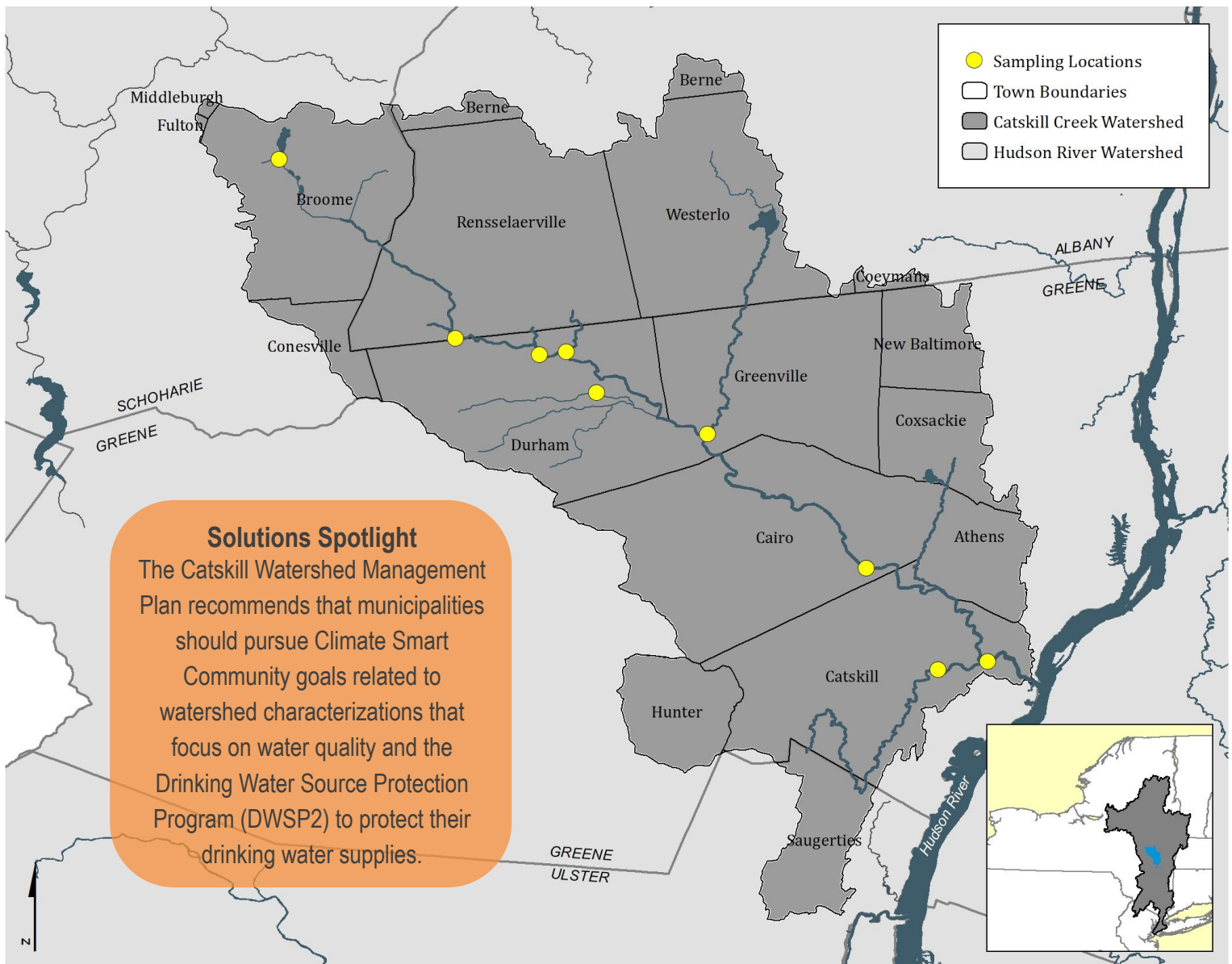


CATSKILL CREEK

E.coli Water Quality Monitoring Results

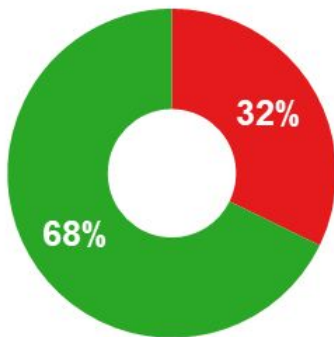
2021-2022



What portion of our samples were safe for swimming?

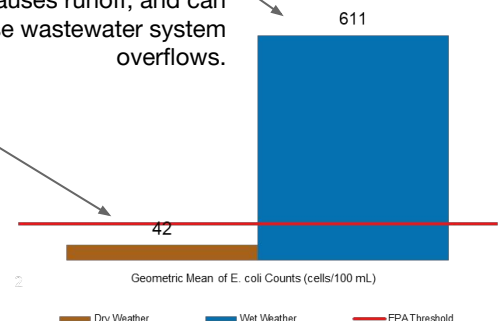
How does weather affect bacteria levels?

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.



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

Average bacterial levels during dry weather were below the EPA threshold for swimmable water. However, conditions vary from place to place and time to time.



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 59 samples collected since 2020 by community scientists. 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 *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, 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 *E.coli* 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 Town of Catskill voted in 2021 to expand the sewer system to the hamlets of Leeds and Jefferson Heights. This will improve water quality in Catskill Creek by ensuring that these hamlets are able to have their sewage treated by a treatment plant instead of household septic systems.

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

Middleburgh- The Vlaie fishing & boating access

9%

91%

27

Oak Hill- Brandow Memorial Park boating access

25%

75%

68

South Cairo Bridge

42%

58%

137

Leeds- Fire Department intake

50%

50%

122

Jefferson Heights- West Main Street

33%

67%

118

■ % of Samples Unacceptable

■ % of Samples Acceptable