



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**



MAY 2025

We welcome you to the new extended Saw Mill and Hudson River Stakeholder report. This report is curated with the intention of providing educational opportunity, sharing sampling results of our fecal indicator bacteria study, and highlighting fun ways stakeholders can interact with local waterways. I hope to continue storytelling about the happenings on our rivers and connect each of you through this project. Although we are reducing the number of sampling dates in this and subsequent years, we will be able to conduct more targeted analysis of our sites and work closely with partners and communities in the ultimate betterment of our rivers.

MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY

Springs "April showers" were consistently frequent in our forecast over the past month and brought with it many instances of flooding and CSO overflows throughout NY. The start of May has followed this trend and shows few signs of slowing. Forecast prior to the first sampling date of the 2025 season predicted a week with consistent rainfalls. Our data indicates that the wet weather during this sampling week highly impacted sites across the Saw Mill River watershed.

Timespan: 4/8/25 - 5/8/25

Percent of month impacted by rain events*: 30%

Total rain fall amounts for the month: 2.95 inches

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

Sarah Lawrence College Center for the Urban River at Beczak

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



PHOTO CREDIT: JOEL RODRIGUEZ

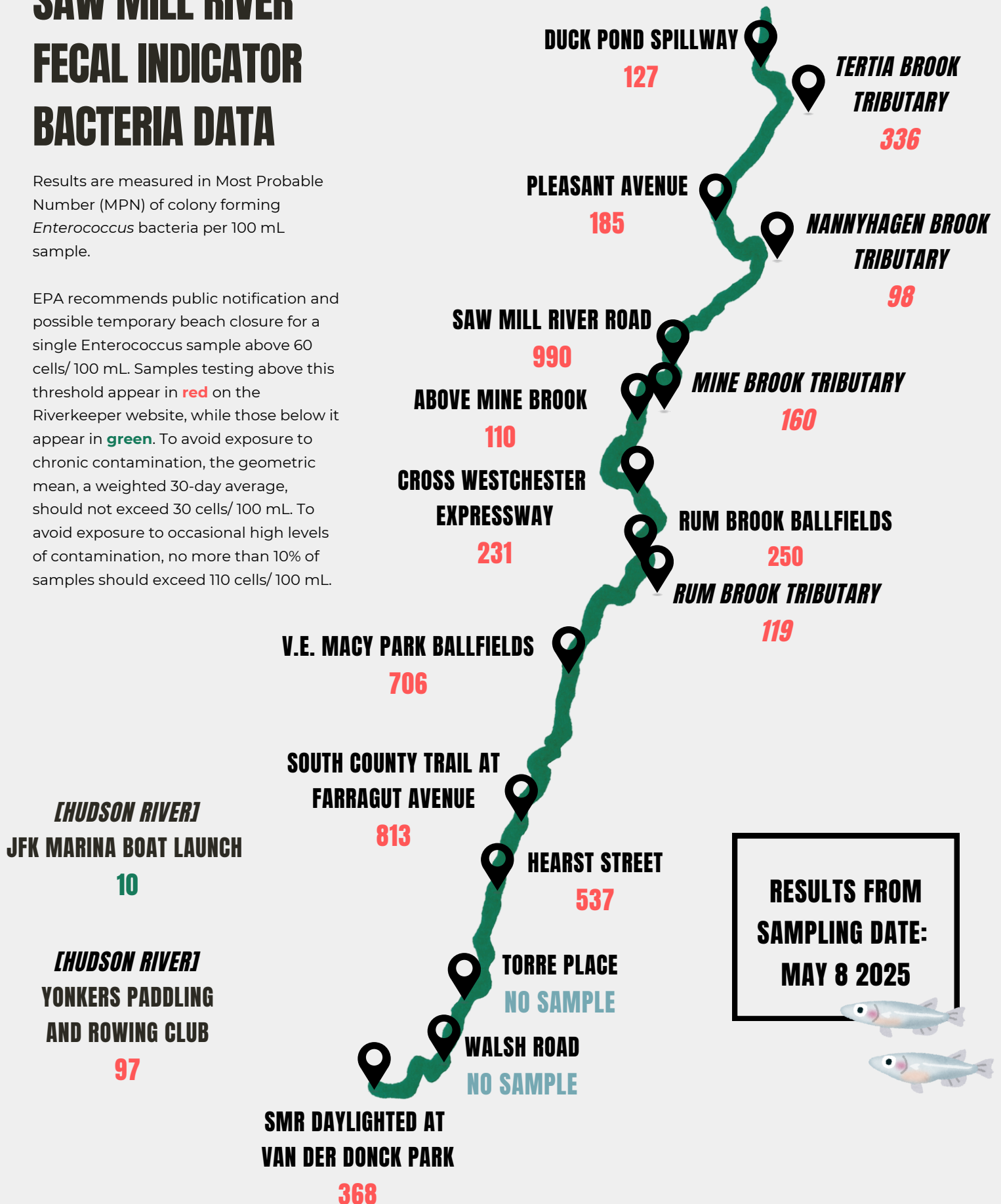
LOCATION: CROSS WESTCHESTER EXPRESSWAY

www.centerfortheurbanriver.org/research

SAW MILL RIVER FECAL INDICATOR BACTERIA DATA

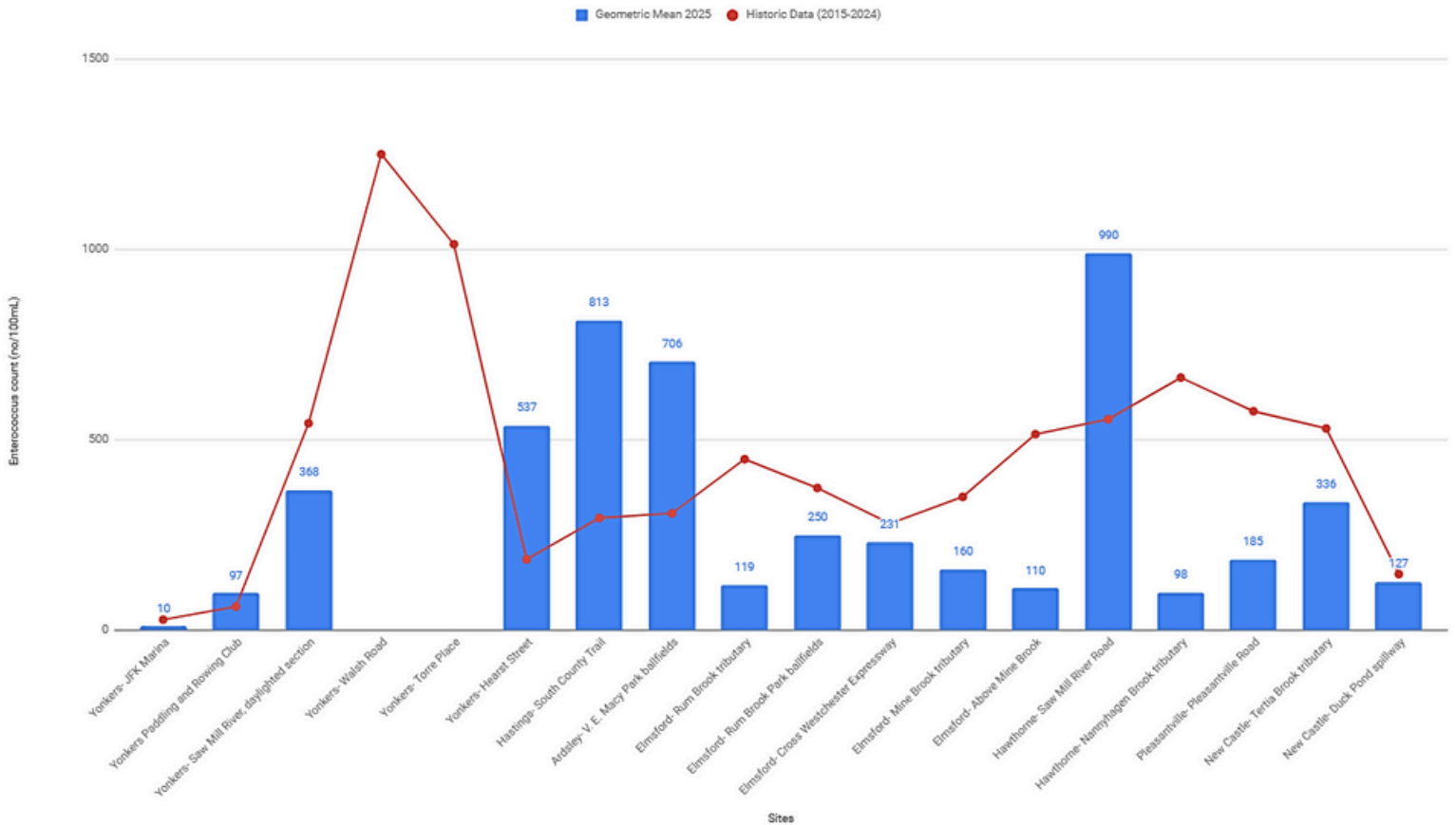
Results are measured in Most Probable Number (MPN) of colony forming *Enterococcus* bacteria per 100 mL sample.

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

Although the results from many of the sites far exceeded the EPA beach closure thresholds, many of the sites in the northern areas of the Saw Mill River fell far below their historic geometric means in comparison. Unlike rain events that measure high amounts during small periods of time, the rainfall this week fell steadily over the watershed as bands of rainstorms released precipitation in waves. Most of the watersheds permeable surfaces are able to filter steadier amounts of rainfall over a period of time, unlike during cloud burst or flooding events. The trickling motion allows for less amounts of rain to infiltrate cracked or broken sewage infrastructure - ultimately leaching less amounts of fecal bacteria from sewage lines into the environment.

Percent of samples that fail to meet EPA criteria limits this month: 93.8%

Sampling location of notice this month: Hawthorne - Saw Mill River Road (SMR Rd.)

The Saw Mill River Road site stands out, quite literally, above the other data bars representing sampling of the river in nearby sites this week. Looking back at 2024, there was not one sampling result at SMR Rd. that would be considered safe by EPA standards. The lowest amount of fecal indicator bacteria at this site measured at 75 MPN colonies per 100 mL in May after a very dry 2023 winter and early spring. I would be interested in seeing if this site will continue to show high bacterial results as it has trended historically and will be keeping a watchful eye on the results as the sampling season continues.

(THE DISTINGUISHED RIVER)

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

UPCOMING HUDSON RIVER & YONKERS EVENTS:

Celebrating the Arts

The City of Yonkers will be celebrating the arts in a weekend filled with activities, classes, showcases, live performances and more! To learn more about organizations participating in the festival running from May 17-18, visit [this link](#) and download the schedule.

Float On Over To The Science Barge Opening

Join Groundwork Hudson Valley and their Science Barge staff on May 31 as they reopen for public visitation. Activities include guided tours of the space and interactive activities for all ages. For more information, check out groundworkhv.org.

Counting All Fish!

Celebrate the spring migratory fish species that are traveling into the Hudson River estuary with a free public seine. Get more information about the different sites participating on June 7 and register by visiting [this link](#).

Kicking Off Summer, Yonkers Waterfront Style

Interested in learning about all the activities the Yonkers waterfront has to offer? Join the Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club and partners on June 28 for a day celebrating the start of the summer at the annual YPRC Riverfest! For more information, check out YPRC.org.

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



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Billion Oyster Project (BOP) is committed to providing accessible and transparent water quality data that can inform boaters, swimmers, and kayakers when and where it's safe to explore and enjoy our local waterways. The Community Water Quality Testing (CWQT) program, currently facilitated by Billion Oyster Project alongside 15+ partner labs and community based organizations, has engaged community scientists in the testing of NY-NJ Estuary water for bacteria that can be harmful to humans for over 10 years.

To learn more about BOP and sign up for the CWQT blog newsletter, [check out this link](#).



PHOTO CREDIT: BILLION OYSTER PROJECT