



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.

SEPTEMBER 2026

We are nearing the close of what felt like the summer of continuous water quality misfortune on the Saw Mill and Hudson Rivers. The experience of extreme weather in recent months has been a highlighter of infrastructure weaknesses across watersheds. Extreme rainfall in the form of cloudbursts caused flooding that interrupted the daily lives of people commuting throughout the city and county. These rainfalls also resulted in 8 reported alerts for possible wet weather discharges of sewage into the Hudson River within the months of June through early September. *Did you know that these discharge reports can be delivered directly to your email?* We have created a quick guide at the end of this newsletter to support your sign up of these reports and access to this information.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



PHOTO CREDIT: LAUREN F.
LOCATION: WALSH ROAD

MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY

It is not uncommon for us to experience extreme amounts of rain towards the end of the summer season and into Autumn. This year was no exception with a cumulative 10+ inches over the past month. We saw this influence across the Saw Mill River in the August sampling with both sampling dates being considered wet weather sampling events and both sampling dates resulting in bacterial amounts way above the safe threshold levels set forth by EPA standards.

Timespan: 8/10/2026 - 9/10/2026

Percent of month impacted by rain events*: 37%

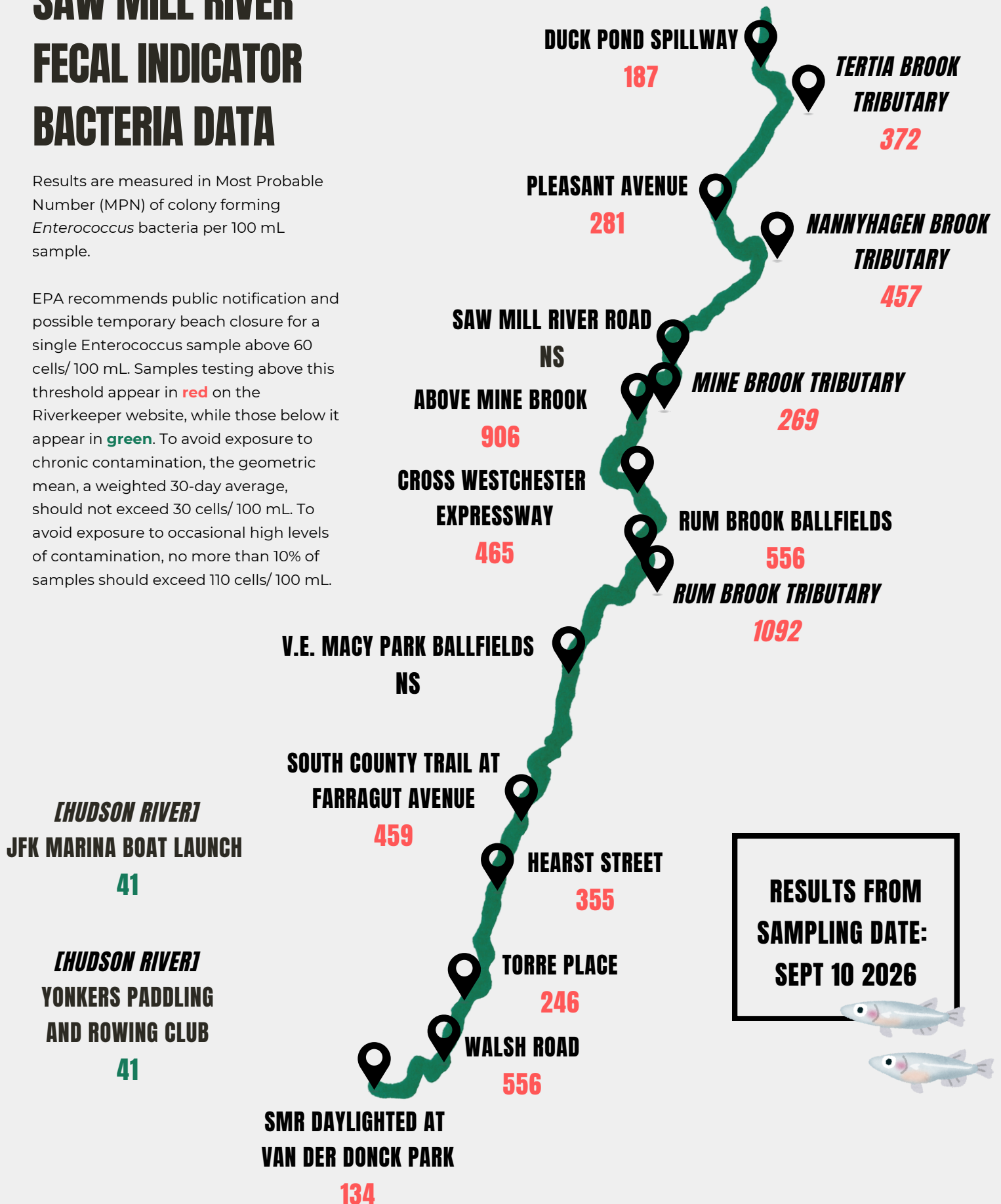
Total rain fall amounts for the month: 10.2 inches

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

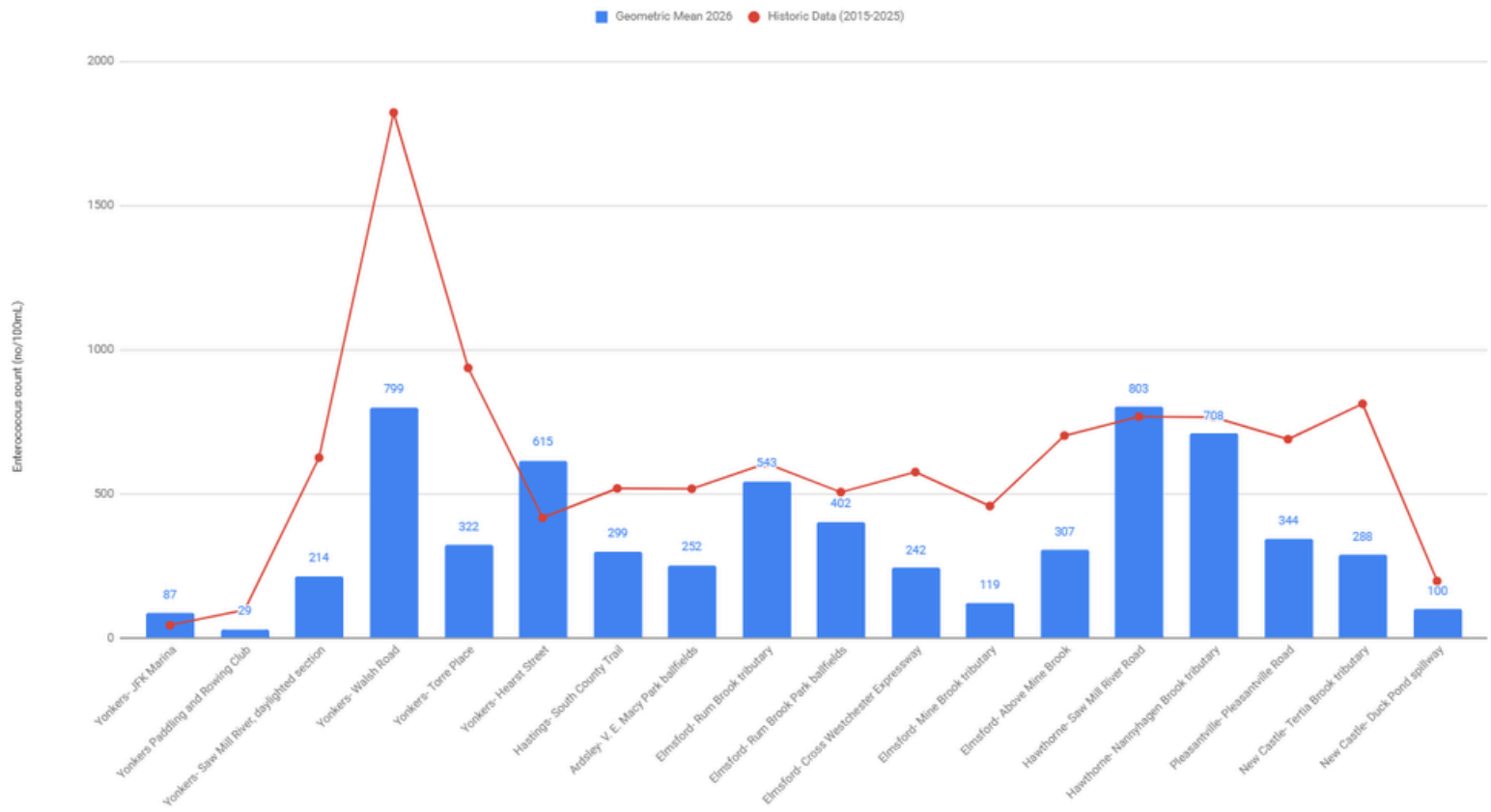
SAW MILL RIVER FECAL INDICATOR BACTERIA DATA

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



DATA SUMMARY

Percent of samples that fail to meet EPA criteria limits this month: 89%

Sampling location of notice this month: JFK Marina

This site is beloved by recreational waterway enthusiast and families looking to get some fresh air with beautiful views of the Palisades. Like many other Hudson River sites that are sampled, the historic geometric mean of fecal indicator bacteria information collected at this site has stayed below the unsafe threshold set by the EPA. This sites calculated historic mean is approximately 43.3 most probable number (MPN) of enterococcus bacteria per 100 mL of sample. Three of the five samples collected this year have resulted in amounts of bacteria greater than twice its historic value causing this years average to be calculated at 87 MPN so far. There are some factors that may influence the flux in amounts this year, including the continued presence of a gaggle of geese that like to take in the sites at the marina as well.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

The **Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators (WAVE) Program** is a community science initiative organized by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). This program uses the collection of aquatic macroinvertebrates in wadable streams to offer a broad assessment of water quality. Different species of aquatic macroinvertebrates have specific pollution tolerance levels. Higher variation of pollution sensitive species present in a stream can indicate better water quality vs. a waterway that has a higher variation of pollution tolerant species. This summer, student researcher Ryan N. was able to partake in the program, sampling on the Saw Mill River at V.E. Macy Park. This program provides community members an opportunity to learn about their local waterways through fun, interesting and important research. Details pertaining to the results from Ryan's sampling is estimated to be shared in Spring of 2027.



PHOTO CREDIT: RYAN N.

(THE DISTINGUISHED RIVER)

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

The Sewage Pollution Right To Know Act requires the reporting of sewage discharges (untreated and partially treated) to the DEC within 2 hours of discovery. These reports are shared with the public through a notification system. This system is a vital safety tool that allows CURB and other watershed partners to make important decisions about programming and research. Community members and stakeholders are encouraged to also sign up for these alerts to make informed decisions about interacting with your local waterway (after all, it is your right to know!). Haven't signed up yet? We have made a quick and easy guide below to help you get started!

1

Sign up for an account on [NEW YORK ALERT](#).

2

Within your profile, under "my subscriptions," find and expand "Westchester County". Find and select "Sewage Discharge Notification". Finally, don't forget to click "Save" on the bottom right.

3

When there is a discharge alert, you will receive an email that looks like this.

Already Have Your NY.gov Account?

1. Click "Sign Up For NY Alert" below to add NY Alert to your NY.gov Account
2. Accept the terms of service
3. Connect to the NY Alert application and select the types of alerts you want to receive
4. Select your contact preferences to receive alerts

[SIGN UP FOR NY ALERT](#)

For a more detailed walkthrough, please see the full enrollment guides below.

Don't Have An NY.gov Account?

Refer to this step-by-step process to setup a MyNY.Gov account for NY Alert:

1. Fill out first name, last name and email address
2. Create a MY NYID username
3. Fill out your account information
4. Verify that your information is correct
5. You will receive an automatic email to verify your MY NYID account
6. Click on the verification in the email
7. Select three security questions
8. Set your password
9. Hit submit and your MY NY.gov account is active
10. Accept the terms of service
11. Connect to the NY Alert application and select the types of alerts you want to receive
12. Select your contact preferences to receive alerts

[SIGN UP FOR NY.GOV AND NY ALERT](#)

For a more detailed walkthrough, please see the full enrollment guides below.

My Subscriptions

Checking or unchecking a subscription will also apply that change to any subgroups within that subscription.

Please select the alerts you would like to receive

☐ 1. Marine Zone Alerts

☐ Albany County

...

☐ Wayne County

☒ Westchester County

☐ Westchester County - AMBER Alert

☐ Westchester County - Cities, Towns and Villages (1)

☐ Westchester County - Emergency Alerts

☐ Westchester County - Missing Person (3)

☐ Westchester County - NYS DOT (2)

☐ Westchester County - Press Releases/Community Events and Notifications

☐ Westchester County - Public Health Notifications

☒ Westchester County - Sewage Discharge Notifications

☐ Westchester County - Sex Offender Alerts

☐ Westchester County - Weather Alerts (3)

 **NY-Alert**

This is an important message from NY Alert

New York Sewage Pollution Right to Know

Issued: 09-02-2026, 15:22:41
Affects: New York - Westchester - Yonkers

The Yonkers Joint WWTP, NY0026689 is issuing this notification.

Discharge location: 1 Fernbrook Street, Yonkers, NY

Location details:

Waterbody affected: Hudson River

Discharge description:

Potentially impacted public areas: -

Discharge date and time: 09-02-2026 15:00:00

Discharge duration: 9 Hours

Discharge reason: Weather Conditions - Permitted Wet Weather CSO Event

Already overwhelmed with emails? **The Westchester Coalition for Clean Water** has set up a social media account that summarizes the alert emails. Check them out on instagram [@wc_clean_water](#) or scan the QR code below and follow!

