



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.

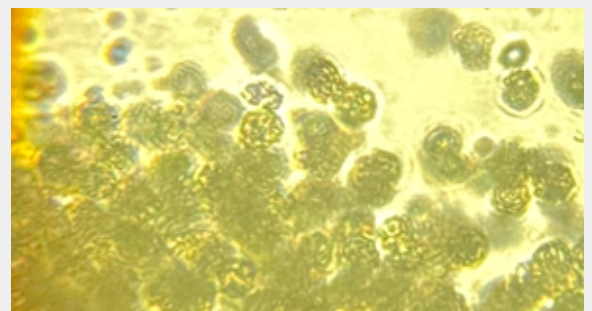
JULY 2026

Thinking up something to write in this introduction was incredibly hard for me this week. The Hudson River was hit by, not one, but two huge blows here in Yonkers in the past few weeks that has left our community with questions and concerns about our waterways.

During the last weeks of June, a bright green blob along the shoreline was recorded and reported to authorities in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. It was confirmed that the blob was in fact categorized as a harmful algal bloom (HAB); these blooms thrive and multiply rapidly in warmer nutrient rich waters. Toxins from blooms such as the one identified in the Hudson can cause bodily irritations and it is highly recommended that limited to no contact be made by waters impacted by blooms. In the summer of 2025 a widespread bloom was seen in the upper and mid Hudson River region spanning approximately 60 miles - a historic record.

Shortly after the bloom dissipated and right at the start of the 4th of July weekend celebrations, news broke that there was a systemic failure at the local Yonkers Wastewater Treatment Plant causing upwards of approximately 39,000,000 gallons of partially treated sewage to be discharged into the Hudson River. This failure caused the river to be unsafe during a weekend where temperatures crept into the low hundreds and people often seek out waterways as a form of heat relief.

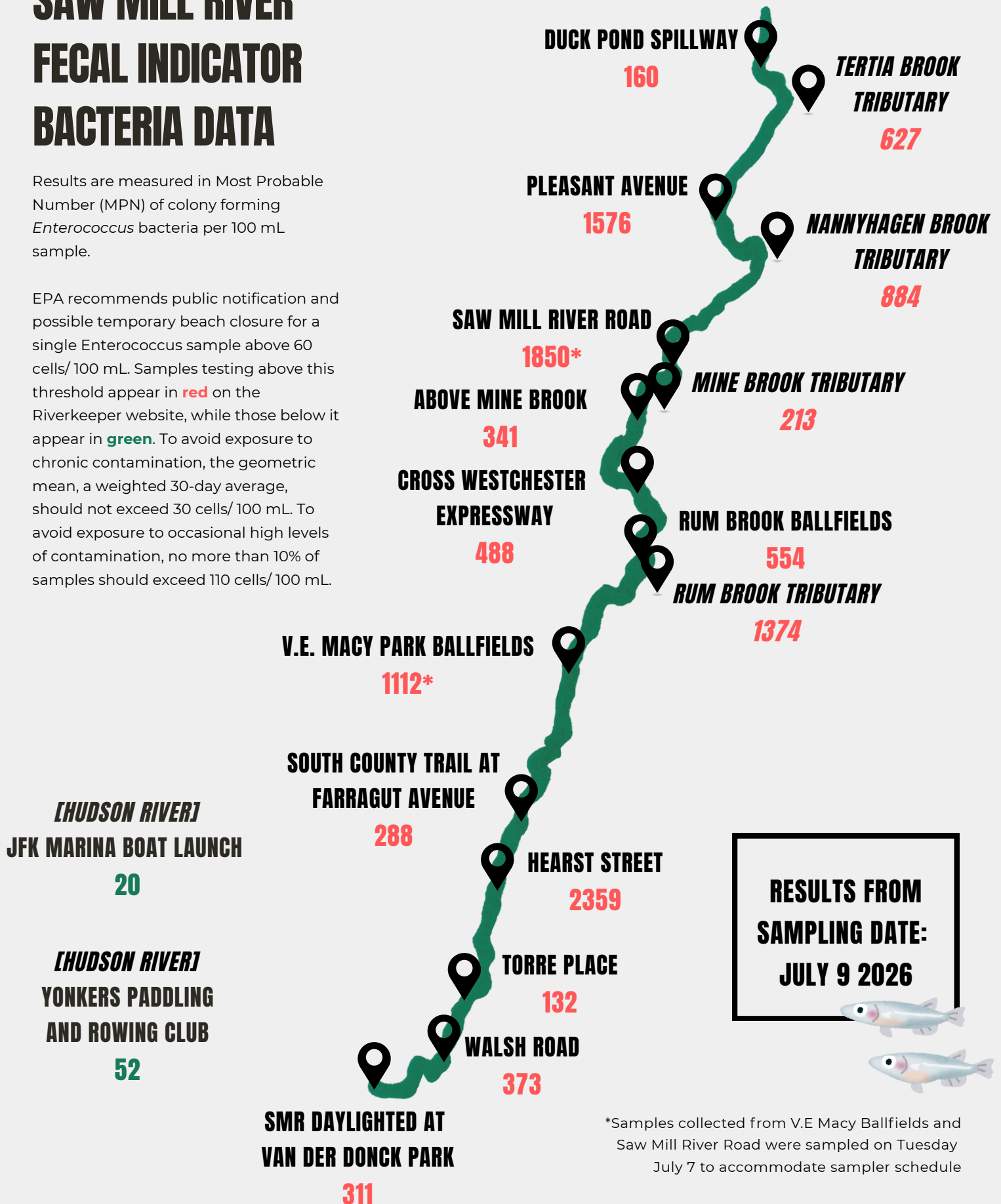
Access to local waterways are essential to our communities. It is essential to our mental and physical health. We deserve waterways that are protected and safe for lifeforms living within and along it. Please consider supporting the research being done at CURB by learning more about our waterways from our Yonkers teens part of the Blue Team on Saturday August 8th (the flyer for the student led event can be found at the end of this newsletter - please share with your networks).



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 V.E. Macy Ballfields and Saw Mill River Road were sampled on Tuesday July 7 to accommodate sampler schedule



Blue Team's Hudson River Bash: *Exploring Waterway Wonders*

FREE event with **FREE FOOD** and music!!!

Learn about the CURB Blue Team and their research about the Hudson River and its water quality right here in Yonkers! Go fishing with a seine net, kayak in the river, make arts and crafts, play games and so much more!

Saturday, August 8th
35 Alexander St, Yonkers
12-3 PM
Rain or Shine!

[RSVP Link Here](#)



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Blue Team's Hudson River Bash:

Explorando los Maravillosos del Mundo Acuático

¡Evento GRATIS con COMIDA GRATIS y música!!

¡Aprenda sobre Blue Team de SLC CURB y su estudio del río Hudson y la calidad de nuestras aguas aquí en Yonkers!

Vaya a pescar con una red, monte kayak en el río, haga manualidades, juegue y mucho más!

Sábado, Agosto 8
35 Alexander St, Yonkers
12-3 PM
¡Evento Pasando Sol o Juvia!

¡Regístrese Aquí!



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