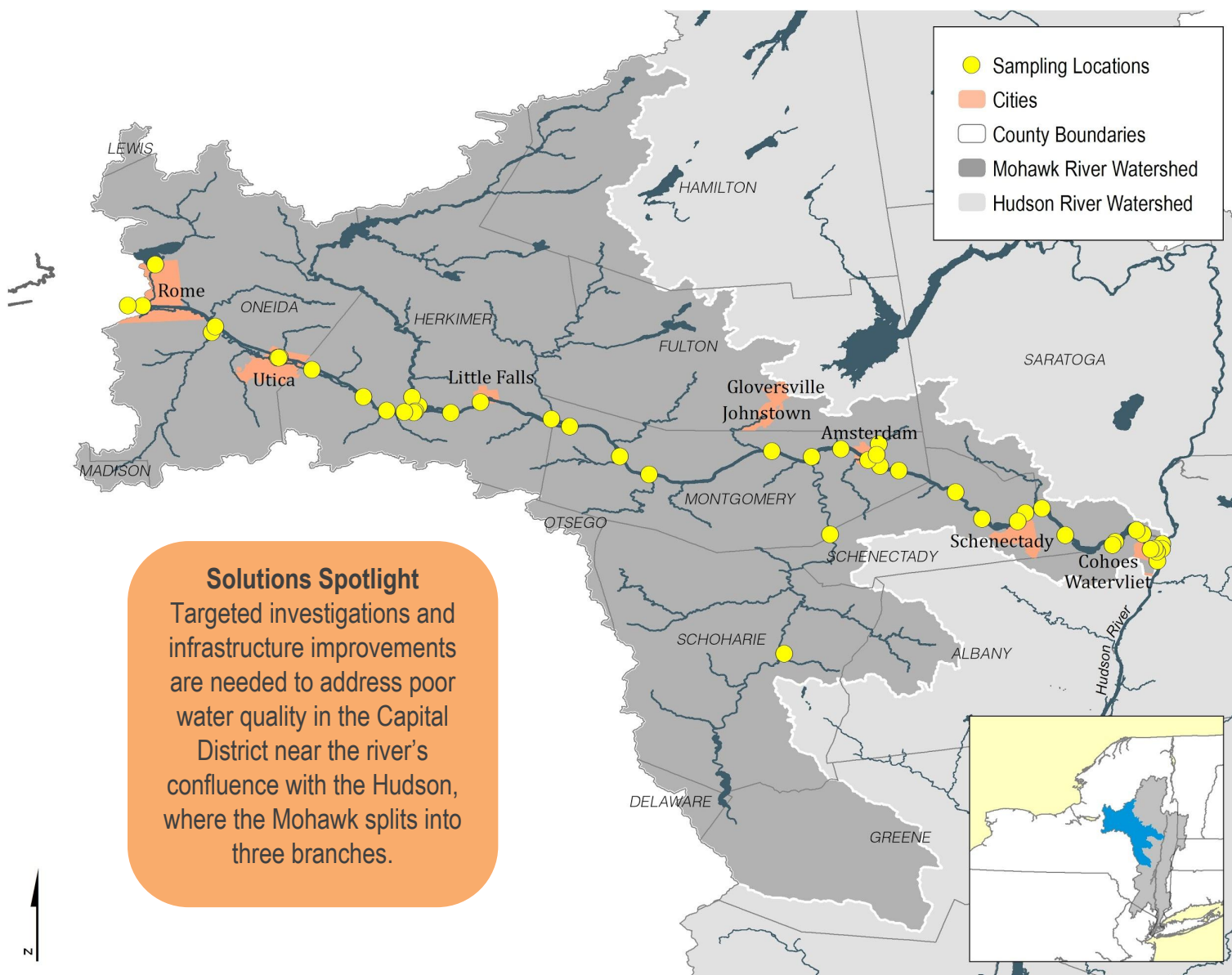


MOHAWK RIVER

Water Quality Monitoring Results

2015-2018

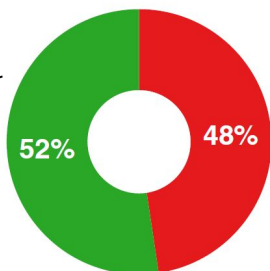


Solutions Spotlight
Targeted investigations and infrastructure improvements are needed to address poor water quality in the Capital District near the river's confluence with the Hudson, where the Mohawk splits into three branches.

What the Data Show

What portion of samples were safe for swimming?

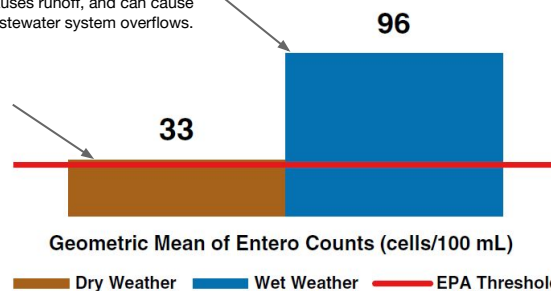
About half of samples met the EPA guideline for safe swimming.



How high were the bacteria levels?

Bacteria levels are about three times greater after rainfall, which causes runoff, and can cause wastewater system overflows.

The average bacterial level for samples taken in dry weather nearly met the safe swimming threshold. However, conditions vary from place to place.



More: Explore a watershed map, data from each sampling site, year-to-year patterns and other info at riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/mohawk-river.

Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 915 samples collected and processed since 2015 by Riverkeeper, SUNY Cobleskill, and SUNY Polytechnic. Samples are collected monthly from May to October.

About the Mohawk River

The Mohawk River is the largest tributary to the Hudson River. More than 100,000 people use it as a source of drinking water.

Why We Measure Bacteria

Fecal indicator bacteria such as *Enterococcus* (“Entero”) usually do not make us sick. But because they live in the guts of warm-blooded animals, when these bacteria are present in water, pathogens that can make us sick may also be present.

quate sewage treatment, urban or farm runoff, septic system failures, wildlife and contaminated sediment.

While research continues, the EPA has set thresholds to define if water is safe for swimming based on decades of science relying on measurements of these bacteria. Data are shown in Entero cells per 100 mL.

Sources of fecal bacteria may include sewer overflows and failures, inade-

Signs of Progress

In 2018, the Mohawk Watershed Symposium marked its 10th year. After several years of intensive monitoring, the Department of Environmental Conservation has begun a coordinated effort to upgrade wastewater treatment plants along the river. In 2018, \$187 million was committed to improving sewer systems.

