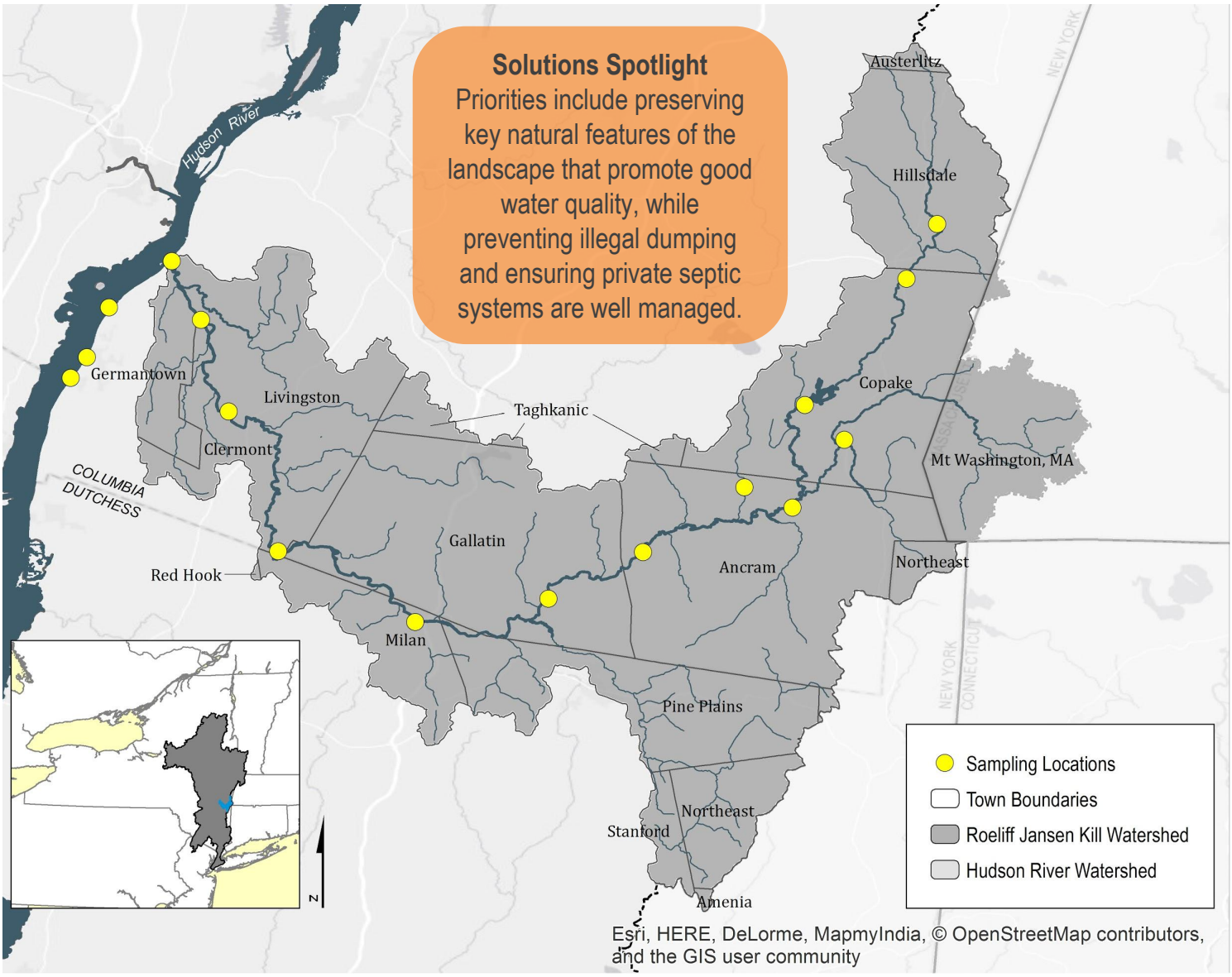
ROELIFF JANSEN KILL

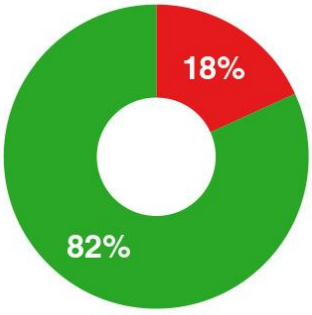
Community Water Quality Monitoring Results 2016-2019



What the Data Show

What portion of samples were safe for swimming?

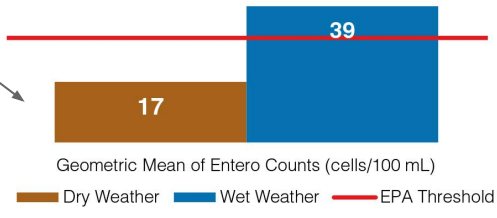
More than 80% of samples collected at non-tidal sites met the EPA guideline for safe swimming. This is among the best water quality observed in Hudson River tributaries by community monitoring programs.



How high were the bacteria levels?

Bacteria levels are above the safe swimming level after rainfall, which causes runoff, and can cause wastewater system overflows.

In dry weather, Entero is below the EPA ssafe swimming threshold. It is important to remember that conditions vary by site.



More: Explore a watershed map, data from each sampling site, year-to-year patterns and other info at riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/roeliff-jansen-kill.
See Entero and other water quality data from the Roe Jan at waterlab.bard.edu/roe-jan.

Roe Jan Kill Water Quality 2016-2019

Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 319 samples collected since 2016 by Roe Jan Watershed Community. Samples were collected monthly (May to October) and processed by the Bard Water Lab. To get involved, visit www.roejanwatershed.org and click “Get Involved.”

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.

About the Roeliff Jansen Kill

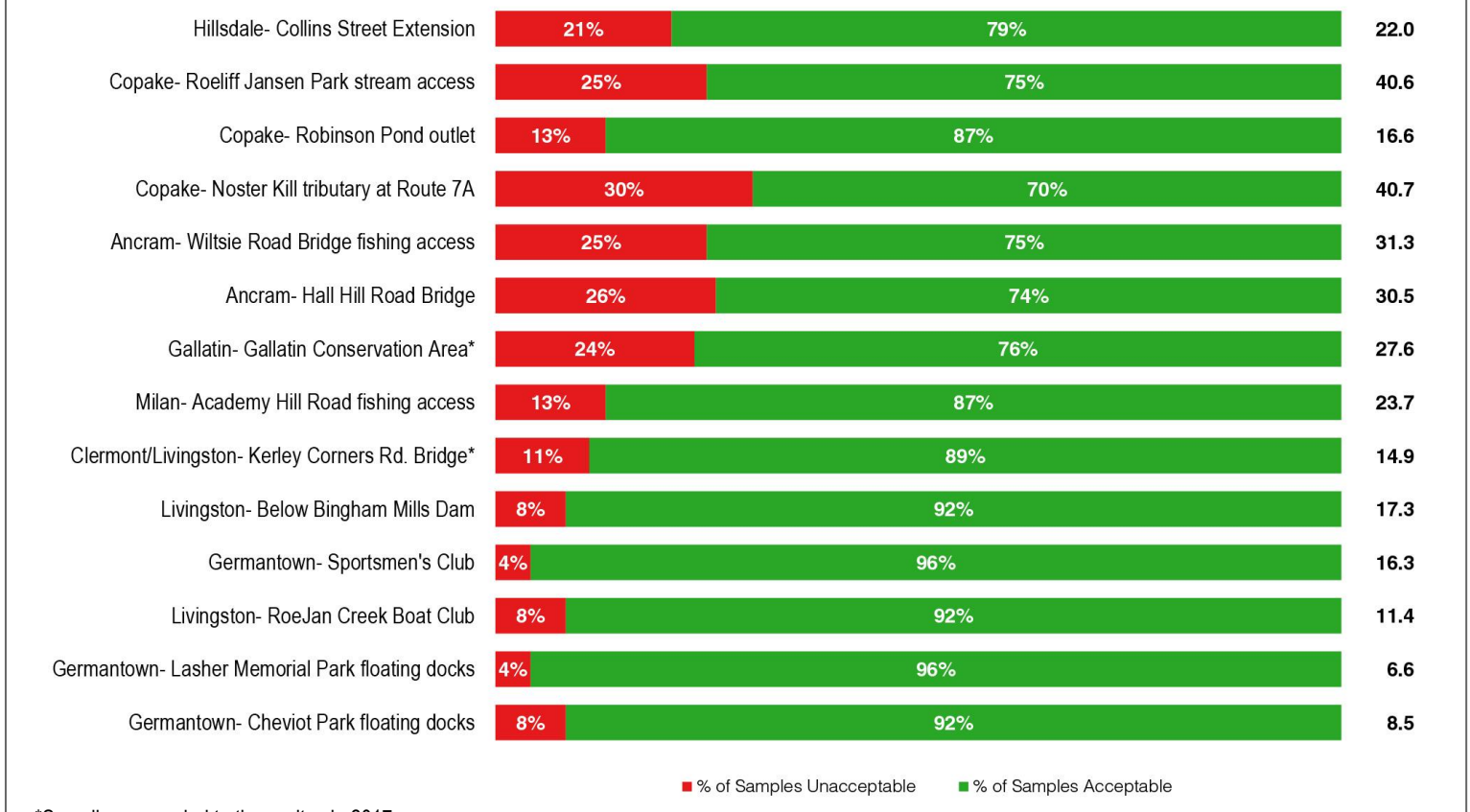
The Roe Jan is named for Roeliff Jansen, a Scandinavian colonizer of the Hudson Valley. His wife Anneke Jans survived him, owning a 62-acre farm in what is now Manhattan.

Signs of Progress

The Roe Jan Watershed Community is dedicated to understanding and protecting the kill through community science and advocacy. The RJWC recently collaborated with Trout Unlimited on riparian tree planting. The watershed’s rural nature and the trend toward organic agriculture help protect water quality in the Roe Jan.

What portion of samples at each site were unacceptable for swimming? EPA threshold: single sample should not exceed 60

How high were bacterial levels? EPA threshold: geometric mean should not exceed 30



*Sampling expanded to these sites in 2017.

bard water lab

ROE JAN WATERSHED COMMUNITY

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