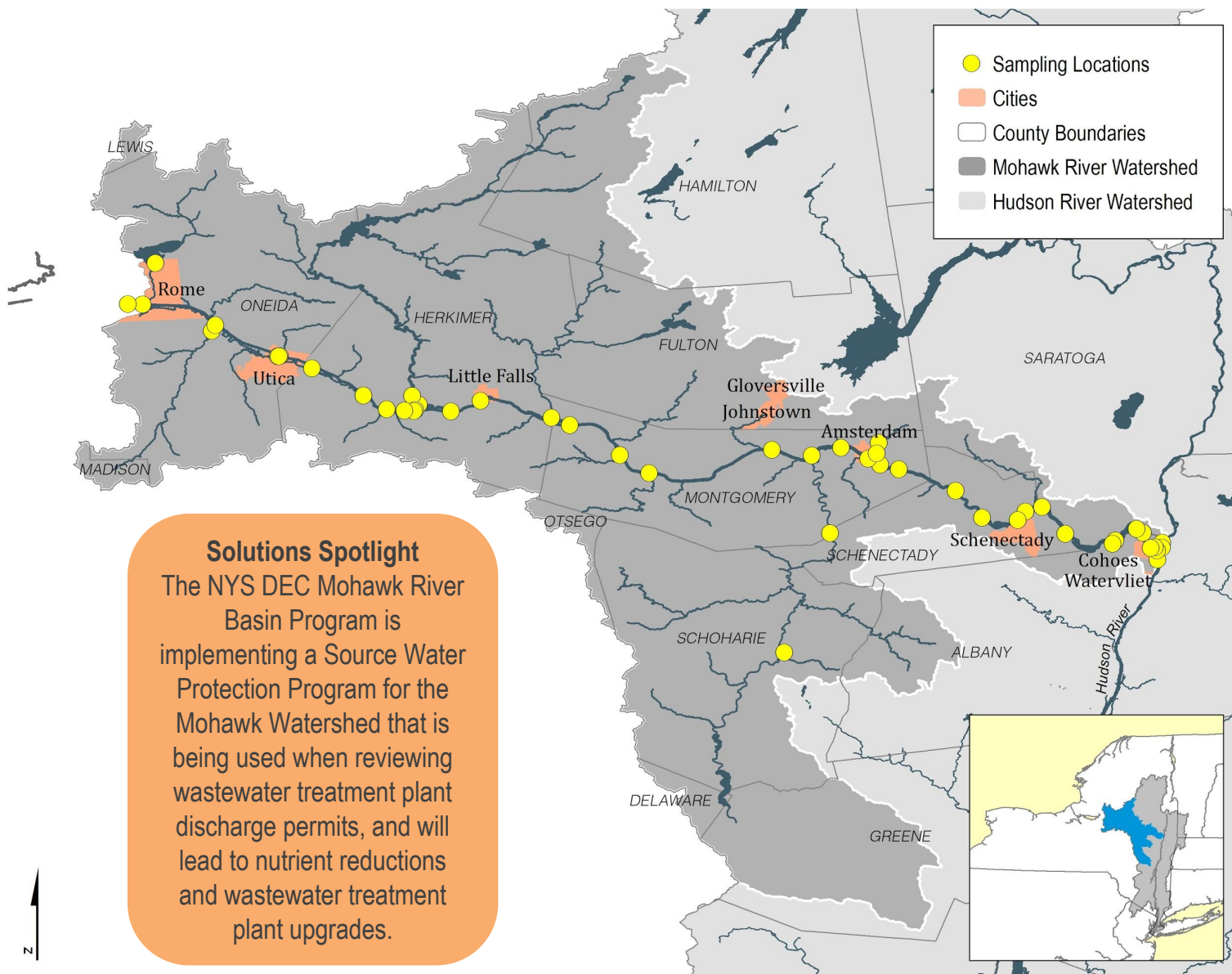


MOHAWK RIVER

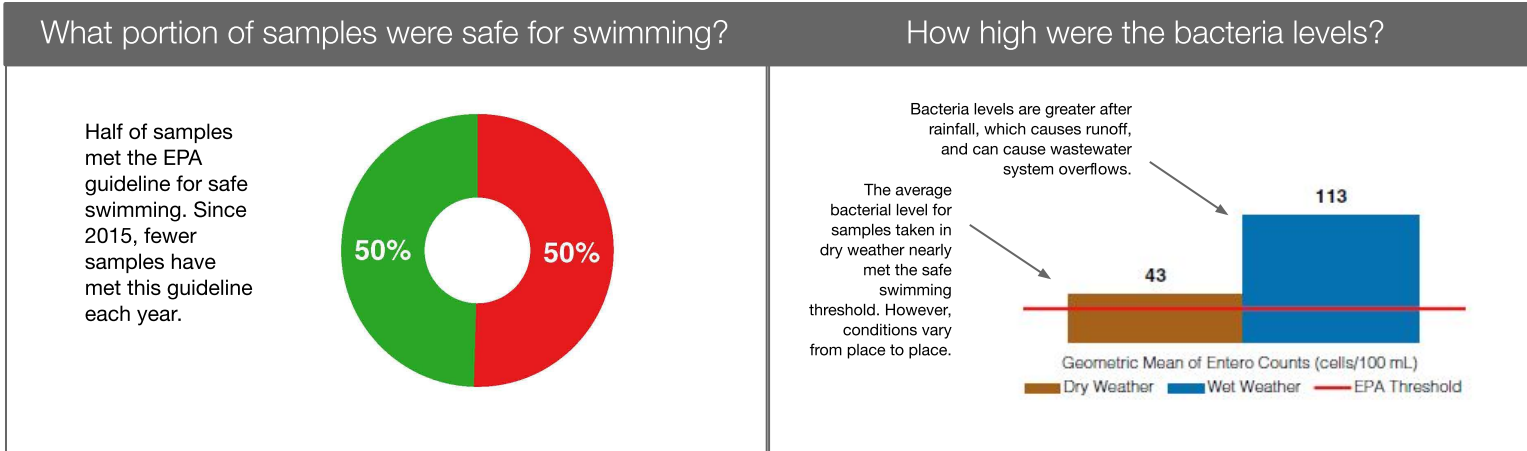
Water Quality Monitoring Results

2015-2019



Solutions Spotlight
 The NYS DEC Mohawk River Basin Program is implementing a Source Water Protection Program for the Mohawk Watershed that is being used when reviewing wastewater treatment plant discharge permits, and will lead to nutrient reductions and wastewater treatment plant upgrades.

What the Data Show



More: Explore a watershed map, data from each sampling site, year-to-year patterns and other info at riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/mohawk-river.

Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 1170 samples collected and processed since 2015 by Riverkeeper, SUNY Cobleskill, and SUNY Polytechnic. Samples are collected monthly from May to October. We are looking for new volunteers to sample in 2020! 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 Mohawk River

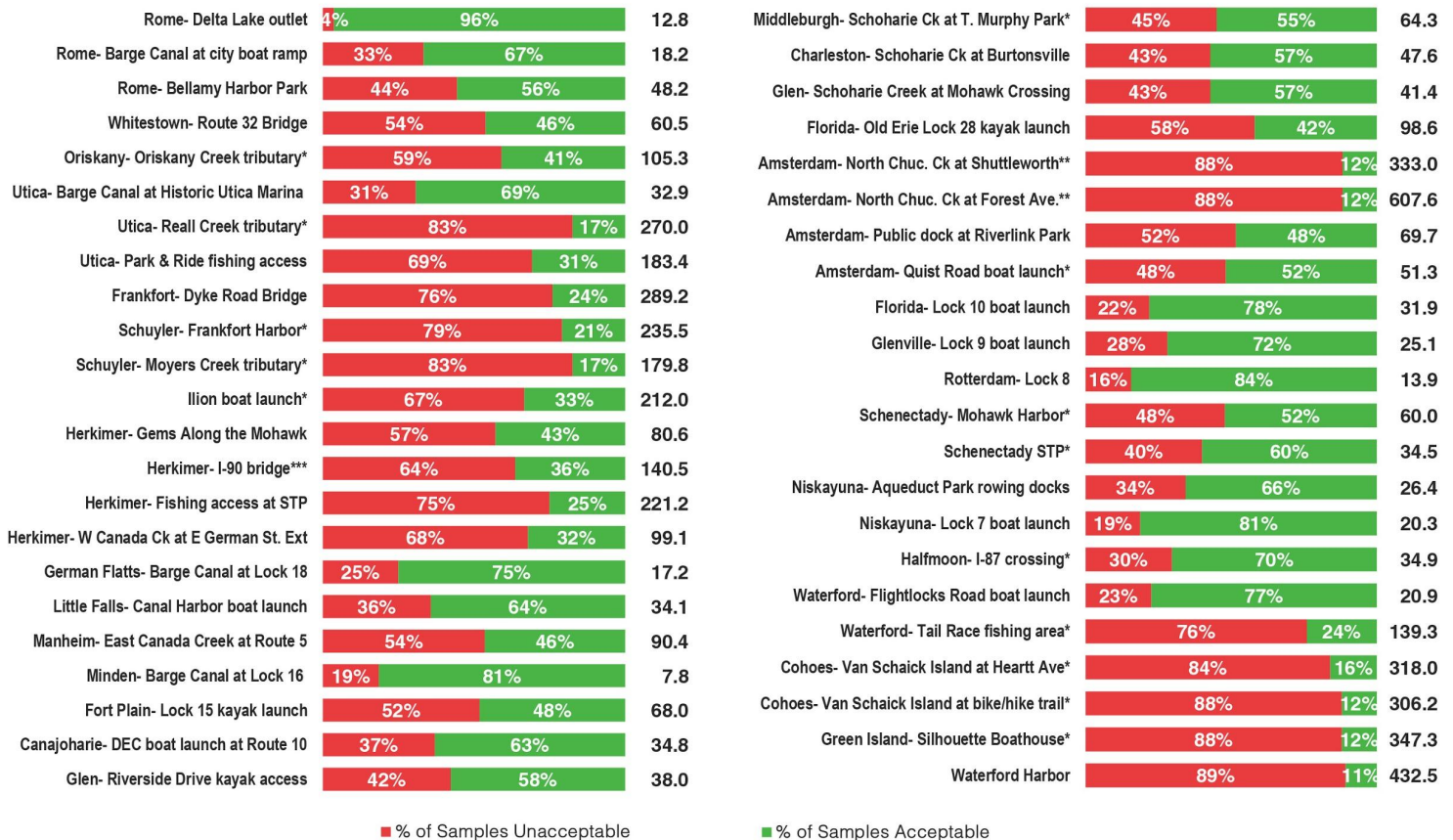
The Mohawk River is the largest tributary to the Hudson River and is also the Erie Canalway. More than 100,000 people use it as a source of drinking water.

Signs of Progress

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has nearly completed water quality and flow models that will be used to define limits on the amount of phosphorus that can be discharged to the river from wastewater treatment plants and other sources. Excess phosphorus can lead to algal blooms and has been identified as a problem in the Mohawk River.

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



Sampling began in 2015 and expanded in *2016, **2017, ***2018