

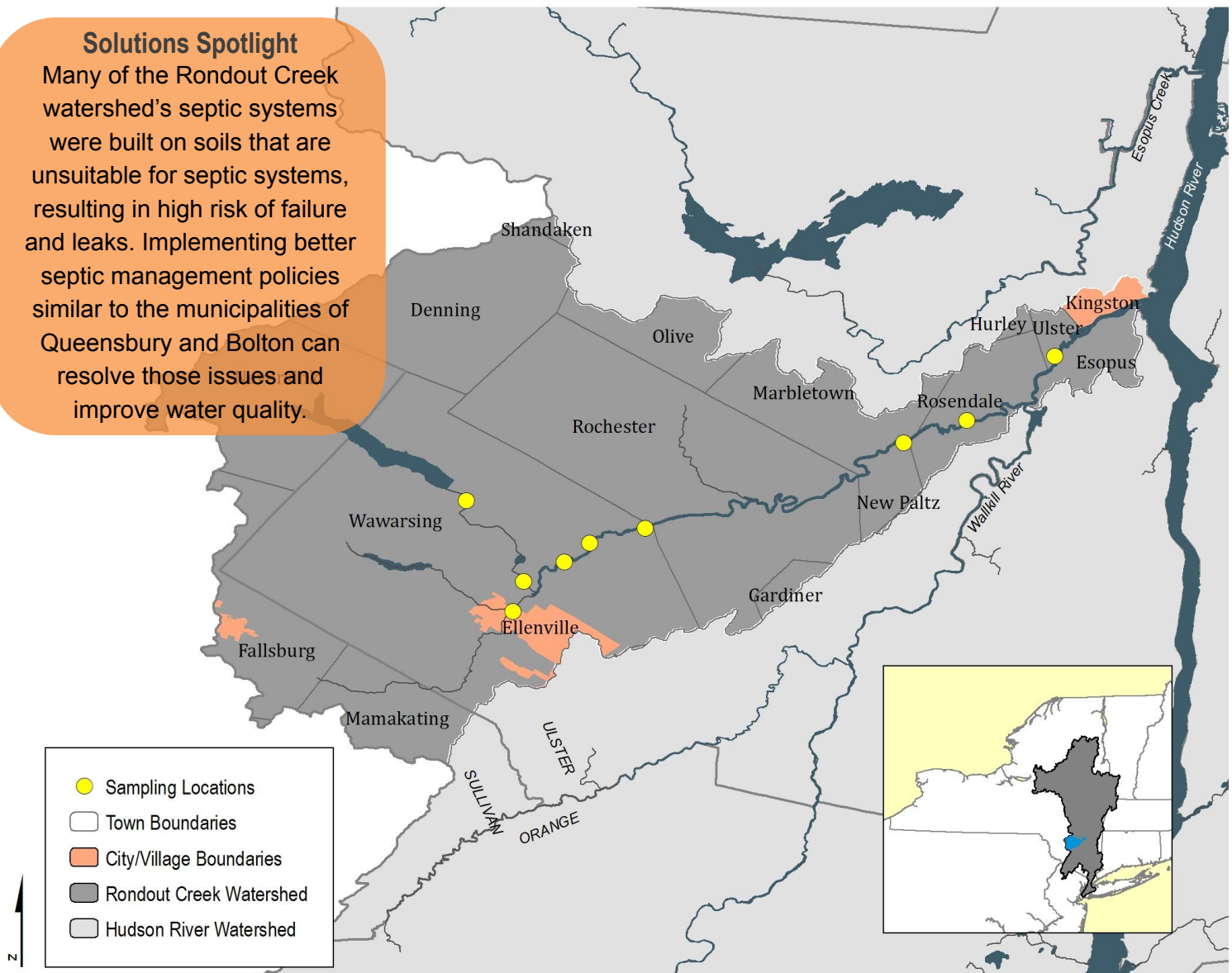
# RONDOUT CREEK

## Entero Water Quality Monitoring Results

2012-2022

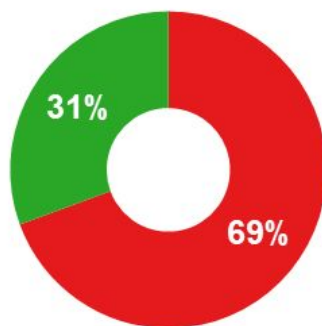
### Solutions Spotlight

Many of the Rondout Creek watershed's septic systems were built on soils that are unsuitable for septic systems, resulting in high risk of failure and leaks. Implementing better septic management policies similar to the municipalities of Queensbury and Bolton can resolve those issues and improve water quality.



### What portion of our samples were safe for swimming?

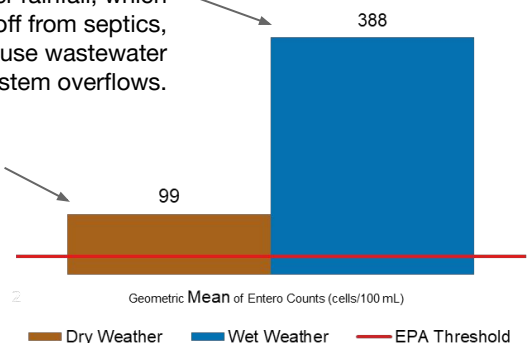
No one swims in average (geometric mean) water, so to help understand risk this graph shows the percent of samples that met the single sample EPA guidelines for safe swimming, and the percent of samples that didn't.



### How does weather affect bacteria levels?

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

Even in dry weather, levels exceed the safe swimming threshold by a large margin.



**More:** Explore a watershed map, data from each sampling site, and more at [riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/rondout-creek](https://riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/rondout-creek). Learn about the Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance at [rondoutcreekwatershedalliance.org](https://rondoutcreekwatershedalliance.org).

## Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 696 samples collected since 2012 by Wawarsing, Rochester, and Rosendale ECC members and others. Samples are collected monthly (May to October) and processed by Riverkeeper. To get involved, contact Sebastian Pillitteri at [spillitteri@riverkeeper.org](mailto: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 Rondout Creek

The tidal portion of Rondout Creek is an arm of the Hudson River Estuary, and a state-designated significant habitat. Removing the Eddyville dam, or allowing fish to pass, could roughly double the estuarine habitat available to river herring, eel, and possibly even shortnose sturgeon.

### Signs of Progress

Major renovations were recently done at the Napanoch wastewater treatment plant, and will help bring the facility into compliance with its discharge permit.

