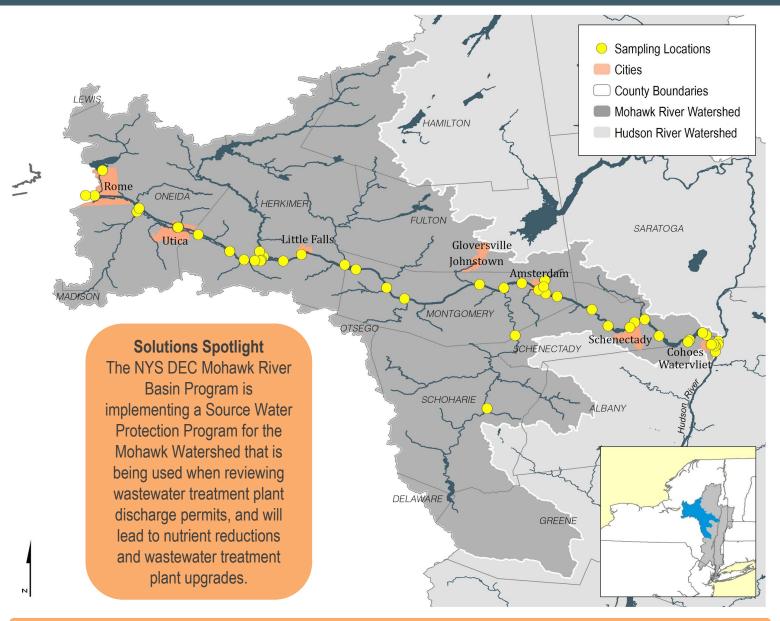
MOHAWK RIVER

Water Quality Monitoring Results

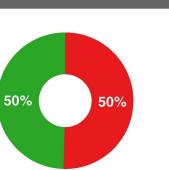
2015-2019



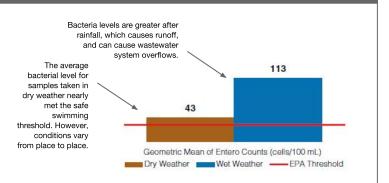
What the Data Show

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 other info at <u>riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/mohawk-river</u>.

Mohawk River Water Quality

Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 1170 samples collected and processed since 2015 by Riverkeeper, SUNY Cobleskill, and SUNY Polytechnic. Samples are collected monthly from May to October. We are looking for new volunteers to sample in 2020! To get involved contact Sebastian Pillitteri at spillitteri@riverkeeper.org.

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.

Sources of fecal bacteria may include sewer overflows and failures, inadequate 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.

12.8

18.2

48.2

60.5

105.3

32.9

270.0

183.4

289.2

235.5

179.8

212.0

80.6

140.5

221.2

99.1

172

34.1

90.4

7.8

68.0

34.8

38.0

About the Mohawk River

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

Signs of Progress

The NYS Department of **Environmental Conservation has** nearly completed water quality and flow models that will be used to define limits on the amount of phosphorus that can be discharged to the river from wastewater treatment plants and other sources. Excess phosphorus can lead to algal blooms and has been identified as a problem in the Mohawk River.

How high were bacterial levels? EPA threshold: Geometric Mean should not exceed 30

45%	5	5%	64.3
43%	5	7%	47.6
43%	5	7%	41.4
58%		42%	98.6
88% <mark>12%</mark>			333.0
88% <mark>12%</mark>		607.6	
52%		48%	69.7
48%		52%	51.3
22%	78%		31.9
28%	72%	6	25.1
16%	84%		13.9
48%		52%	60.0
40%	6	0%	34.5
34%	66	%	26.4
19%	81%		20.3
30%	70 %	6	34.9
23%	77%		20.9
7	6%	24%	139.3
	84%	16%	318.0
	88%	12%	306.2
88% 12%		347.3	
89% <mark>11%</mark>		432.5	

Charleston- Schoharie Ck at Burtonsville Glen- Schoharie Creek at Mohawk Crossing Florida- Old Erie Lock 28 kayak launch Amsterdam- North Chuc. Ck at Shuttleworth** Amsterdam- North Chuc. Ck at Forest Ave.** Amsterdam- Public dock at Riverlink Park Amsterdam- Quist Road boat launch* Florida- Lock 10 boat launch Glenville- Lock 9 boat launch Rotterdam- Lock 8 Schenectady- Mohawk Harbor* Schenectady STP* Niskayuna- Aqueduct Park rowing docks Niskavuna- Lock 7 boat launch Halfmoon- I-87 crossing* Waterford- Flightlocks Road boat launch Waterford- Tail Race fishing area* Cohoes- Van Schaick Island at Heartt Ave* Cohoes- Van Schaick Island at bike/bike trail Green Island- Silhouette Boathouse Waterford Harbor

Middleburgh- Schoharie Ck at T. Murphy Park*

% of Samples Acceptable

What portion of samples were acceptable for swimming? EPA threshold: single sample should ; not exceed 60

Rome- Delta Lake outlet	4% 96%	
Rome- Barge Canal at city boat ramp	33%	67%
Rome- Bellamy Harbor Park	44%	56%
Whitestown- Route 32 Bridge	54%	46%
Oriskany- Oriskany Creek tributary*	k tributary* 59%	
Utica- Barge Canal at Historic Utica Marina	31% 69%	
Utica- Reall Creek tributary*	8	3% 17%
Utica- Park & Ride fishing access 69%		31%
Frankfort- Dyke Road Bridge	76	% 24%
Schuyler- Frankfort Harbor*	79	% 21%
Schuyler- Moyers Creek tributary*	8	3% 17%
llion boat launch*	67%	33%
Herkimer- Gems Along the Mohawk	57%	43%
Herkimer- I-90 bridge***	64%	36%
Herkimer- Fishing access at STP	75	% 25%
Herkimer- W Canada Ck at E German St. Ext	68%	32%
German Flatts- Barge Canal at Lock 18	25% 75%	
Little Falls- Canal Harbor boat launch	36%	64%
Manheim- East Canada Creek at Route 5	54% 46%	
Minden- Barge Canal at Lock 16	19%	81%
Fort Plain- Lock 15 kayak launch	52% 48%	
Canajoharie- DEC boat launch at Route 10	37% 63%	
Glen- Riverside Drive kayak access	Glen- Riverside Drive kayak access 42%	

% of Samples Unacceptable

Sampling began in 2015 and expanded in *2016, **2017, ***2018

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SUNY POLYTECHNIC

2015-2019