

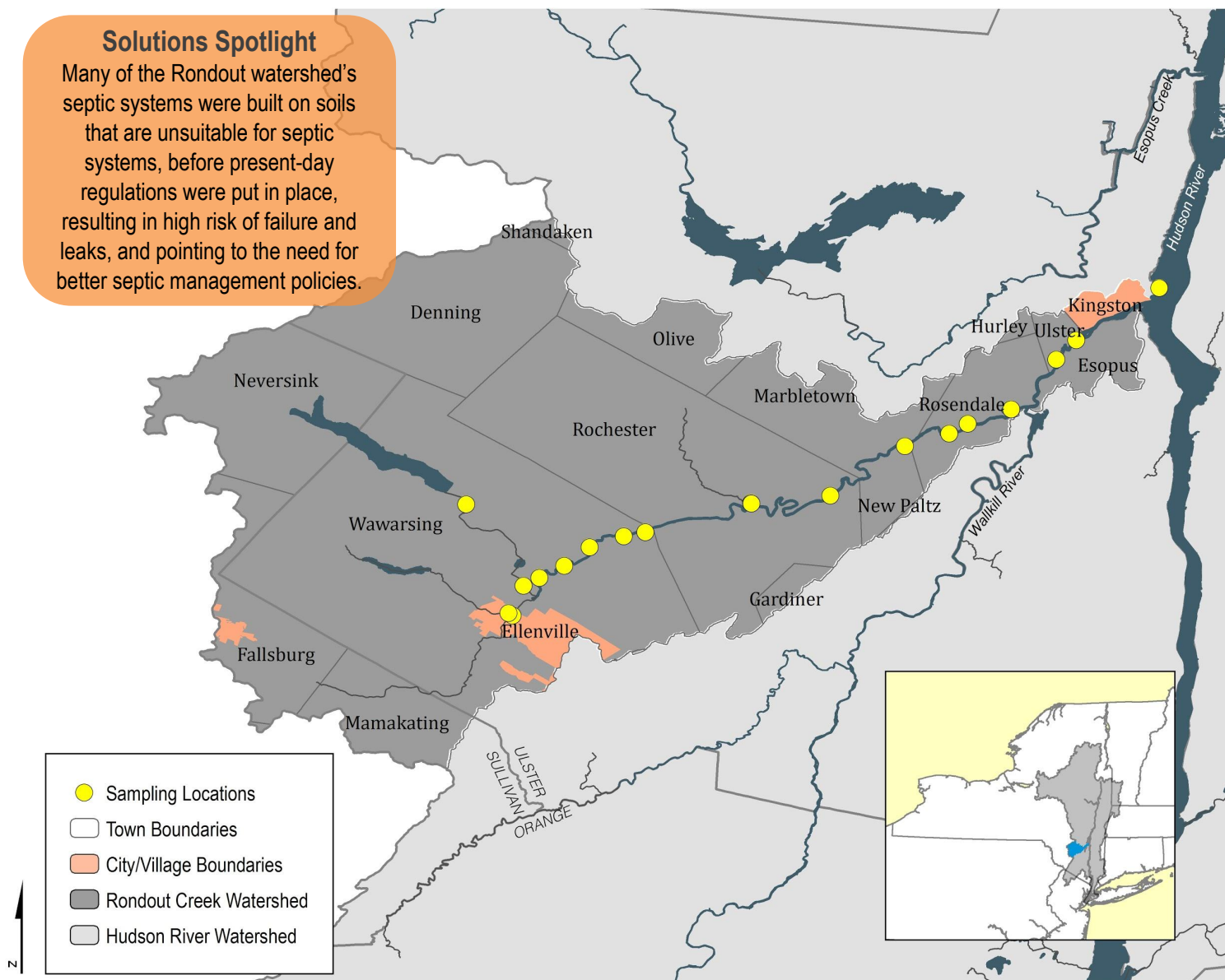
RONDOUT CREEK

Community Water Quality Monitoring Results

2012-2019

Solutions Spotlight

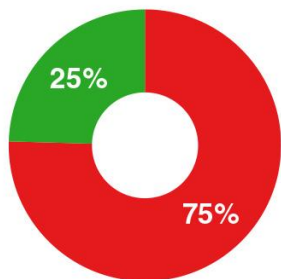
Many of the Rondout watershed's septic systems were built on soils that are unsuitable for septic systems, before present-day regulations were put in place, resulting in high risk of failure and leaks, and pointing to the need for better septic management policies.



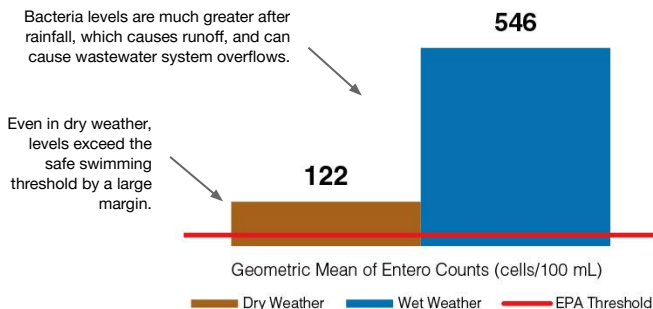
What the Data Show

What portion of samples were safe for swimming?

Only one in four samples collected at non-tidal sites met the EPA guideline for safe swimming.



How high were the bacteria levels?



More: Explore a watershed map, data from each sampling site, year-to-year patterns and more at riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/rondout-creek. Learn about the Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance at rondoutcreekwatershedalliance.org.

Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 898 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.

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.

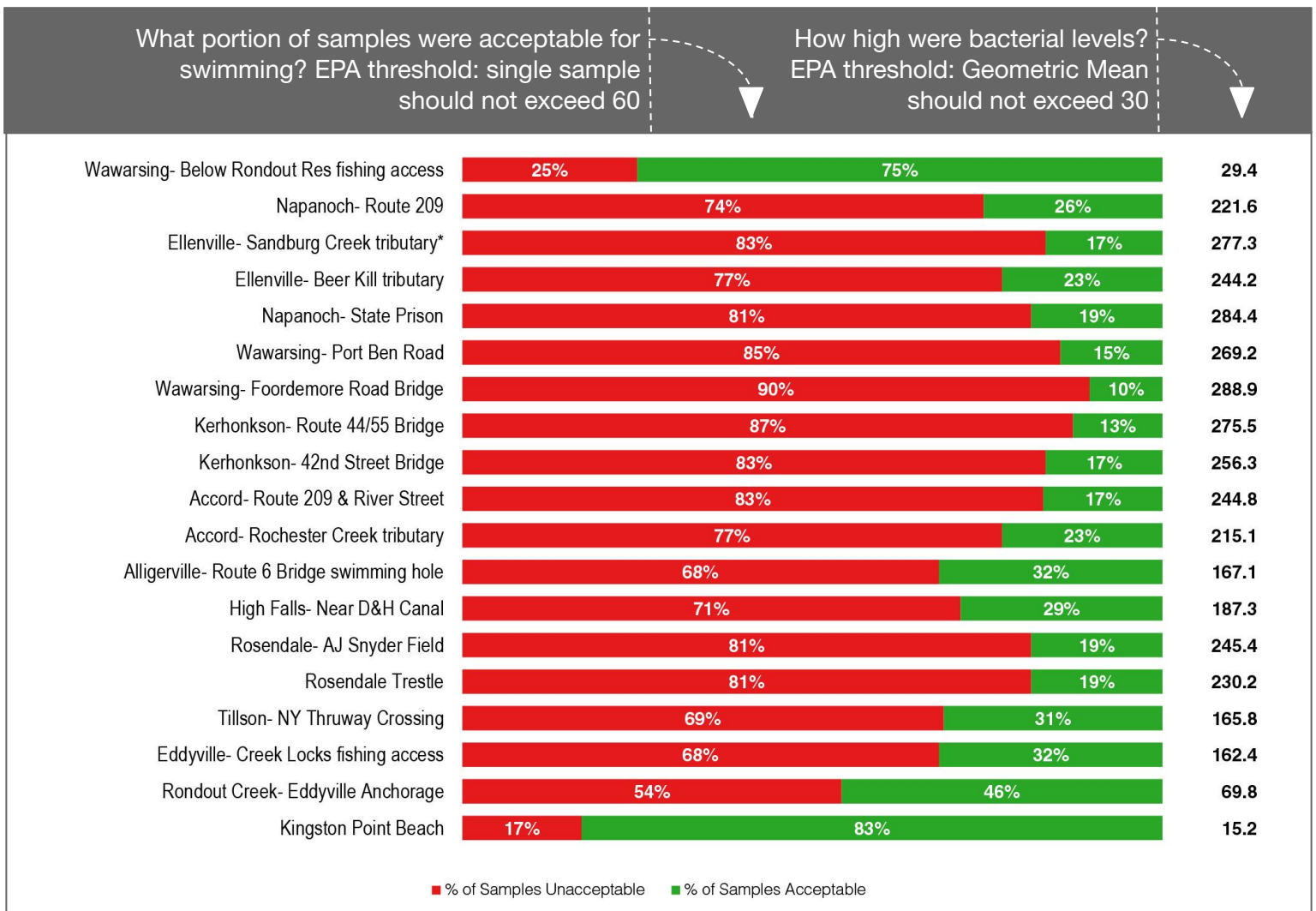
While research continues, the EPA has set thresholds to define if water is safe for swimming based on decades of science relying on measurements of these bacteria. Data are shown in Entero cells per 100 mL.

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 river herring, eel, and possibly even shortnose sturgeon.

Signs of Progress

Since 2017, Rondout Watershed communities have received \$9.75 million in grants for wastewater infrastructure repair projects. The current documented need for wastewater improvements in the watershed is approximately \$11.7 million.



*Sampling at this site began in 2014.