



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.

JUNE 2026

On Tuesday morning, the CURB interns and staff walked down to the river in waders - ready to take on the waterway as scientists, researchers, and overall outdoor enthusiasts. The tide, at its lowest level in its cycle, caused us to be into the muckiest part of the river only 3 steps in - causing me to face the idea of falling more than once. The group who seined the Hudson before I arrived to the shoreline had caught 4 American Eel in their yellow stage and they were in transit to their temporary holding bin via hand net. I stared in awe as I watched them squirming about intertwined - not knowing where one body started and one body ended. Just feet away from the excitement in the net, lay a dead goose on the marsh hilltop - the fifth one this year. The stark contrast of emotional polarity caused me to pause after returning to my desk. The realities of the river and the world at large will always rear its sometimes ugly face as a reminder of the facts and truth of our lives. A very stark reminder to celebrate both the beauty and harshness of our natural world.

MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY

Most of us have seen the incredible number of viral videos from the cloud burst event that took place on the evening of Saturday June 6 near NYC. After a seemingly beautiful day, the weather shifted in an instant causing a rainy whirlwind that left celebrations across the tristate area - a wet soggy mess.

Yonkers was not untouched by this extreme weather; the CURB weather station recorded gust speeds of approximately 25 miles per hour and a max precipitation rate of 0.321 inches/hour - resulting in a formal warning of possible sewage pollution by the Yonkers Joint WWTP.

Timespan: 5/11/26 - 6/11/26

Percent of month impacted by rain events*: 17%

Total rain fall amounts for the month: 2.53 inches

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

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

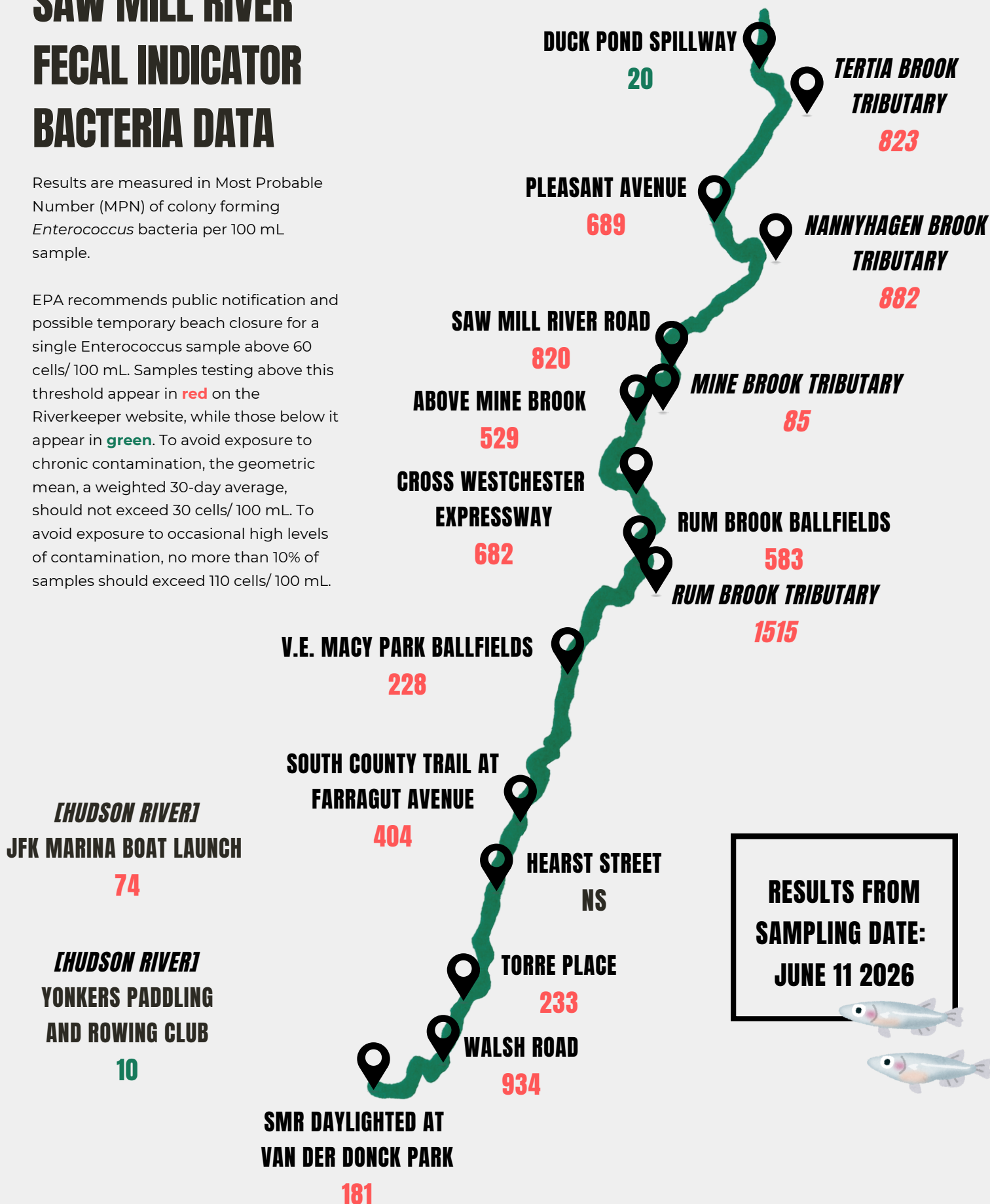


PHOTO CREDIT: WILLIAM L.
LOCATION: SAW MILL RIVER ROAD

SAW MILL RIVER FECAL INDICATOR BACTERIA DATA

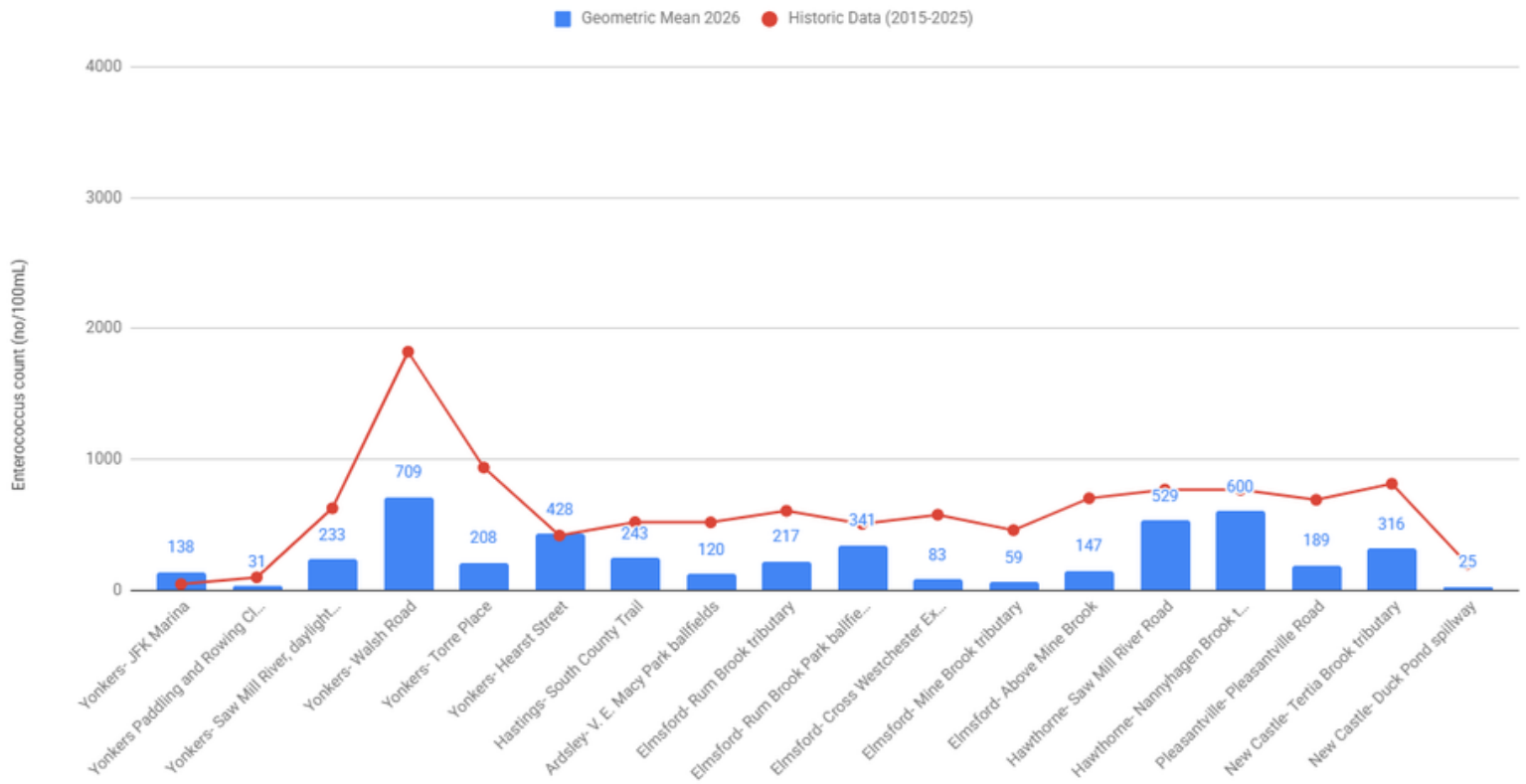
Results are measured in Most Probable Number (MPN) of colony forming *Enterococcus* bacteria per 100 mL sample.

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.



THE DATA SO FAR

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

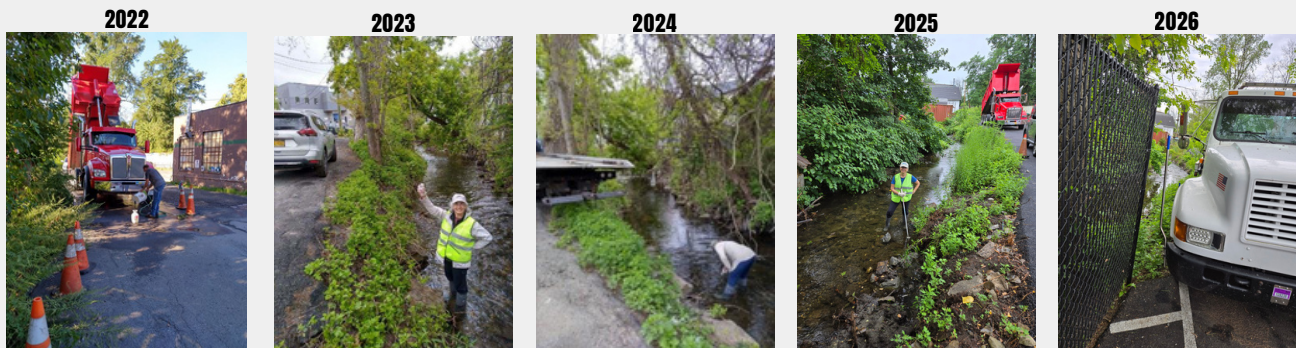


DATA SUMMARY

Percent of samples that fail to meet EPA criteria limits this month: 88%

Sampling location of notice this month: Nannyhagen Brook Tributary

Like clockwork, on each coordinated sampling date afternoon - my phone will buzz its familiar vibrating motion to alert me that a new version of the same photo has been delivered to my mobile phone from samplers Helen and Sharon in the northern region of the Saw Mill. The photo always makes my feelings stir with nervousness with a sprinkle of unescapable frustration. Along the banks of the Saw Mill at the Nannyhagen Brook Tributary are vehicles and trucks (sometimes very large ones at that) that are parked awaiting their next use. This site, unlike many others that have industrial use along its banks, lacks a barrier of sorts - causing it to solely rely on the approximately 3 feet of bank to act as the buffer region between the vehicles and waterway. Adequate buffer zones (natural and human made) along a rivers edge helps protect the waters from many harms such as chemical leaching and litter. Our samplers must tire of reading my desperate pleas for photos from their sites in each reminder email; but, these photo representations helps us paint a broader picture of the health and use of our beloved shared Saw Mill River. A very special thank you to Helen and Sharon who have been an integral part of capturing this historic photo gallery.



(THE DISTINGUISHED RIVER)

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

This summer I have the privilege of mentoring two superstar students interested in building their science research skills. Both Katherine L. and Ryan N. joined the lab for this month's sampling and processed the samples with precision and care. I have asked the students to share a little about themselves and some things they are looking forward to this summer.

"My name is Katherine L., and I am this summer's [SLC] Summer Science intern at CURB. I have a passion for environmental protection and botanical studies. My appreciation for the natural world began at a young age, gardening with my mother in the backyard. Her descriptions of particular needs and harms to garden plants opened my eyes to the uniqueness of each species and the different conditions they each need to survive. This experience initiated my passion for the sciences, specifically for improving natural environments and reducing the effects of climate change. I am enthusiastic to progress the oyster habitat restoration efforts at CURB, analyze water quality/diversity samples in the lab, and work with members of the Blue Team later in the summer to complete enterococcus research."



Ryan N. is a rising junior in High School located in Thornwood, New York and an active participant in the school's Science Research Program. Ryan's passion for environmental science is driven by his research skills, his use of data to understand ecology, and his love for the environment. Currently, Ryan is pursuing a study on how different land uses around the Saw Mill River affect the amount of Enterococcus bacteria present in the water. As part of his internship at the Center for the Urban River at Beczak, Ryan hopes to gain hands-on experience regarding water sampling, receive guidance from environmental scientists, and contribute to research protecting waterways.



*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

The YPRC fecal indicator bacteria sampling site on the Hudson River has some of the most historic data from a sampling site in the local region. This large dataset is available because concerned paddlers from the neighboring **Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club** (YPRC) were coming into firsthand contact with the river during kayaking and canoeing events and wanted more information about their safety in doing so. In an effort to learn more about the local waters, members of the club started collecting river water samples as part of the CWQT group in 2011. The club has been an important historic staple of the Yonkers waterfront and continues to provide safe recreational access to the public through free on-water opportunities. Join YPRC and CURB at the upcoming Summer Kickoff Festival on June 20th - [Click here](#) for more information and registration.



PHOTO CREDIT: YPRC WEBPAGE