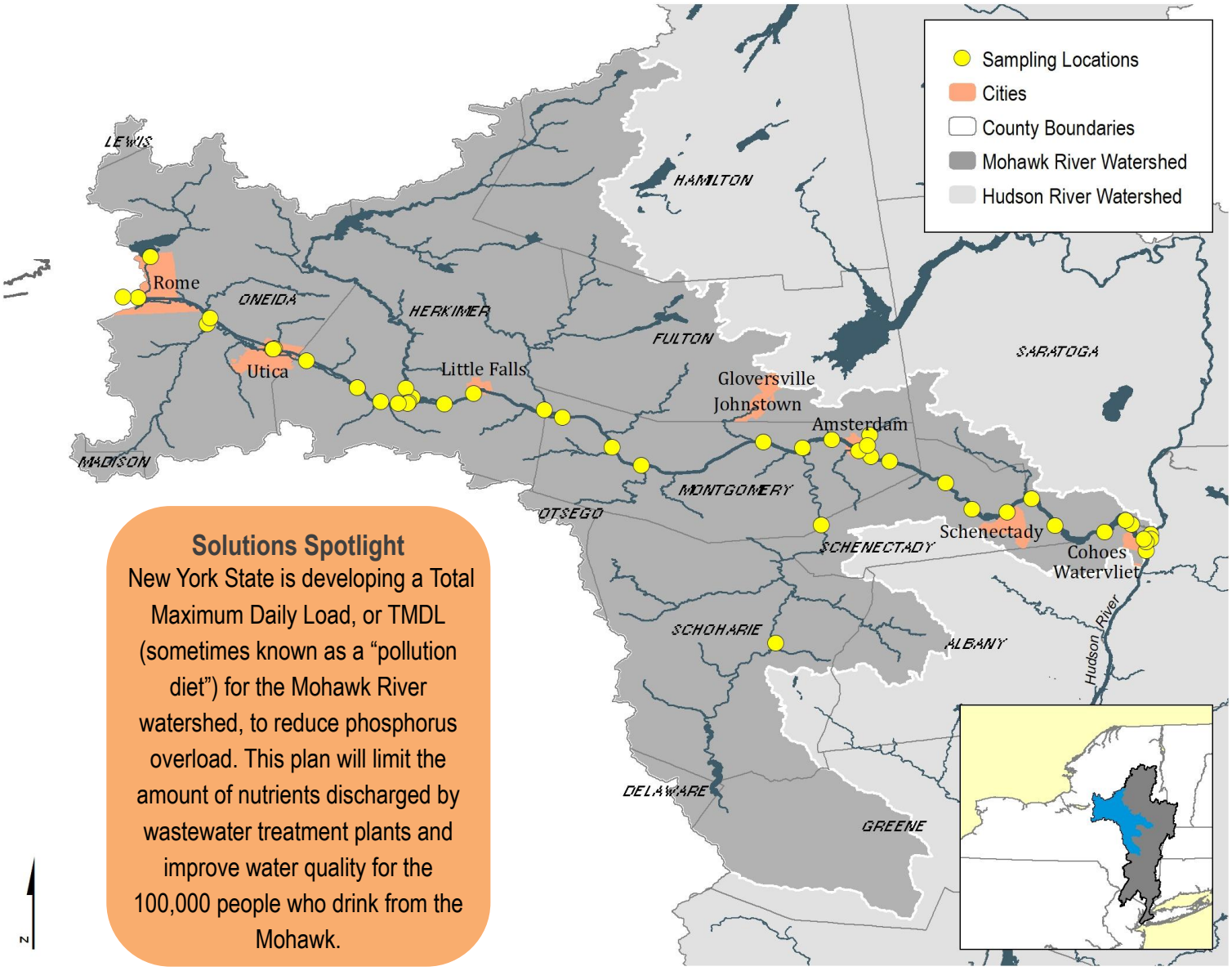
MOHAWK RIVER

E.coli Water Quality Monitoring Results 2016-2022

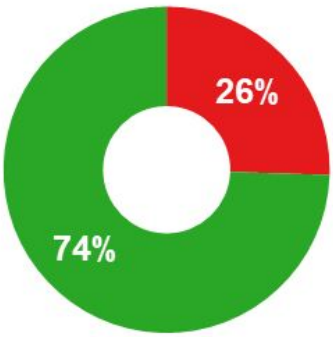


Solutions Spotlight

New York State is developing a Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL (sometimes known as a "pollution diet") for the Mohawk River watershed, to reduce phosphorus overload. This plan will limit the amount of nutrients discharged by wastewater treatment plants and improve water quality for the 100,000 people who drink from the Mohawk.

What portion of our samples were safe for swimming?

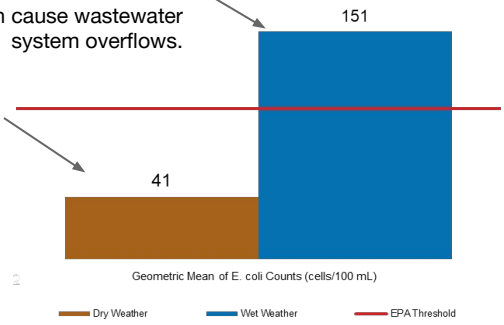
No one swims in average (geometric mean) water, so to help understand risk this graph shows the percent of samples that met the single sample EPA guidelines for safe swimming, and the percent of samples that didn't.



How does weather affect bacteria levels?

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

The average bacterial level for samples taken in dry weather are below the safe swimming threshold. However, conditions vary from place to place.



More: Explore a watershed map, data from each sampling site, and other info at riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/mohawk-river.

Mohawk River E.coli Water Quality 2016-2022

Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 1282 samples collected and processed since 2016 by volunteers, Riverkeeper, SUNY Cobleskill, and SUNY Polytechnic Institute. Samples are collected monthly from May to October. If you would like to get involved with sampling contact Sebastian Pillitteri at spillitteri@riverkeeper.org.

Why We Measure Bacteria

Fecal indicator bacteria such as *E.coli* 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 E.coli cells per 100 mL.

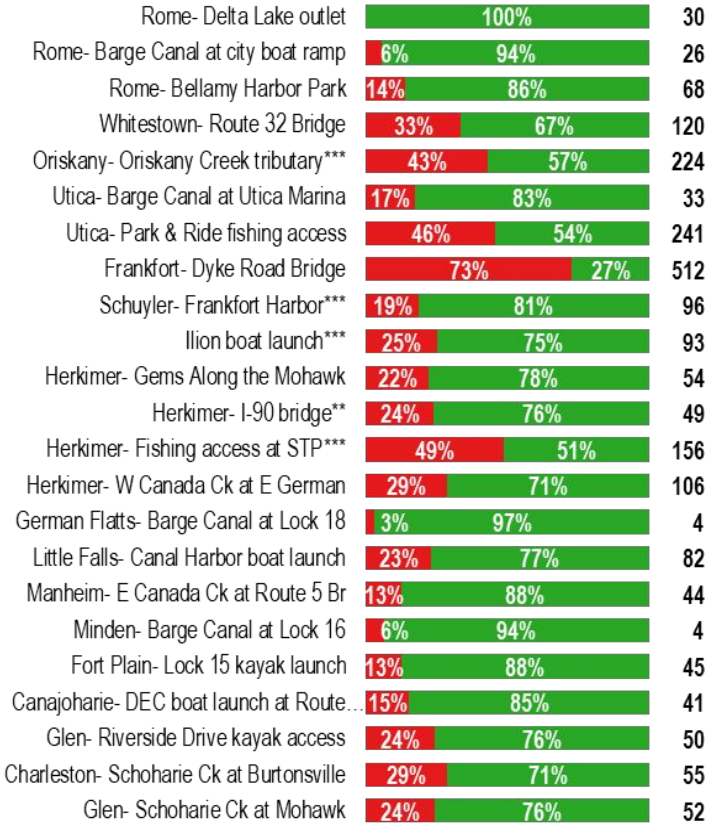
About the Mohawk River

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.

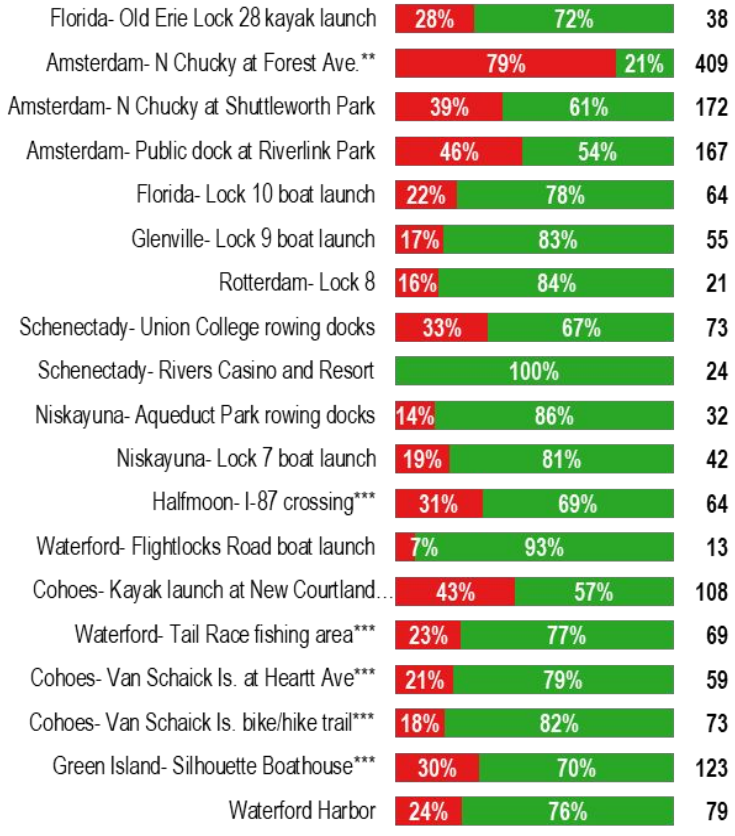
Signs of Progress

The Town of Amsterdam has received a grant to study connecting sewers to homes along the Chuctanunda Creek, a tributary to the Mohawk River. This is a positive step to eventually reduce the untreated sewage entering the creek and eventually the Mohawk River. This was a direct result of the Friends of the Chuctanunda Community Group, and monitoring from our partner SUNY Cobleskill.

What portion of samples were acceptable for swimming? EPA threshold: single sample should not exceed 190



Weighted average of bacterial concentration per site. EPA threshold: should not exceed 100



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

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