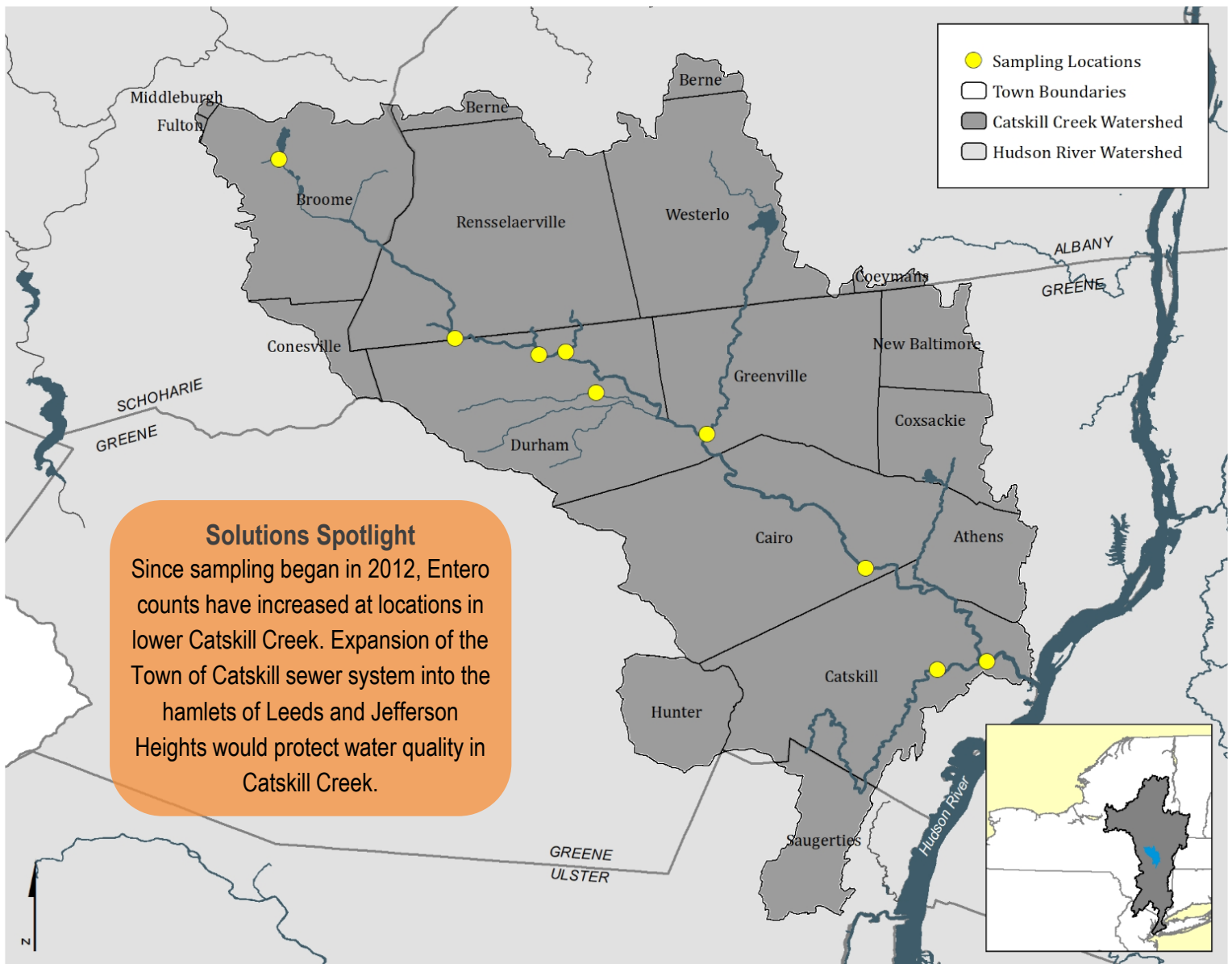


CATSKILL CREEK

Community Water Quality Monitoring Results

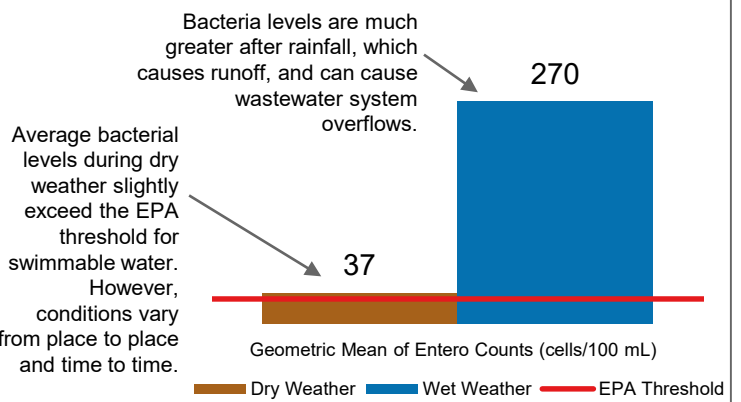
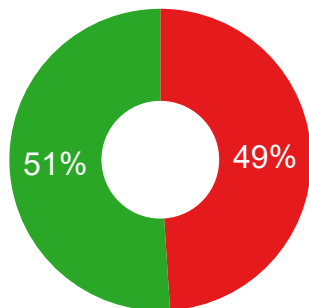
2012-2021



Solutions Spotlight
 Since sampling began in 2012, Enterococci counts have increased at locations in lower Catskill Creek. Expansion of the Town of Catskill sewer system into the hamlets of Leeds and Jefferson Heights would protect water quality in Catskill Creek.

What portion of our samples were safe for swimming? How does weather affect bacteria levels?

Approximately half of samples collected at non-tidal sites met the EPA guideline for safe swimming.



More: Explore a watershed map, data from each sampling site, and more at riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/catskill-creek-watershed

Community Science

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 484 samples collected since 2012 by community scientists. 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.

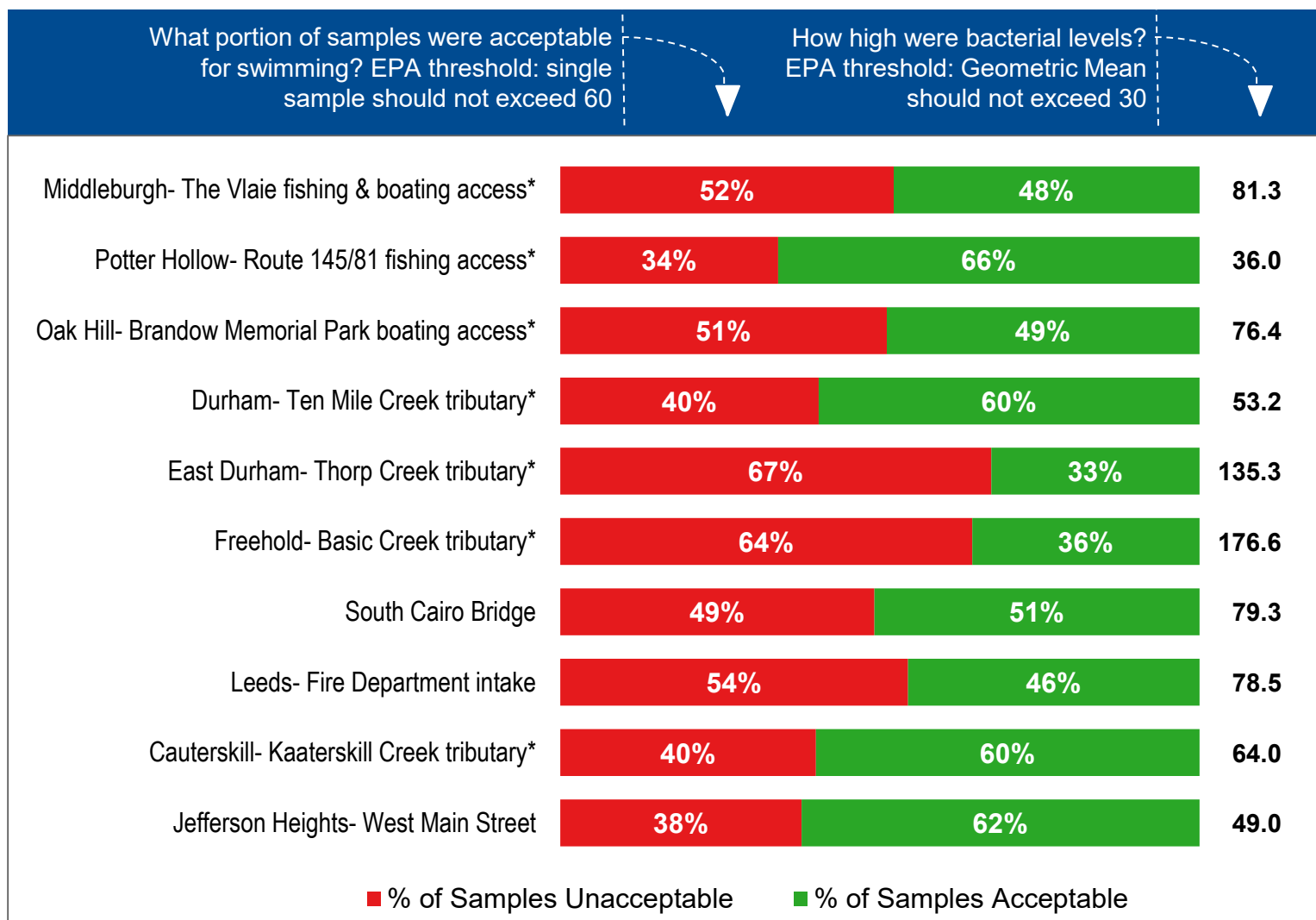
While research continues, the EPA has set thresholds to define if water is safe for swimming based on decades of science relying on measurements of these bacteria. Data are shown in Entero cells per 100 mL.

About the Catskill Creek

Forest and agriculture cover much of the Catskill Creek watershed, with most of the urban development in the watershed’s lower section. The creek has several popular swimming holes and fishing spots along its course.

Signs of Progress

The Catskill Creek Watershed Awareness Project of Cornell Cooperative Extension recently completed a Catskill Creek watershed management plan that names several Climate Smart Communities program actions to protect water quality and a healthy watershed.



*Sampling at these sites began in 2014.