

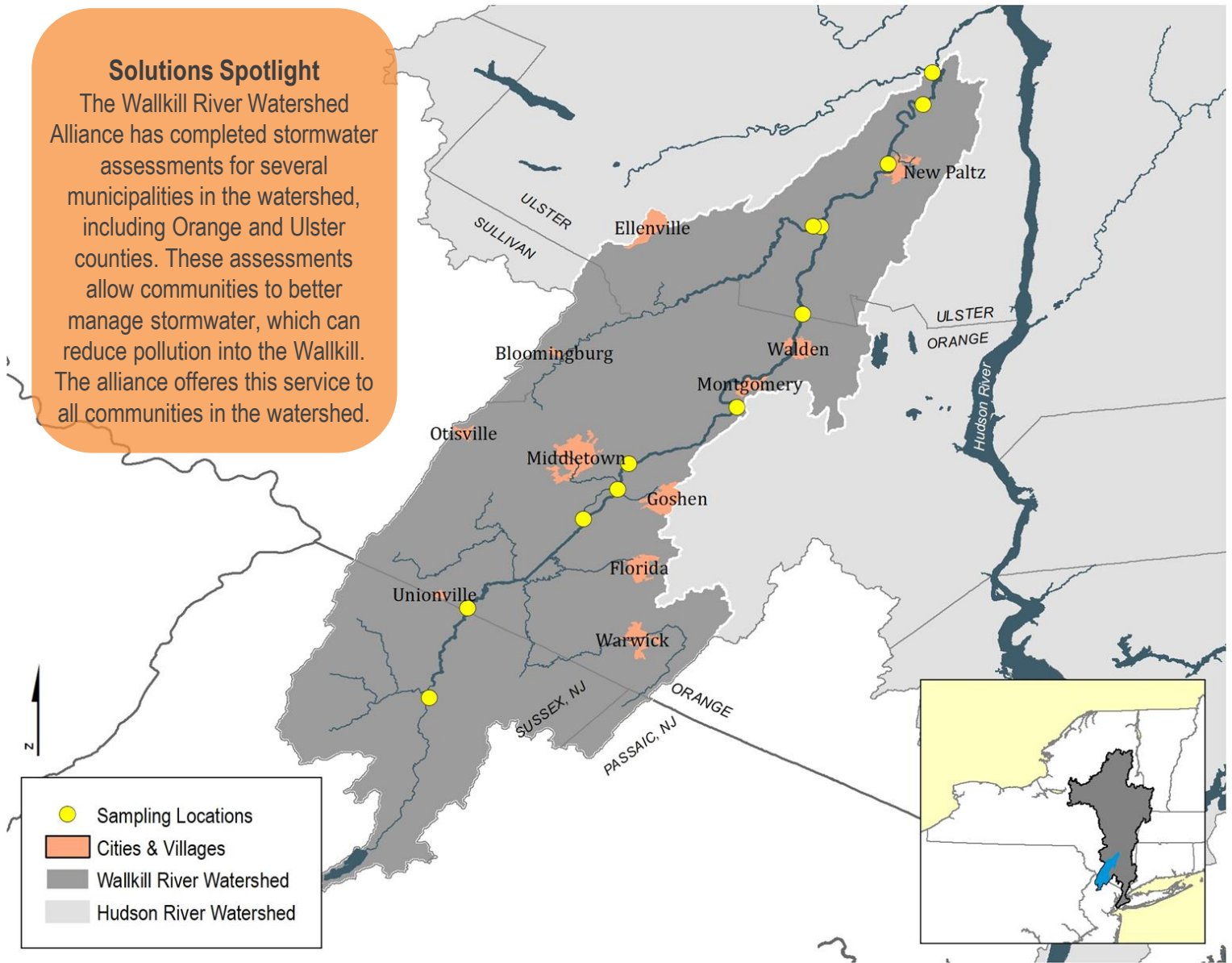
WALLKILL RIVER

Community Water Quality Monitoring Results

2012-2020

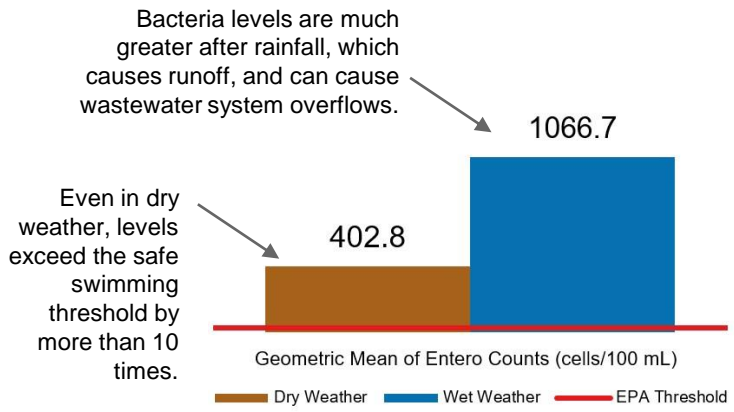
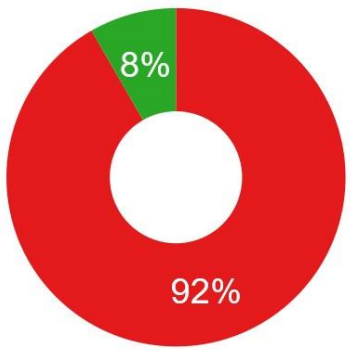
Solutions Spotlight

The Wallkill River Watershed Alliance has completed stormwater assessments for several municipalities in the watershed, including Orange and Ulster counties. These assessments allow communities to better manage stormwater, which can reduce pollution into the Wallkill. The alliance offers this service to all communities in the watershed.



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

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



More: Explore a watershed map, data from each sampling site, and more at riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/wallkill-river. Learn more about the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance at www.wallkillalliance.org.



Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 608 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.

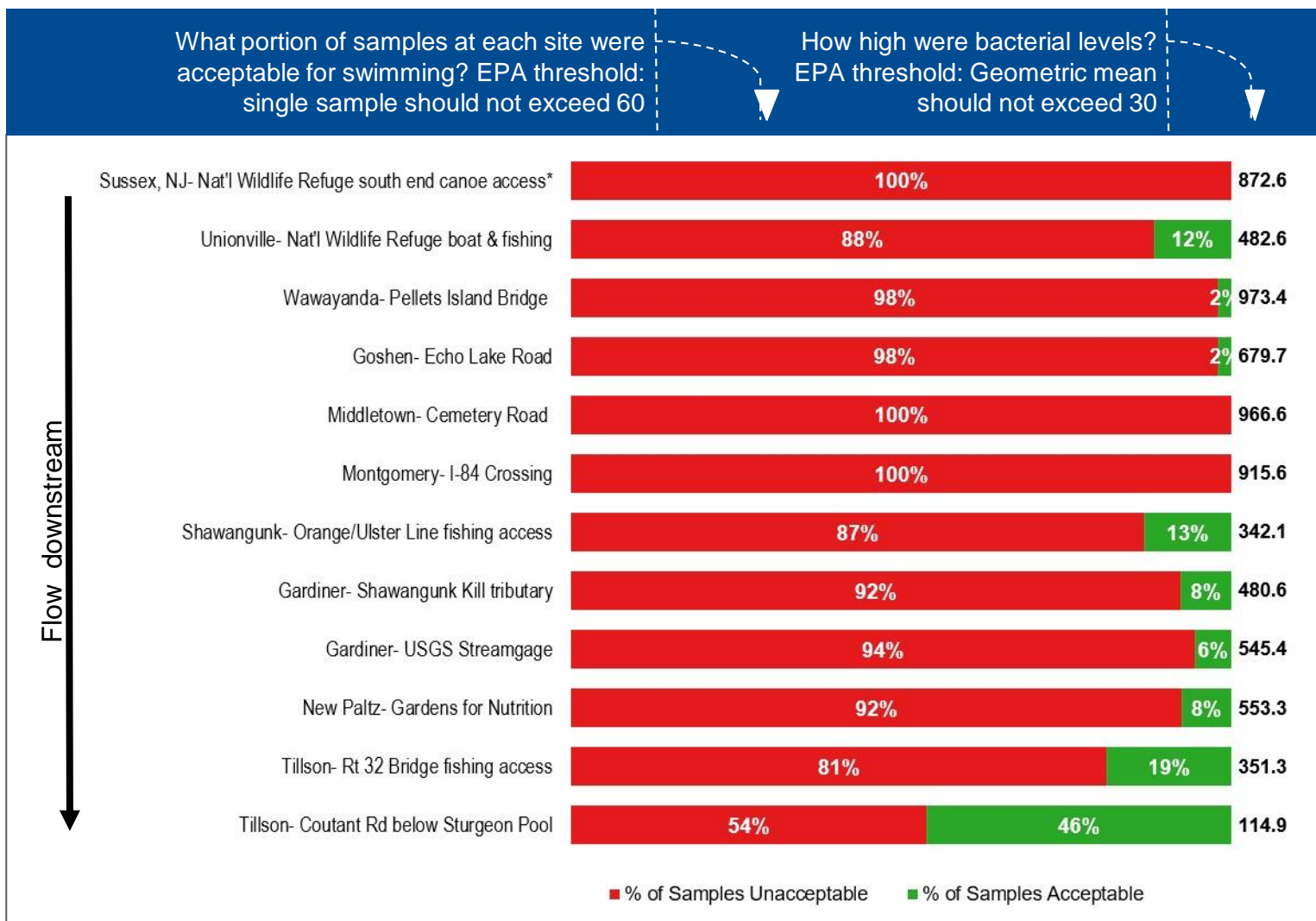
While research continues, the EPA has set thresholds to define if water is safe for swimming based on decades of science relying on measurements of these bacteria. Data are shown in Enterococcus cells per 100 mL.

A Little About the Walkkill River

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

Signs of Progress

The Walkkill is on track to benefit from a state organized “clean water plan” that would limit nutrient discharges from wastewater treatment plants, reducing a factor that contributes to harmful algae blooms. The Walkkill River Watershed Alliance is monitoring and educating others about the process as it unfolds.



*Sampling at this site began in 2015.