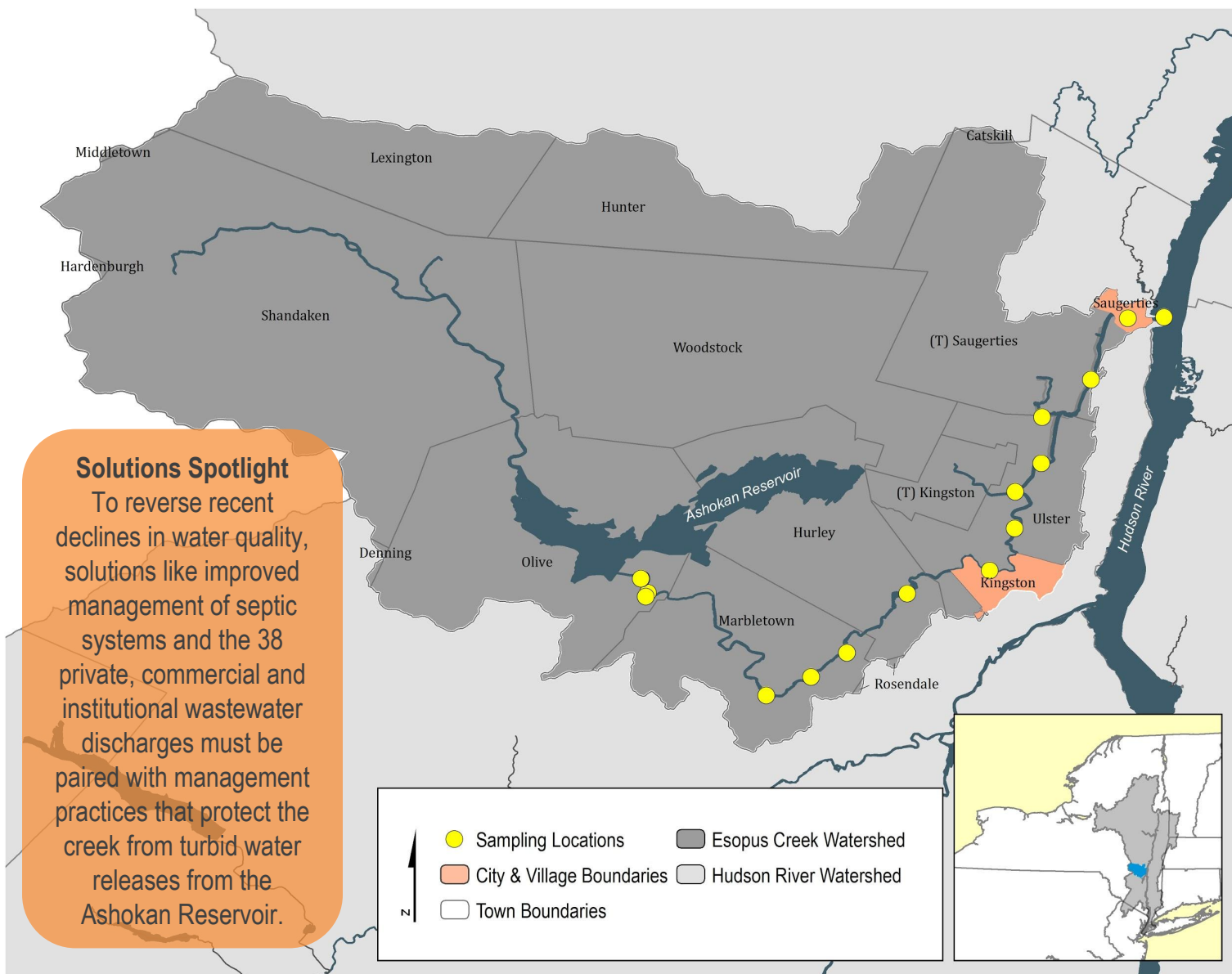


ESOPUS CREEK

Community Water Quality Monitoring Results

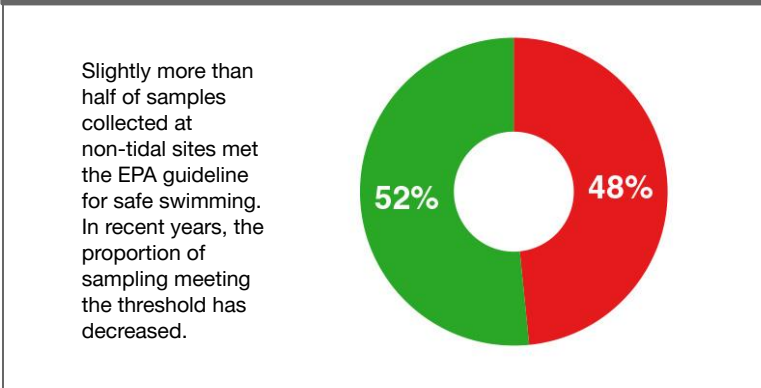
2010-2019



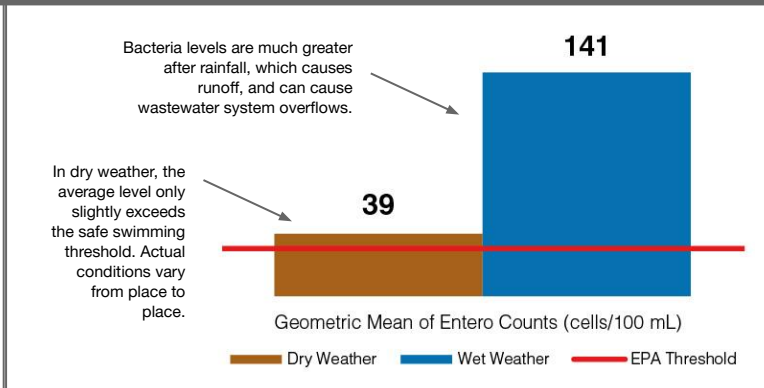
Solutions Spotlight
To reverse recent declines in water quality, solutions like improved management of septic systems and the 38 private, commercial and institutional wastewater discharges must be paired with management practices that protect the creek from turbid water releases from the Ashokan Reservoir.

What the Data Show

What portion of samples were safe for swimming?



How high were the bacteria levels?



More: Explore a watershed map, data from each sampling site, year-to-year patterns and more at riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/esopus-creek



Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 660 samples collected since 2012 by Marbletown ECC members, Riverkeeper, and watershed residents. Samples are collected monthly (May to October) and processed by Riverkeeper. To get involved, contact Sebastian Pillitteri at spillitteri@riverkeeper.org.

Why We Measure Bacteria

Fecal indicator bacteria such as *Enterococcus* (“Enter”) 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.

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

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

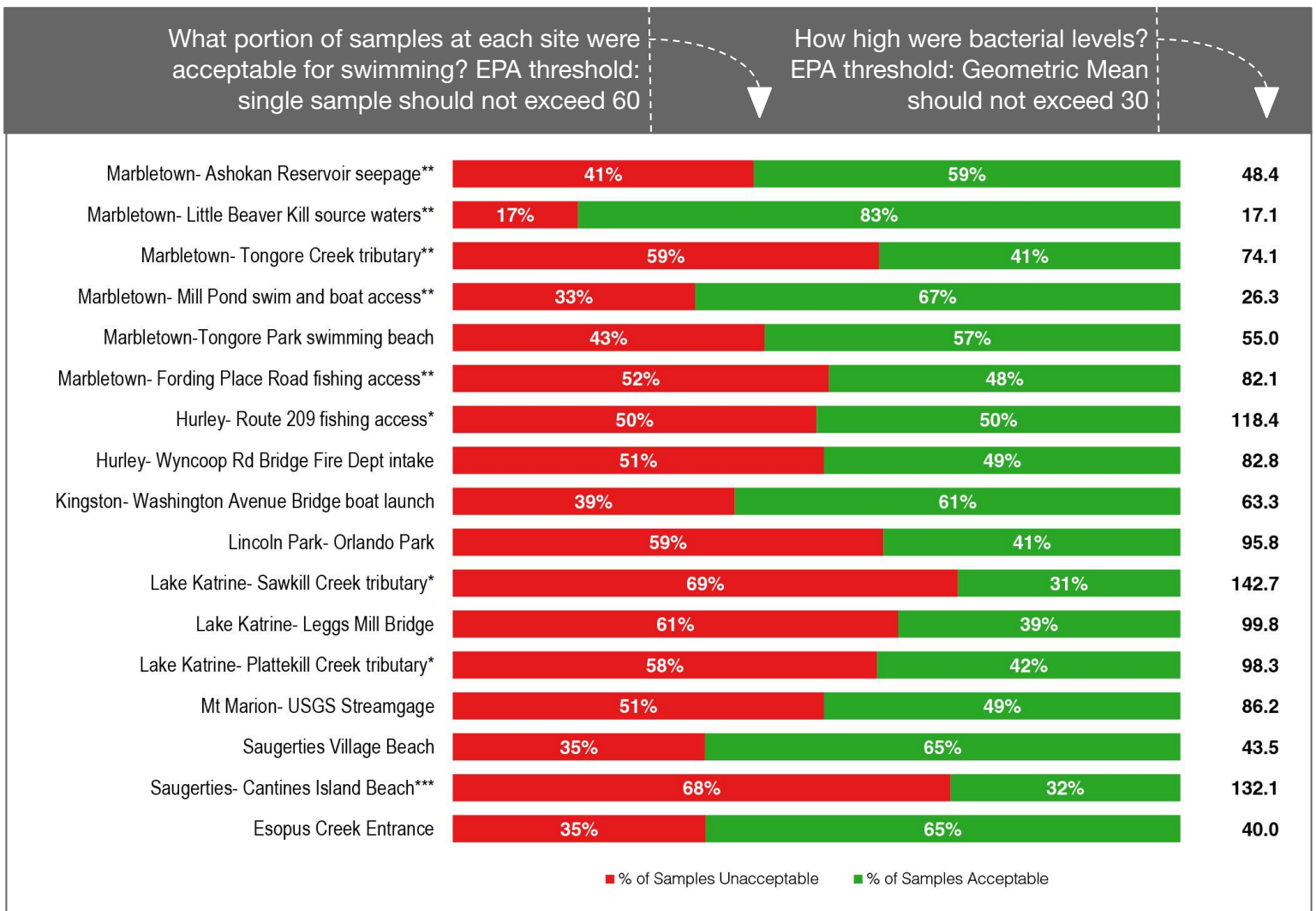
While research continues, the EPA has set thresholds to define if water is safe for swimming based on decades of science relying on measurements of these bacteria. Data are shown in Enterococcus cells per 100 mL.

About the Esopus Creek

The lower Esopus Creek begins at the outlet of the Ashokan Reservoir, and flows through a bedrock canyon before turning to the northeast and flowing through a wide, agricultural floodplain.

Signs of Progress

Watershed groups have recently formed in two Esopus Creek tributaries, Sawkill Creek and Plattekill Creek. Together these two tributaries drain a large portion of the Esopus Creek watershed’s land area. The Sawkill group plans to update the creek’s water quality assessments, with support from Woodstock Land Conservancy.



Sampling began in 2012 and expanded to these sites in *2012, **2013 and ***2014.