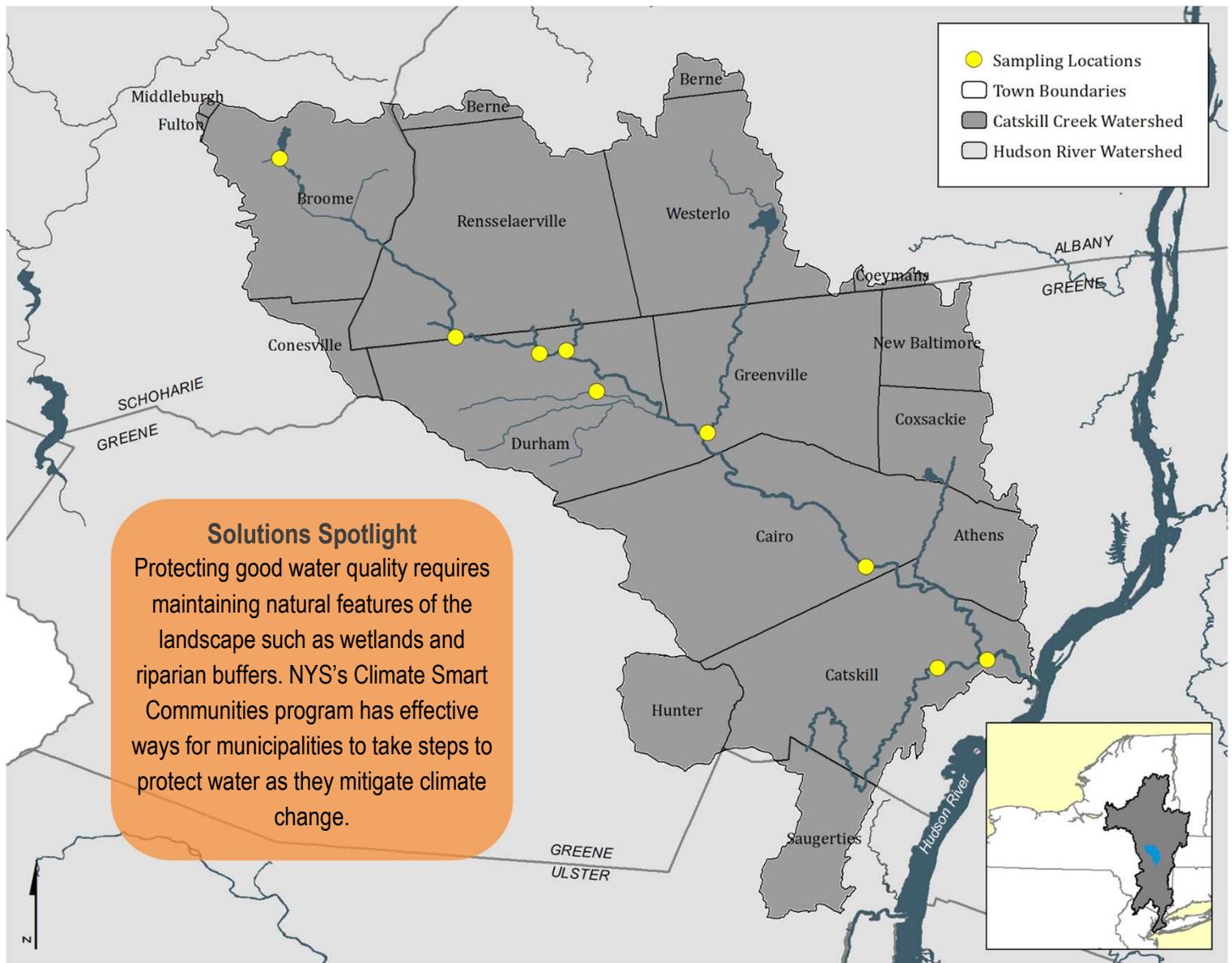


CATSKILL CREEK

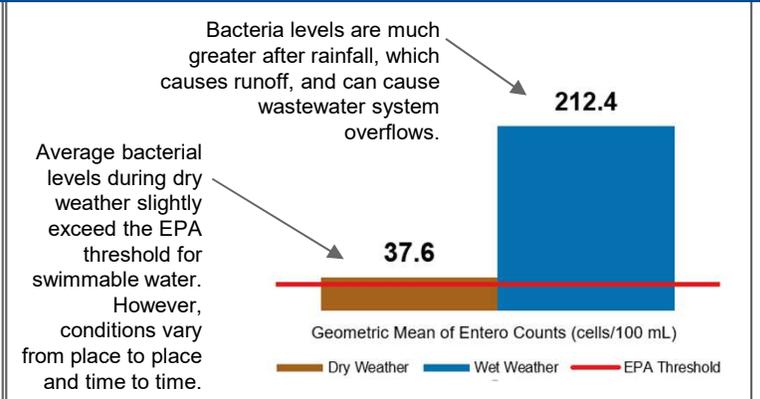
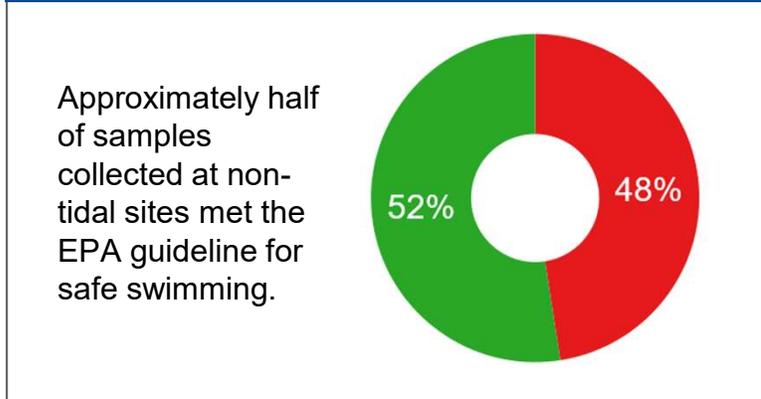
Community Water Quality Monitoring Results

2012-2020



Solutions Spotlight
 Protecting good water quality requires maintaining natural features of the landscape such as wetlands and riparian buffers. NYS's Climate Smart Communities program has effective ways for municipalities to take steps to protect water as they mitigate climate change.

What portion of our samples were safe for swimming? How does weather affect bacteria levels?



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

Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 380 samples collected since 2012 by community scientists and the Catskill Creek Watershed Awareness Project. 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* (“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, 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.

About the Catskill Creek

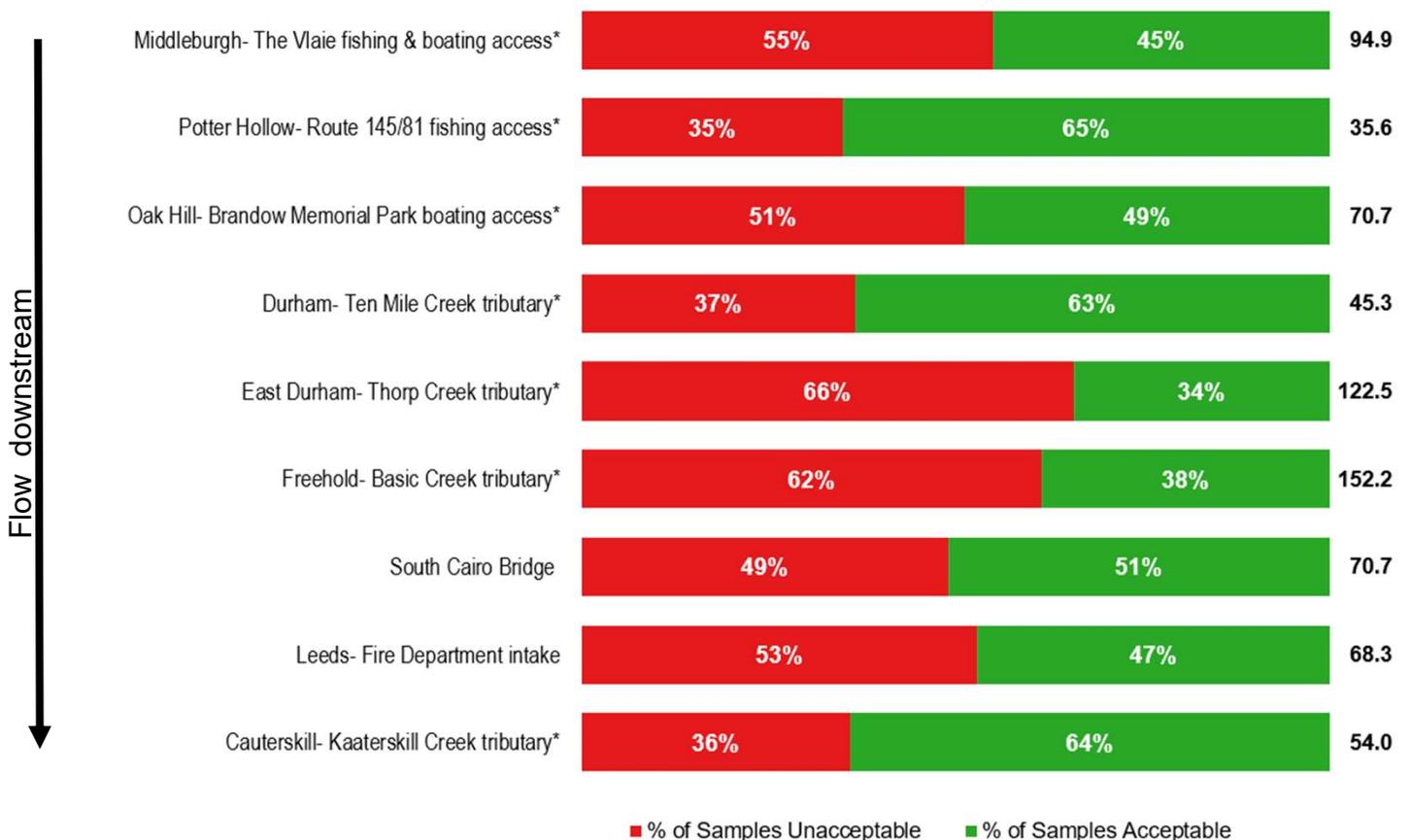
Forest and agriculture cover much of the Catskill Creek watershed, with most of the urban development in the watershed’s lower section. The creek has several popular swimming holes and fishing spots along its course.

Signs of Progress

The Catskill Creek Watershed Awareness Project is in the final stages of creating a watershed plan for the Catskill Creek. This plan will serve to guide future decision making and help foster relationships between stakeholders who share the watershed.

What portion of samples 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



*Sampling at these sites began in 2014.