



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 Community Water Quality Testing (CWQT) program.

Interested in supporting our efforts or contributing to this report?

Consider emailing us with your ideas to KLamboy@sarahlawrence.edu.

MAY 2026

After the tri-state area experienced an incredibly harsh winter, the Spring season and the weather associated with it is a welcomed experience by most. The great freeze of this past winter left us here in Yonkers without access to the Hudson and Saw Mill Rivers - both turning into the perfect examples of the power of nature and its systems. The sleepy winter thaw has given way to sunny mornings greeting the migrating birds and young of year fish and shrimp that are blooming along the coastline of Habirshaw Park. CURB staff welcomed the season by visiting our next door neighbors at the Yonkers pump station to become better informed about the wastewater system impacting our shared shoreline habitat. Partnership, collaboration, education, and communication are all integral parts of environmental protection and are a foundational part of our sampling program. As part of this community, we hope that you will continue to engage with us as we enter our 11th year of data collection along our beloved rivers.

MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY

The forecast very much tricked me once again into thinking a large amount of rain would wash away the pollen from the trees and plants for the first sampling date of the season. A small amount of rain moistened the topsoil along the Saw Mill River banks - not enough to create mud; but, enough to feed the quickly growing sprouts of knotweed throughout the watershed. An overall dry start to the season despite the time of year with only about a tenth of the month with reported rain events.

Timespan: 4/14/26 - 5/14/26

Percent of month impacted by rain events*: 13%

Total rain fall amounts for the month: 0.99 inches

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

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

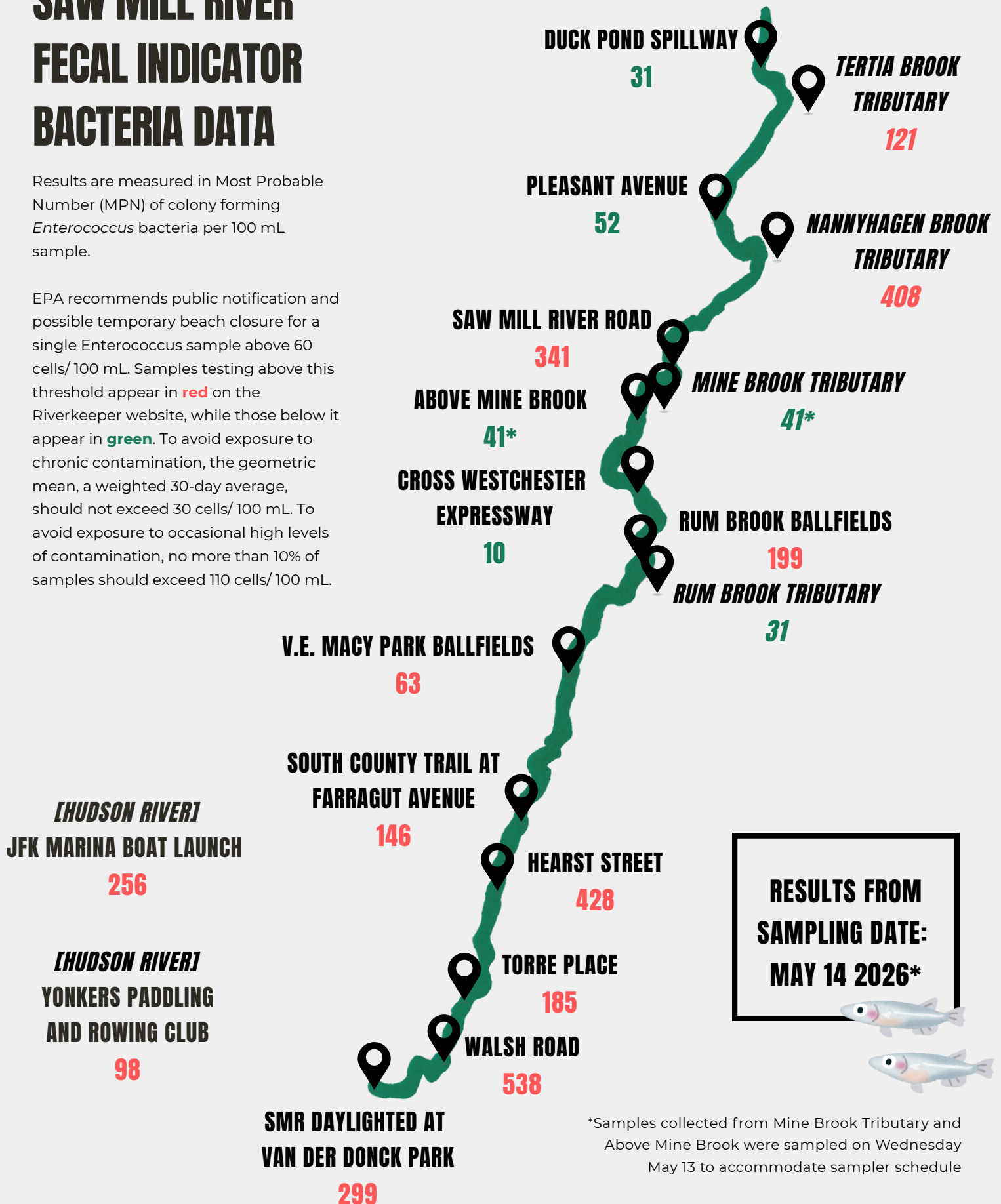


PHOTO CREDIT: LAUREN F.
LOCATION: WALSH ROAD

SAW MILL RIVER FECAL INDICATOR BACTERIA DATA

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

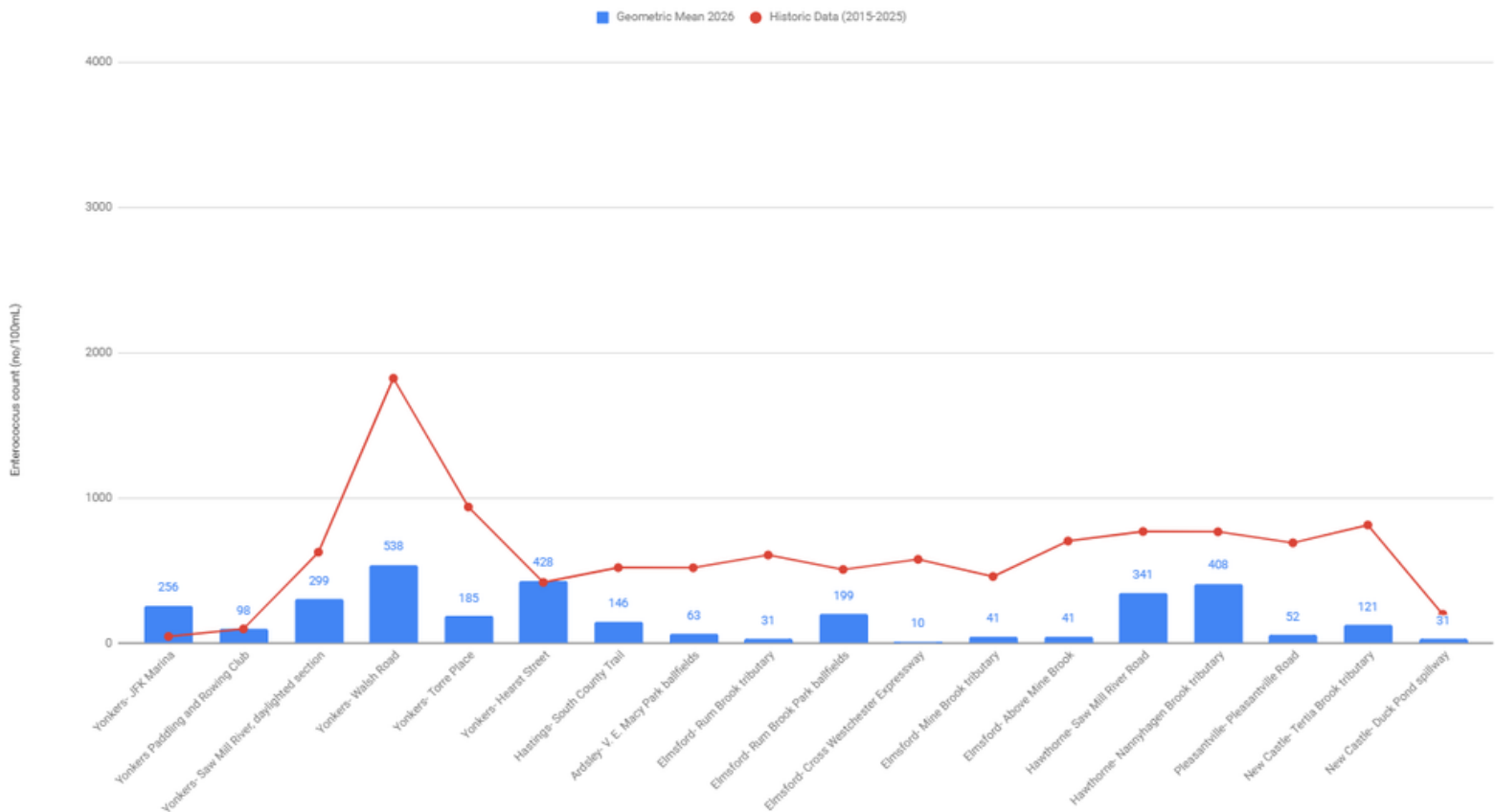
EPA recommends public notification and possible temporary beach closure for a single *Enterococcus* sample above 60 cells/100 mL. Samples testing above this threshold appear in **red** on the Riverkeeper website, while those below it appear in **green**. To avoid exposure to chronic contamination, the 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.



*Samples collected from Mine Brook Tributary and Above Mine Brook were sampled on Wednesday May 13 to accommodate sampler schedule

THE DATA SO FAR

Fecal Indicator Bacteria (FIB) Enterococcus Geomean 2026 against Historic Data Collection



DATA SUMMARY

The most surprising data result from this week has to be the site location of JFK Marina on the Hudson River. At the end of the 2025 season, this site also resulted in higher than normal amounts of the fecal indicator bacteria, enterococcus, which left the volunteer sampler Diane M. and I interested. We will keep a close watch and report any signs of wildlife or other possible sources of fecal bacteria at the site throughout the season.

Percent of samples that fail to meet EPA criteria limits this month: 67%

Sampling location of notice this month: Duck Pond Spillway

Duck Pond Spillway is a site that has consistently met the criteria for water quality standards versus many of the downstream locations of the Saw Mill River. During the May sampling date, it (along with V.E. Macy Park) was a sites with results that fall within the EPA fecal indicator criteria for safe interaction. The presumed headwaters of the Saw Mill River lends its picturesque cascades to our sampling partners who often provide us with multi-angled views of photo documentation.



PHOTO CREDIT: HELEN M.
(WITH ADDED FILTERS FOR BETTER VIEWING)
LOCATION: DUCK POND SPILLWAY

(THE DISTINGUISHED RIVER)

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

Upcoming Events by Local Groups:

The Great Saw Mill River Cleanup

Led by Groundwork Hudson Valley

Saturday May 16

Various Locations

[Eventbrite Registration](#)

Volunteers will be conducting a garbage cleanup at various locations along the Saw Mill River

Yonkers Arts Weekend

Led by City of Yonkers

Friday May 15 - Sunday May 17

Various Locations

[Schedule and Sign Up Here](#)

A full weekend of art, music, and culture in locations across the City

Submerge Marine Science Festival

Led by Hudson River Park

Saturday May 16

Pier 84, NYC

[Information Here](#)

SUBMERGE brings marine science to life for all ages in this free and fun day full of hands-on activities and interactive experiences along the waterfront



World Fish Migration Lower Hudson & Harbor Fish Count

Led by Columbia Lamotte-Doherty

Various Dates and Locations

[Information Here](#)

Join in on a celebration connecting fish, rivers, and people!

Yonkers Riverfront Summer Kickoff Festival and Riverkeeper Fish Migration Celebration

Led by Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club

Saturday June 20

Habirshaw Park, Yonkers

[Eventbrite Registration](#)

Free kayaking, seining, arts and crafts, food and music celebrating the start of the paddling season!

City of Water Day

Led by Waterfront Alliance and HEP

Saturday July 25

Various Locations

[Information Here](#)

A region-wide day of free, family-friendly events on or near the water

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 Community Water Quality Testing Program (CWQT) was started in 2012 as a response to lack of data access by recreational waterway users. The program aimed to increase equitable access to the waterfront and advocating for updates to the antiquated NYC combined sewer system. After briefly being housed as part of the Billion Oyster Project, the program will continue its legacy with the support of the SWIM (Stormwater Infrastructure Matters) Coalition throughout the 2026 sampling season. The coalition promotes natural, sustainable stormwater management practices and environmental justice in our most vulnerable communities throughout NYC to support the ultimate goal of fishable and swimmable waters. To learn more about the SWIM Coalition, [check out this link](#).



PHOTO CREDIT: SWIM COALITION WEBPAGE