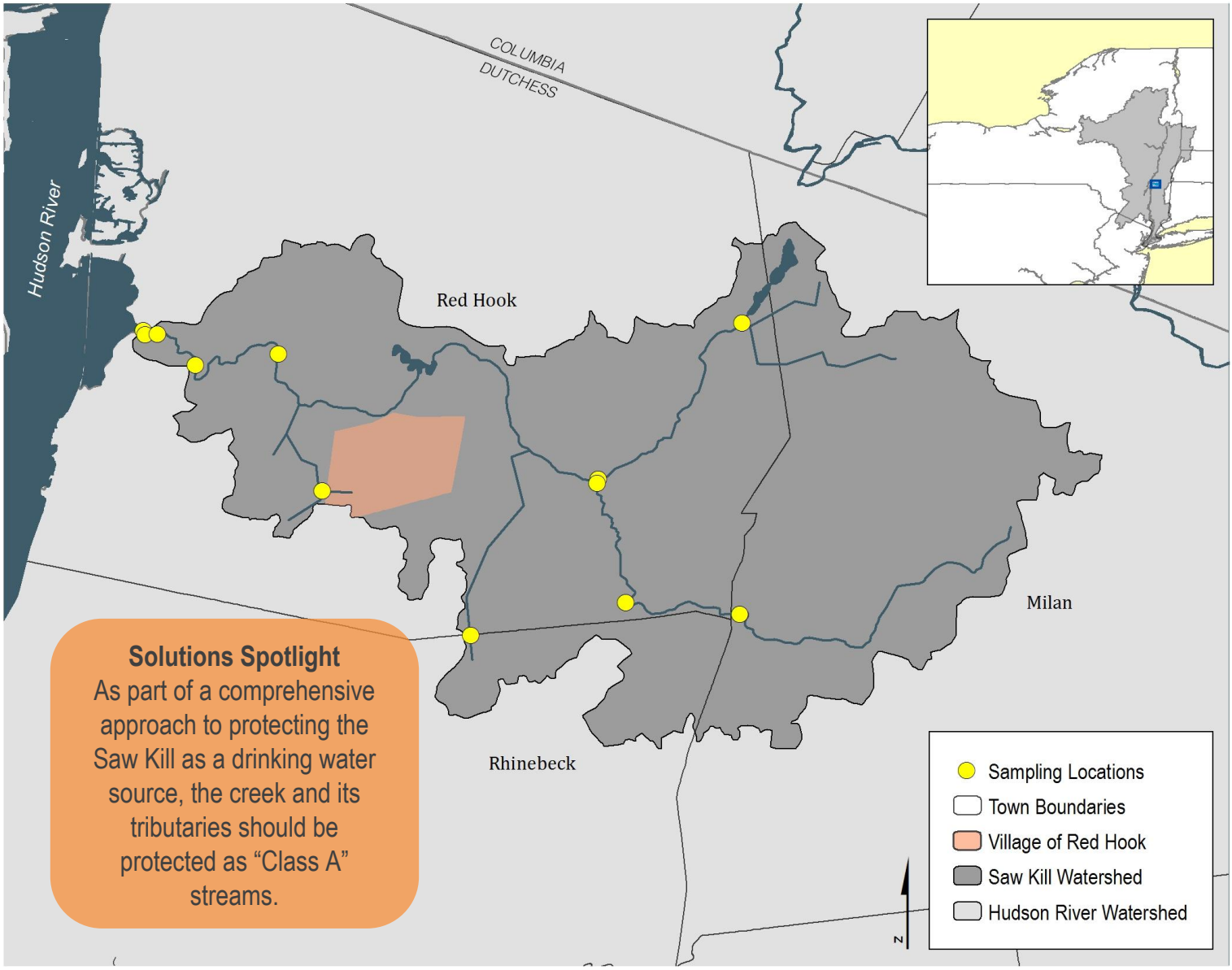
SAW KILL

Community Water Quality Monitoring Results 2016-2018

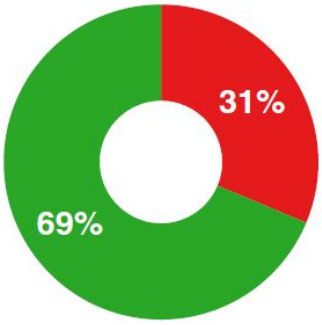


Solutions Spotlight
As part of a comprehensive approach to protecting the Saw Kill as a drinking water source, the creek and its tributaries should be protected as "Class A" streams.

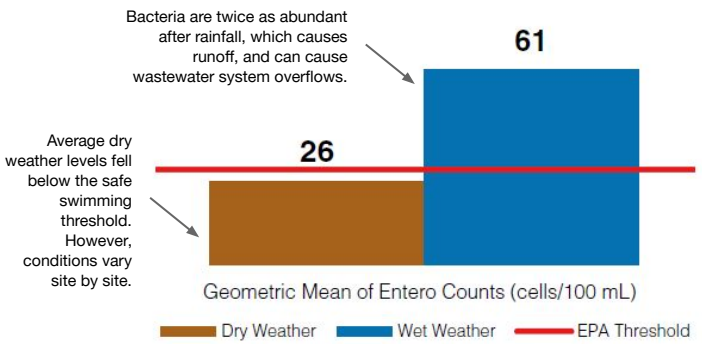
What the Data Show

What portion of samples were safe for swimming?

Approximately one third of samples collecte during the recreational season did not meet the EPA guideline for saf swimming.



How high were the bacteria levels?



More: Explore a watershed map, data from each sampling site, year-to-year patterns and other info at riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/saw-kill.
Learn about the Saw Kill Watershed Community at sawkillwatershed.wordpress.com/.

Saw Kill Water Quality 2016-2018

Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 198 samples collected by the Saw Kill Watershed Community. Samples are collected monthly (only May-October results are presented here) and analyzed at Bard Water Lab, where community members and students perform water quality assays. In addition to Entero data, the Bard Water Lab also evaluates many other parameters. To get involved, contact Lindsey Drew at ldrew@bard.edu.

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.

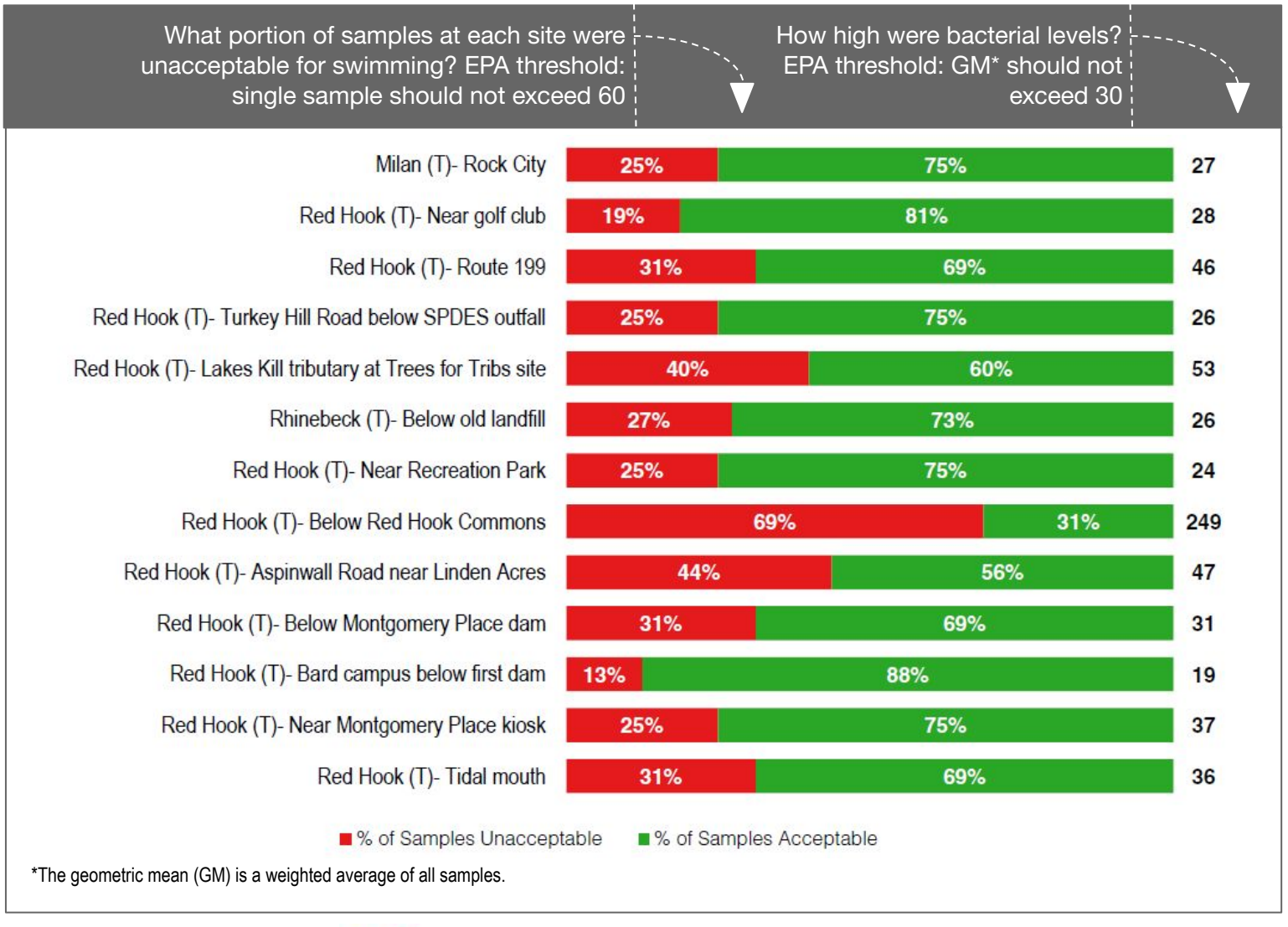
While research continues, the EPA has set thresholds to define if water is safe for swimming based on decades of science relying on measurements of these bacteria. Data are shown in Entero cells per 100 mL.

A Little About the Saw Kill

Interest in the Saw Kill's water quality began with sampling in the late 1970s and with several ecological studies originating at Bard College. The sampling program was revived in 2016 with the development of the Bard Water Lab.

Signs of Progress

As a citizens group, the Saw Kill Watershed Community, is involved in local scientific, educational and municipal projects. SKWC has recently been advising the Town of Red Hook on comprehensive watershed protection strategies, informed in part by Riverkeeper's Drinking Water Source Protection Scorecard.



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

bard water lab

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