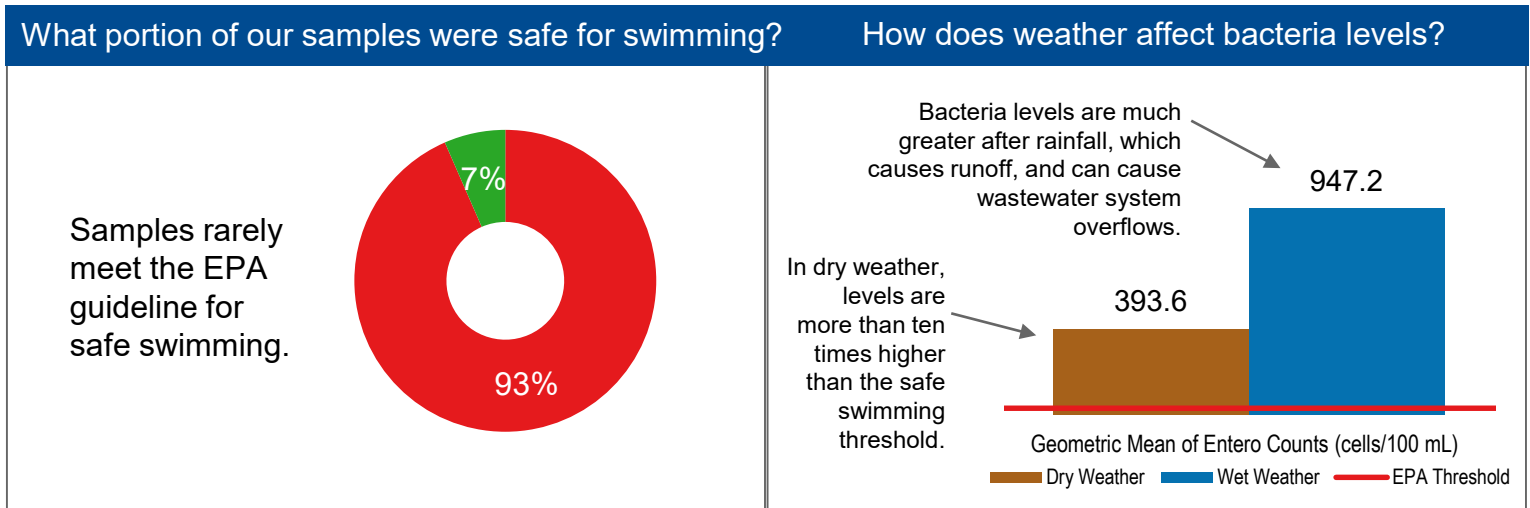
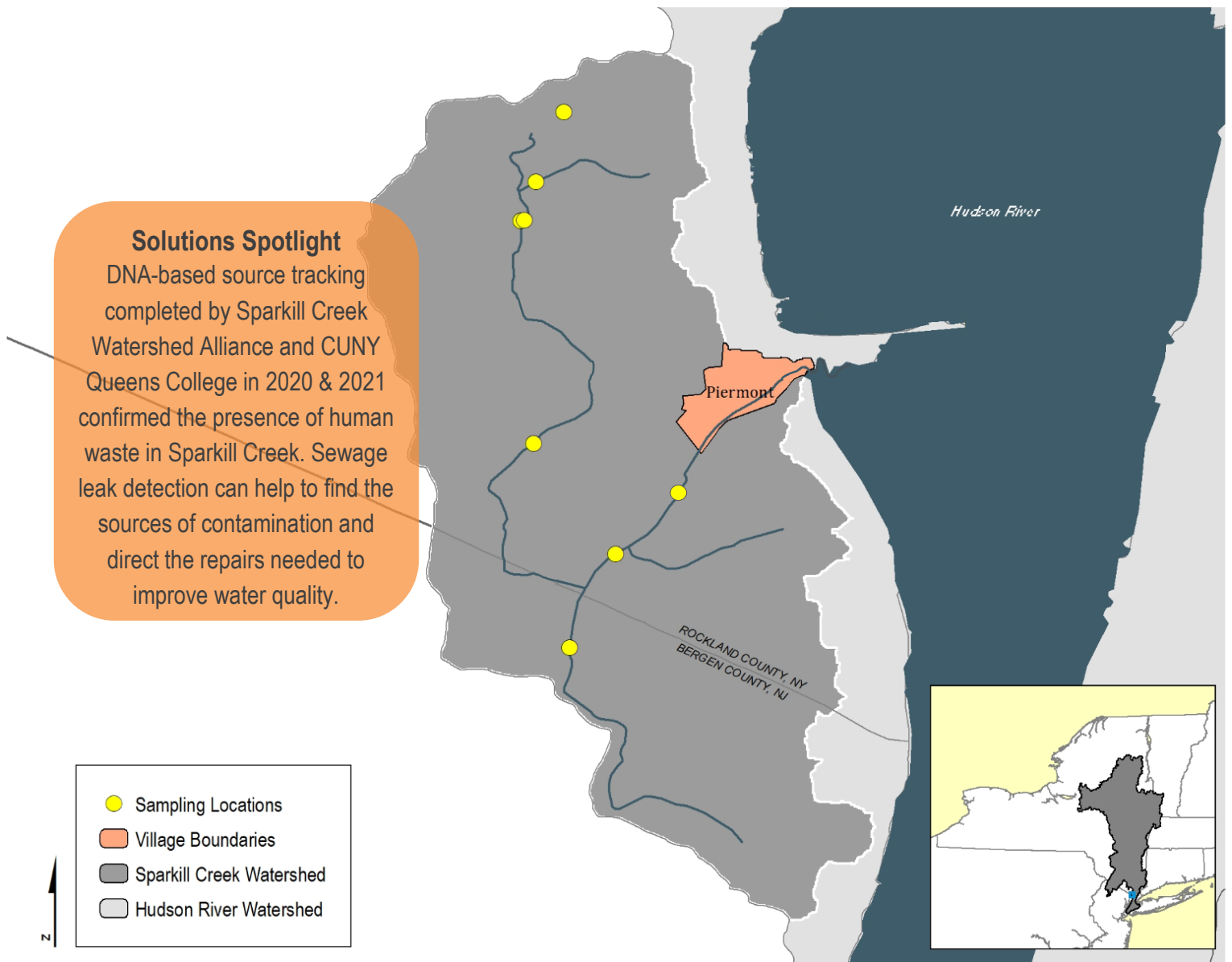


# SPARKILL CREEK

Community Water Quality Monitoring Results

2012-2021



**More:** Explore a watershed map, data from each sampling site, and other info at [www.riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/sparkill-creek](http://www.riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/sparkill-creek).

Learn about the Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance at [www.sparkillcreek.org/](http://www.sparkillcreek.org/).

**Community Science**

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 488 samples collected since 2012 by Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance. Samples are collected monthly (May to October) and processed at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. To get involved, contact Sebastian Pillitteri at [spillitteri@riverkeeper.org](mailto: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 Sparkill Creek**

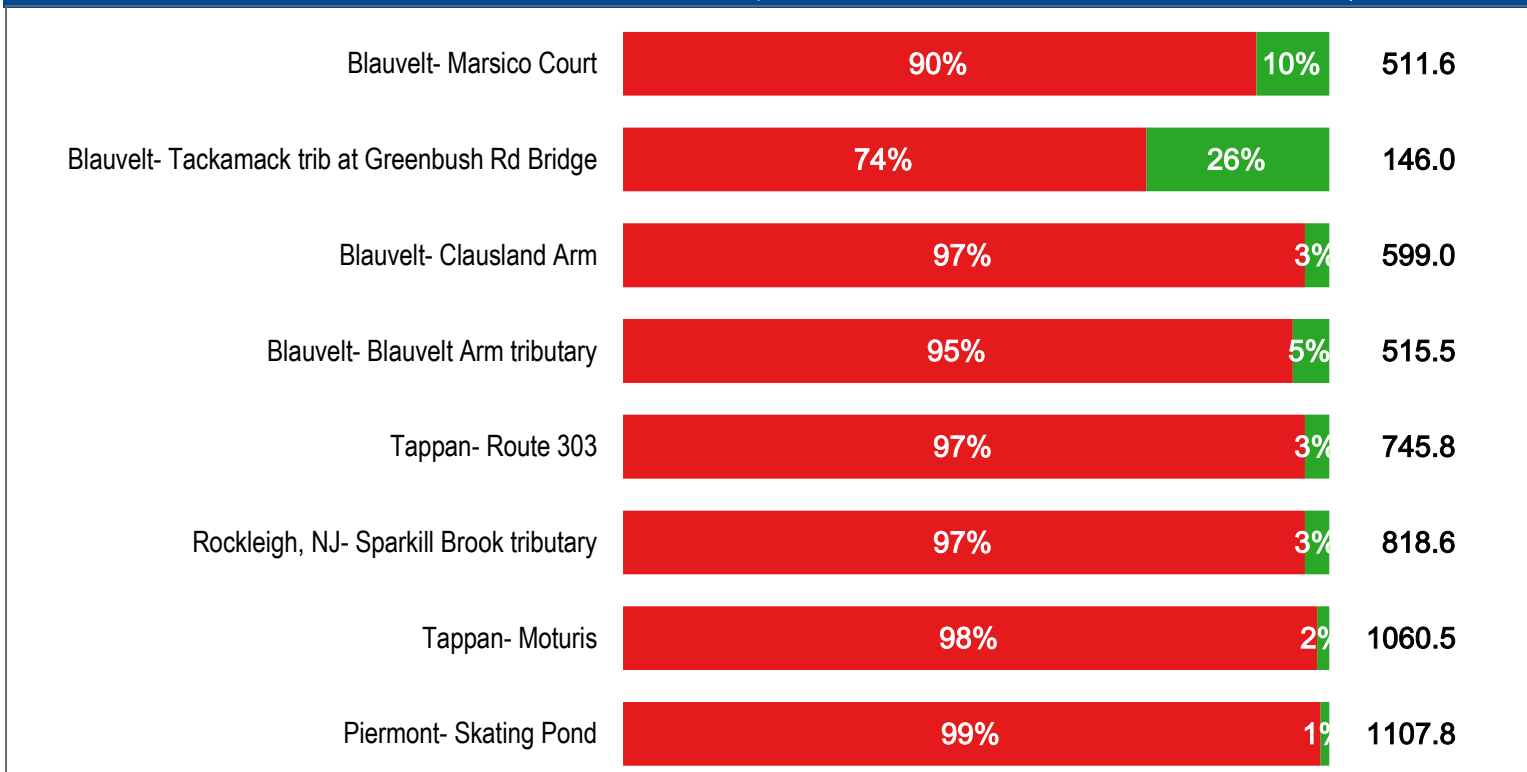
After flowing through neighborhoods and commercial and industrial areas in New York and New Jersey, the Sparkill Creek feeds Piermont Marsh, one of the four wetlands that make up the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve.

**Signs of Progress**

In 2021, the Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance and Riverkeeper completed a comprehensive water quality assessment of the watershed using DEC-approved methods. The data will improve municipalities’ competitiveness for state infrastructure funding. Sewage leak detection can help direct repairs to the areas of greatest need.

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

How high were bacterial levels? EPA threshold: Geometric mean should not exceed 30



■ % of Samples Unacceptable      ■ % of Samples Acceptable