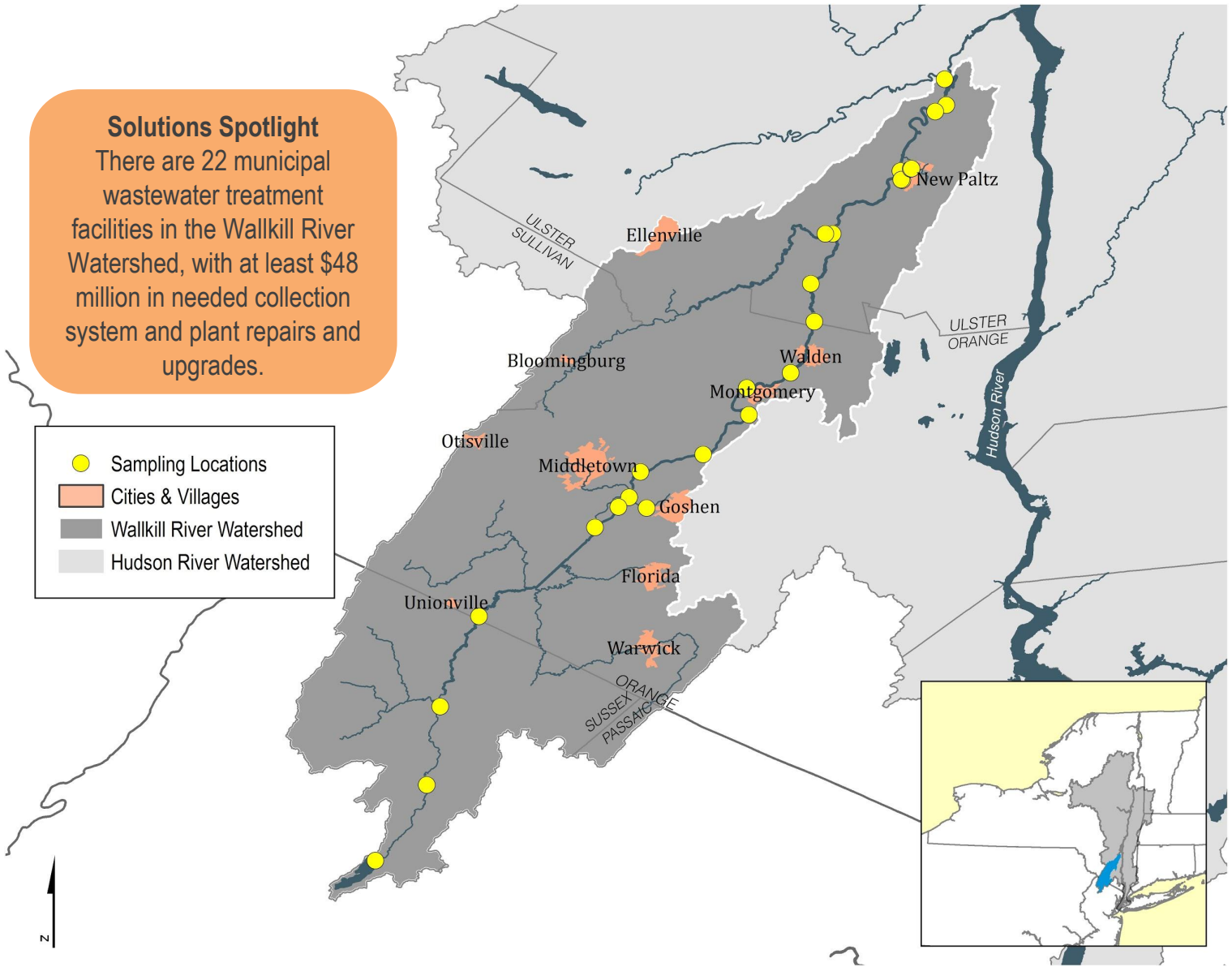


WALKKILL RIVER

Community Water Quality Monitoring Results

2012-2019

Solutions Spotlight
 There are 22 municipal wastewater treatment facilities in the Walkkill River Watershed, with at least \$48 million in needed collection system and plant repairs and upgrades.



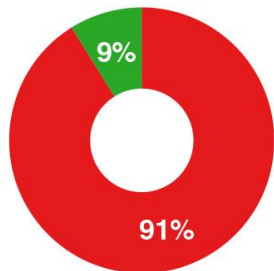
- Sampling Locations
- Cities & Villages
- Walkkill River Watershed
- Hudson River Watershed

What the Data Show

What portion of samples were safe for swimming?

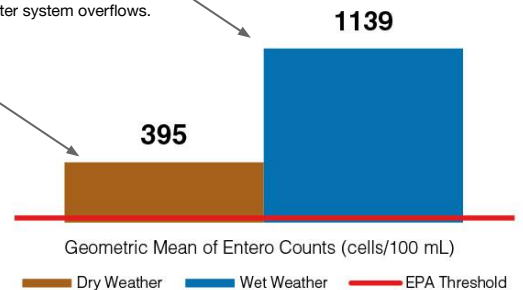
How high were the bacteria levels?

Very few samples met the EPA guideline for safe swimming. Results from the Walkkill River Watershed are among the worst that Riverkeeper and our partners have observed in Hudson River tributaries.



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

Even in dry weather, levels exceed the safe swimming threshold by more than 10 times.



More: Explore a watershed map, data from each sampling site, year-to-year patterns and more at riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/walkkill-river. Learn more about the Walkkill River Watershed Alliance at www.walkkillalliance.org.



Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 1072 samples collected since 2012 by Gardiner and Montgomery CAC members 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 Entero cells per 100 mL.

A Little About the Wallkill River

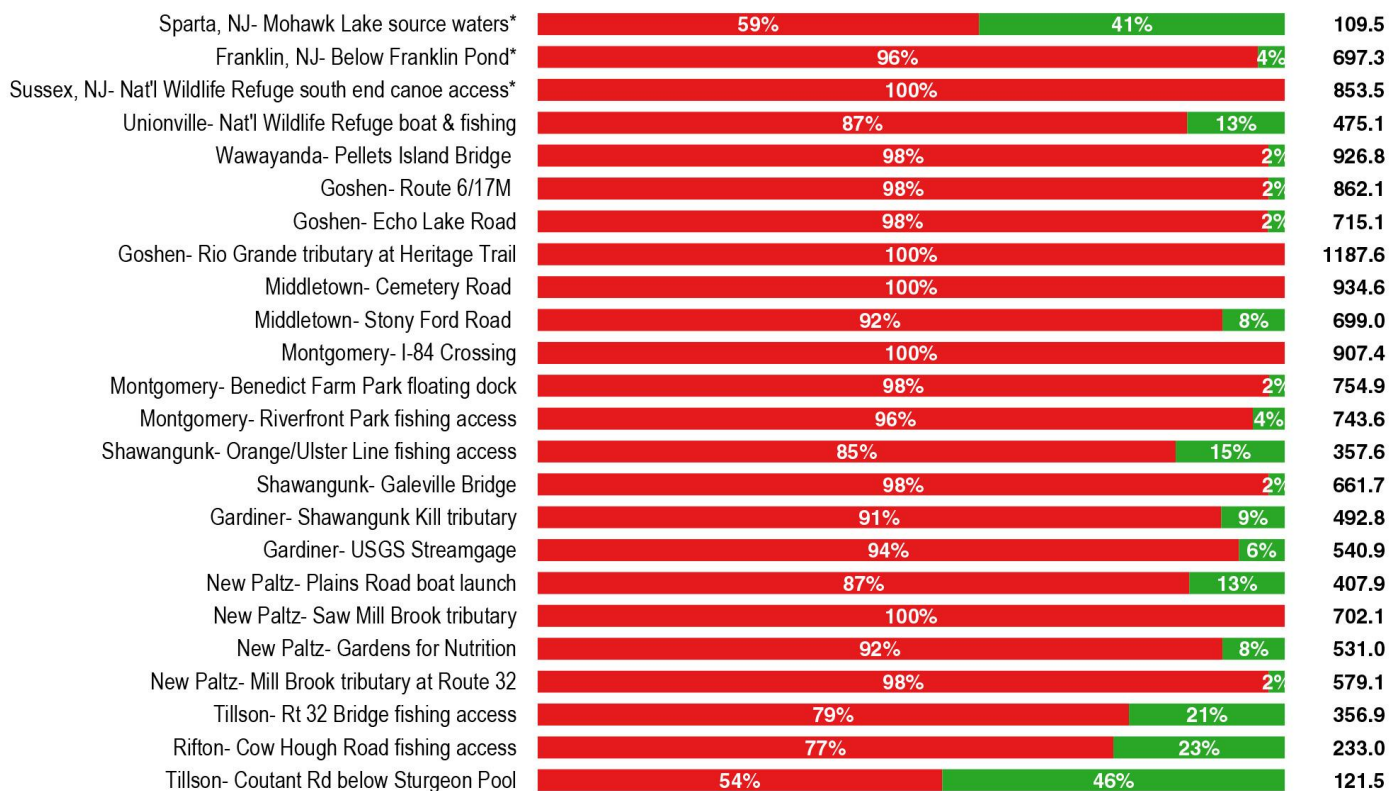
One of the largest tributaries to the Hudson, the Wallkill is home to the New Paltz Regatta, a singular wacky boat race, and a haven for paddlers and anglers.

Signs of Progress

In 2019, based on the results of extensive water sampling, NYS DEC initiated development of a Total Maximum Daily Load for the Wallkill River, a first step toward reducing the nutrient inputs that have caused Harmful Algal Blooms to proliferate in the river. The primary sources of the Wallkill’s excess nutrients are wastewater treatment plants and agriculture.

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

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



■ % of Samples Unacceptable ■ % of Samples Acceptable

*Sampling at this site began in 2015.