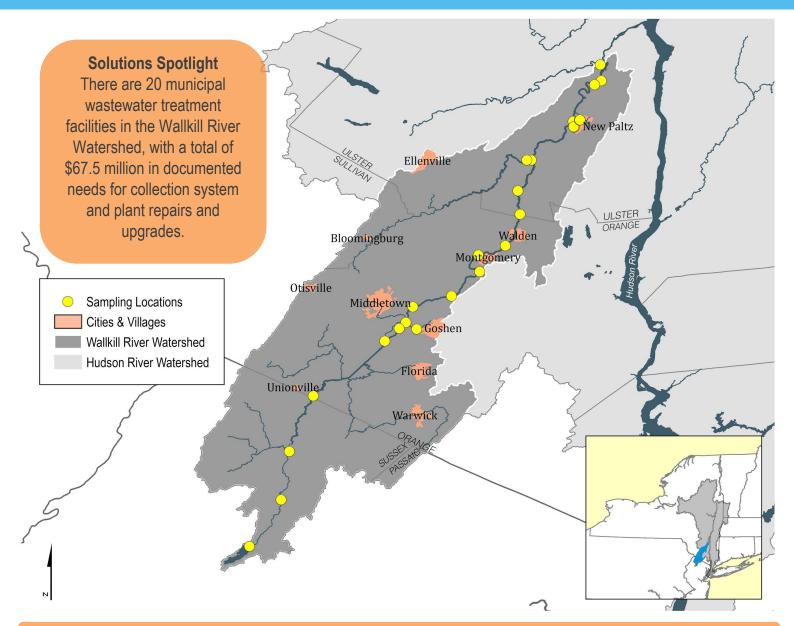
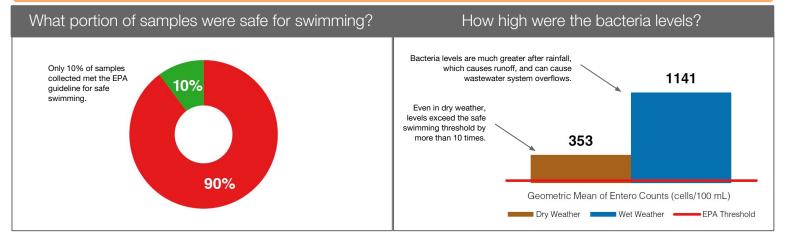
WALLKILL RIVER Community Water Quality Monitoring Results

2012-2018



What the Data Show



More: Explore a watershed map, data from each sampling site, year-to-year patterns and more at <u>riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/wallkill-river</u>



Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 937 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 ("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, 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 Entero cells per 100 mL.

<u>50%</u>

A Little About the Wallkill River

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

Signs of Progress

A citizens group, the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance, is dedicated to the river's restoration. A water trail is in development. In 2018, state and local governments committed to investing \$36 million to improve wastewater infrastructure. The Department of Environmental Conservation has completed an enhanced water quality monitoring project.

exceed 30

55

654

4%

50%

What portion of samples at each site were acceptable for swimming? EPA threshold: single sample should not exceed 60

Sparta, NJ- Mohawk Lake source waters Franklin, NJ- Below Franklin Pond Sussex, NJ- Nat'l Wildlife Refuge south end canoe access Unionville- Nat'l Wildlife Refuge boat & fishing Wawayanda- Pellets Island Bridge Goshen- Route 6/17M Goshen- Echo Lake Road Goshen- Rio Grande tributary at Heritage Trail Middletown- Cemetery Road Middletown- Stony Ford Road Montgomery- I-84 Crossing Montgomery- Benedict Farm Park floating dock Montgomery- Riverfront Park fishing access Shawangunk- Orange/Ulster Line fishing access Shawangunk- Galeville Bridge Gardiner- Shawangunk Kill tributary Gardiner- USGS Streamgage New Paltz- Plains Road boat launch New Paltz- Saw Mill Brook tributary New Paltz-Springtown Road boat launch New Paltz- Mill Brook tributary at Route 32 Tillson- Rt 32 Bridge fishing access Rifton- Cow Hough Road fishing access Tillson- Coutant Rd below Sturgeon Pool

% of Samples Unacceptable

96%

How high were bacterial levels?

EPA threshold: GM* should not

100%		759
85%	15%	455
98%	2%	857
98%	2%	859
98%	2%	675
100%		1213
100%		878
90%	10%	646
100%		829
98%	2%	679
95%	5%	690
83%	17%	311
98%	2%	654
90%	10%	440
93%	7%	480
85%	15%	346
100%		606
90%	10%	483
98%	2%	568
76%	24%	297
74%	26%	212
48%	52%	103

% of Samples Acceptable

*The geometric mean (GM) is a weighted average of all samples.

Wallkill River Water Quality