



SARAH
LAWRENCE
COLLEGE

CENTER FOR THE URBAN RIVER AT BECZAK

SAW MILL & HUDSON RIVER STAKEHOLDER REPORT

This research is part of the lower Hudson urban waters collaborative in partnership with the Bronx River Alliance and Riverkeeper. Data as part of this research is also shared with partner databases such as Riverkeeper and the Billion Oyster Project Community Water Quality Testing program.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR PROGRAM
FUNDER CONEDISON FOR THEIR
CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT**



conEdison, inc.

JULY 2025

Summer is always an incredibly busy time of year at CURB and this is especially true for our research programs. We started the month off with lots of excitement as we welcome back students from our Winter Water Academy session that have graduated to a paid position part of this summers Blue Team cohort. Following their start we welcome back two Rising Tides (students that have completed one or more of our long term programs) as Research Lab Assistants supporting our labs fecal indicator bacteria research from the Saw Mill and Hudson rivers. These students (all Yonkers residents) are vitally important in the quest for the long term health of our river systems. We welcome each of these students back to working on their river.

MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY

Compared to the weather documented in the June report timespan, the timespan spanning June into July witnessed more rain events providing less total amounts of rain. During our sampling week, 3 of the 4 recorded days resulted in wet weather event days. This was clearly reflected in our fecal bacteria results for this sampling period.

Timespan: 6/10/25 - 7/10/25

Percent of month impacted by rain events*: 37%

Total rain fall amounts for the month: 2.88 inches

*At least 0.1" of rainfall recorded on a single day

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



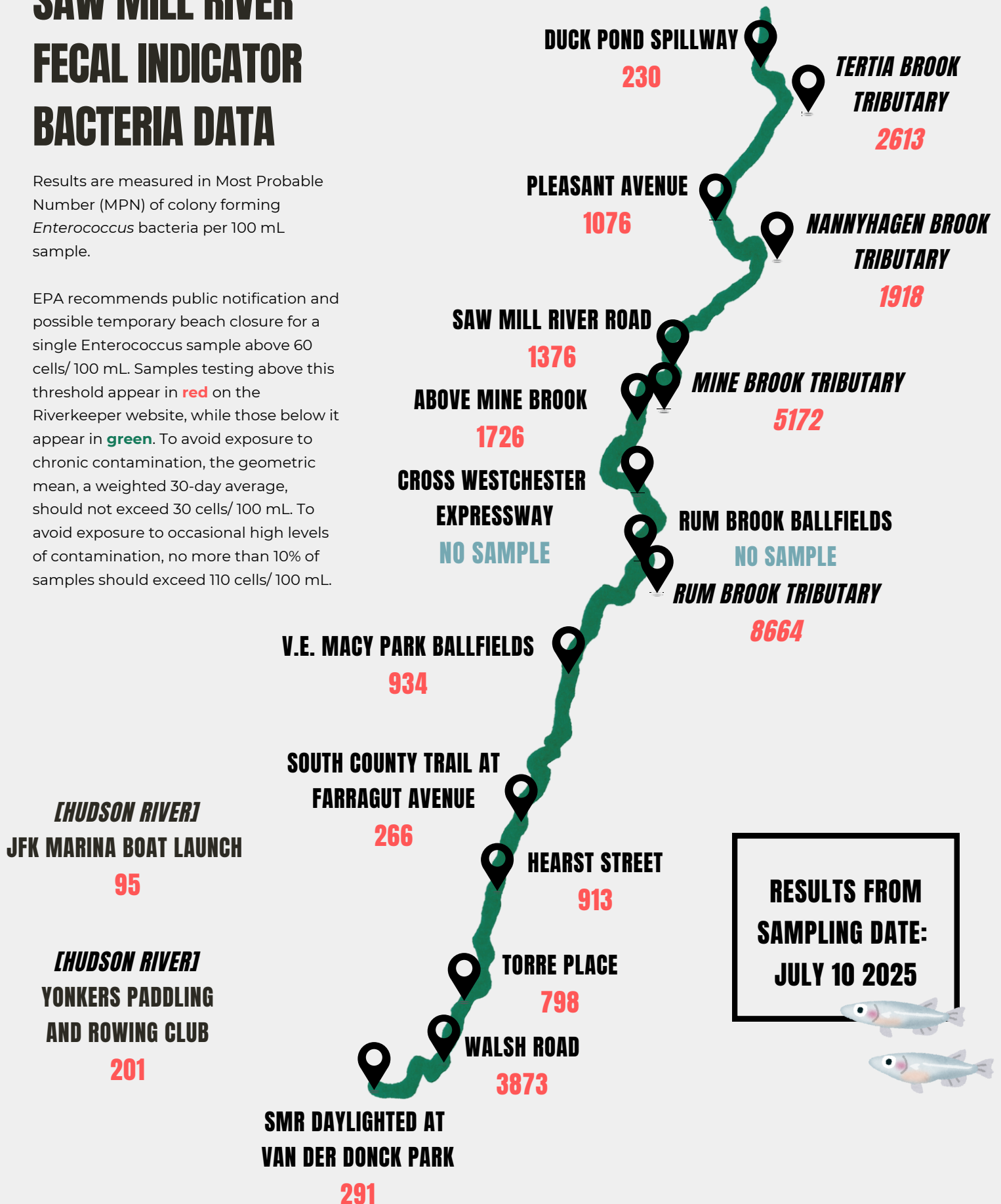
PHOTO CREDIT: JULIANA GENTILE

LOCATION: YPRC FLOATING DOCK - DOWNTOWN YONKERS

SAW MILL RIVER FECAL INDICATOR BACTERIA DATA

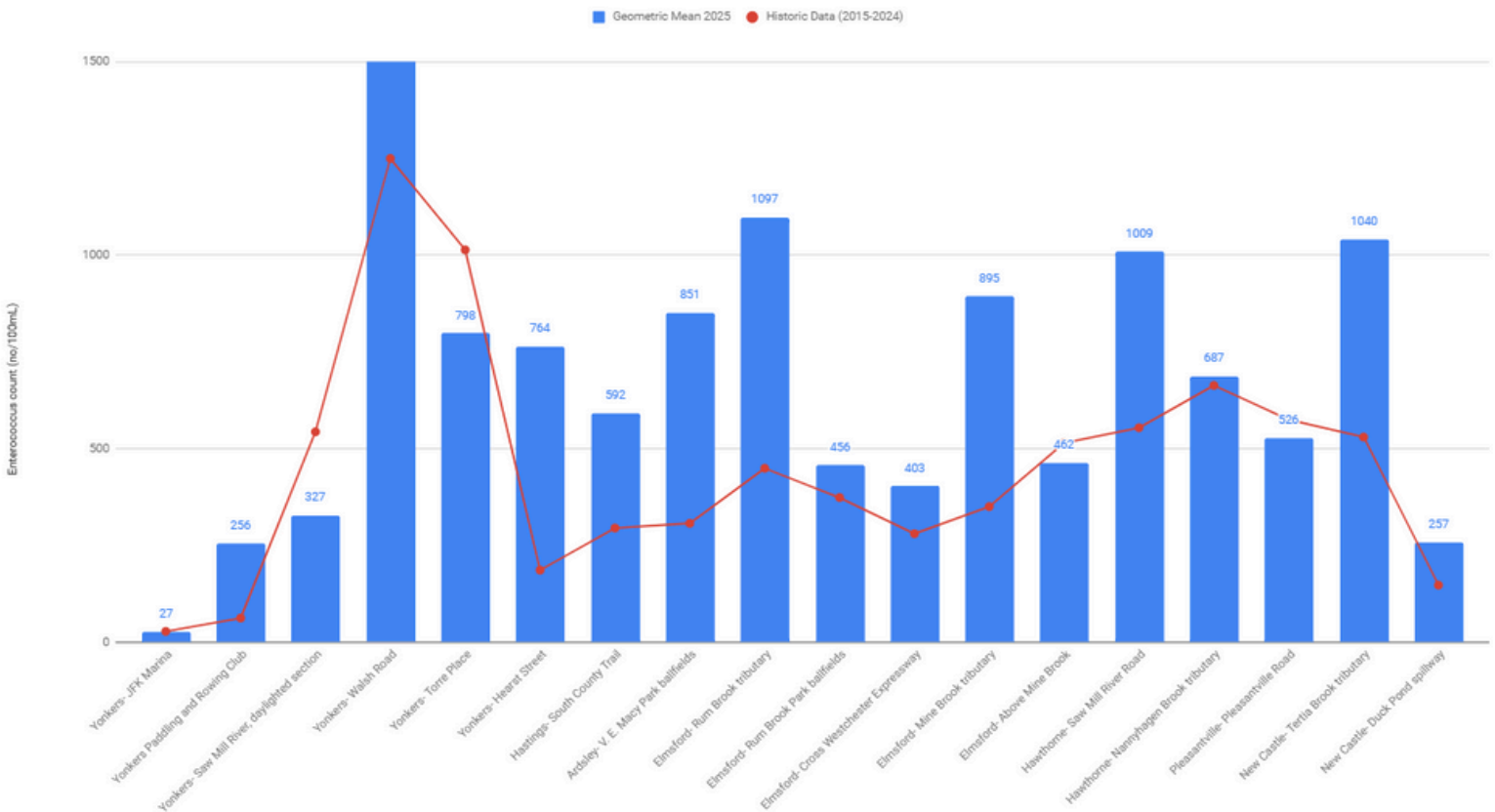
Results are measured in Most Probable Number (MPN) of colony forming *Enterococcus* bacteria per 100 mL sample.

EPA recommends public notification and possible temporary beach closure for a single *Enterococcus* sample above 60 cells/100 mL. Samples testing above this threshold appear in **red** on the Riverkeeper website, while those below it appear in **green**. To avoid exposure to chronic contamination, the geometric mean, a weighted 30-day average, should not exceed 30 cells/100 mL. To avoid exposure to occasional high levels of contamination, no more than 10% of samples should exceed 110 cells/100 mL.



THE DATA SO FAR

Fecal Indicator Bacteria (FIB) Enterococcus Geomean 2025 against Historic Data Collection



DATA SUMMARY - ANALYSIS BY OUR RESEARCH LAB ASSISTANTS

Based on the findings, the resulted MPN numbers related to each site share a correlation associated with the recent rainfall amounts. This weeks total rainfall calculations (4 days total of rainfall before the sample is collected) for the sites ranged from 0.4" - 1.03". Rainwater often impacts infrastructure systems related to sewage and can impact runoff as it makes its way into the Saw Mill River, which explains why there is a significant rise in the MPN count.

Percent of samples that fail to meet EPA criteria limits this month: 100%

Sampling location of notice this month: Elmsford - Rum Brook Tributary

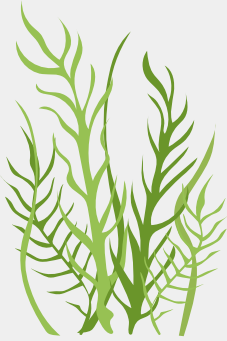
Historically, Rum Brook Tributary has a much lower geometric mean of MPN count usually resulting in a bacterial count close to 449; however, the results from yesterday spiked to 8,664.



PHOTO CREDIT: LEE WORDSMAN
LOCATION: RUM BROOK 2022

(THE DISTINGUISHED RIVER)

A SECTION OF OUR NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO THE GREAT EVER CHANGING RIVERS



The CURB Blue Team consists of 10 Yonkers public high school students who have completed the prerequisite Winter Water Academy weeklong water quality intensive in during the YPS winter break. These paid summer interns are focusing their research on the quantity of fecal indicator bacteria, enterococcus, present at the Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club dock trice throughout the day on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. These students also work closely together in the planning of a community event aimed to showcase their research and inform key stakeholders in a day of fun activities (this year taking place on Saturday August 10).

The program hosts an opportunity for two prior students to return as mentors, acting as leaders and knowledge sharers of the program. The program also hosts a Sarah Lawrence College (SLC) student who supports with educational lessons and overall guidance. This year the SLC student, Vivian Navarette, is also a student who has held both Blue Team student and mentor roles in past summer cohorts. Below she shares a bit about her experience in the program.

VIVIAN



During my Blue Team Internship, I worked with 9 other students of different schools in the same district. I got to know my acquaintances while working, and was taught about many topics related to environmental justice. The experience was always learner friendly, and I always felt that we all had a responsibility toward our research work on enterococcus in the Hudson. Our community event was a daunting thought, but by working together with my acquaintances, it was so much more manageable and motivating. I learned how important it was to be a team player, be confident, and to be resourceful. My time at CURB was so influential to a point where I wanted to continue to be a part of the community there. I came back as a mentor. Yet another fun and educational opportunity I was given a year after my internship. I was in charge of creating the research poster associated with the incoming Blue Team interns work. I learned how to increase my confidence more, projecting my knowledge and words to the students who were in the position I was a year before. I loved doing my job as Data Analyst mentor, as I learned how much more complicated and important our research was. To this day I still work with CURB as a Summer Science Intern from Sarah Lawrence College! Out of any choices I've had in the past, I would have always chosen to go down this route as I have grown with CURB and will always cherish my experiences here.

Have a distinguished river highlight or upcoming event you'd like to share?
Email your submission for the month of August to KLamboy@sarahlawrence.edu.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

The **Groundwork Hudson Valley** (GWHV) Science Barge is quite literally considered CURB's neighbor. Just a short walk south from the center and across a gangway and visitors are transported to a sustainability oasis. The barge has been a dedicated science education center in Downtown Yonkers since 2008. Fruit and vegetables harvested from edible plants are donated to support the surrounding community. They offer both public visiting hours and structured field trips that highlight sustainable practices, emergency preparedness, climate change and more!

To learn more about the Science Barge and check out their program offering, [check out this link](#).



PHOTO CREDIT: GREEN MOUNTAIN ENERGY SUN CLUB