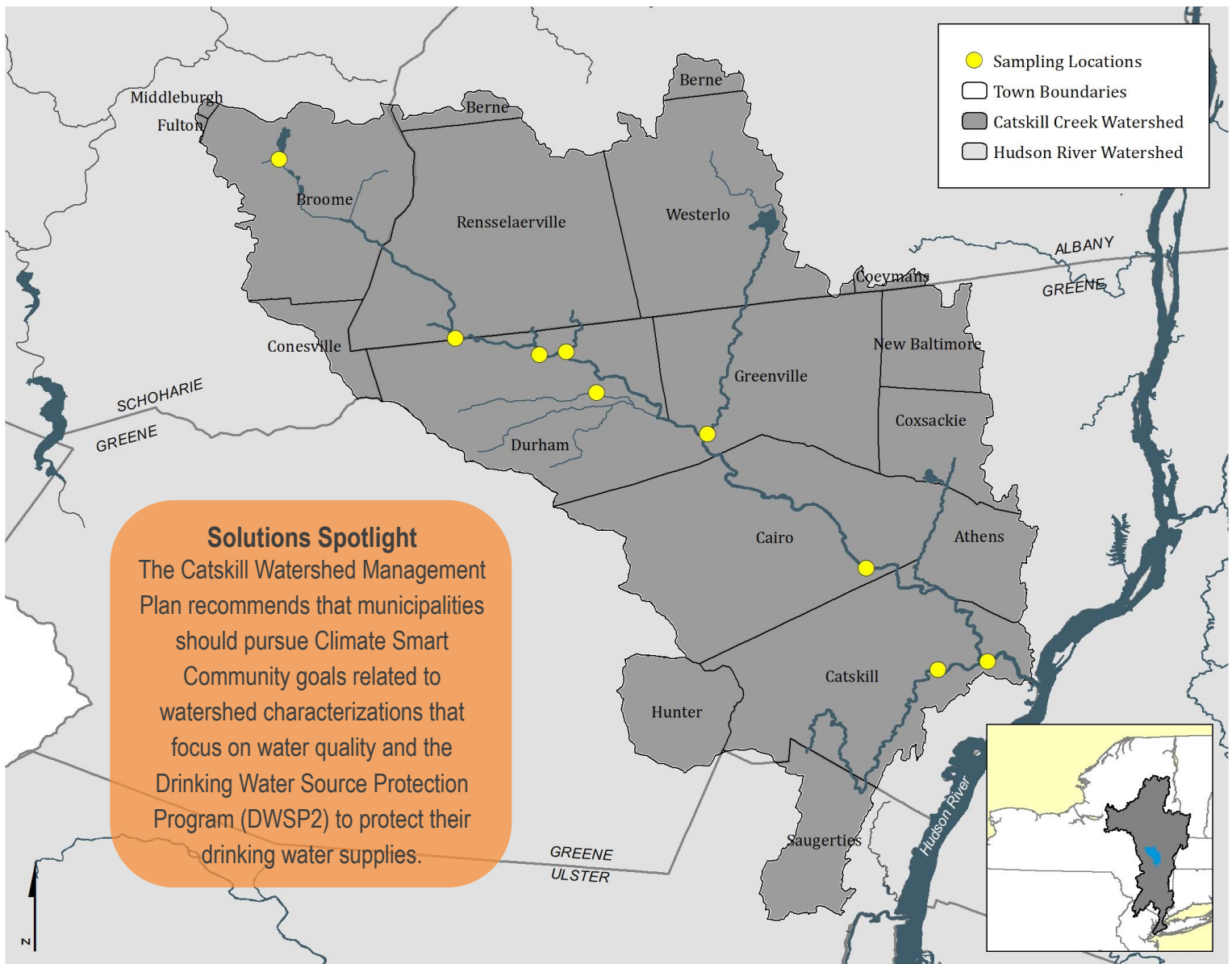


CATSKILL CREEK

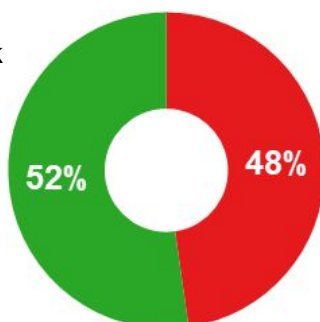
Entero Water Quality Monitoring Results

2012-2022

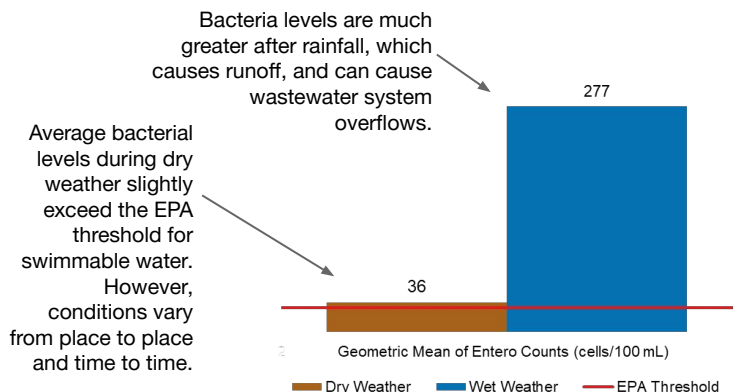


What portion of our samples were safe for swimming?

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?



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 289 samples collected since 2012 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 *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 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 60

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

Middleburgh- The Vlaie fishing & boating access

52%

48%

75

Oak Hill- Brandow Memorial Park boating access

49%

51%

75

South Cairo Bridge

49%

51%

77

Leeds- Fire Department intake

53%

47%

73

Jefferson Heights- West Main Street

36%

64%

46

■ % of Samples Unacceptable

■ % of Samples Acceptable