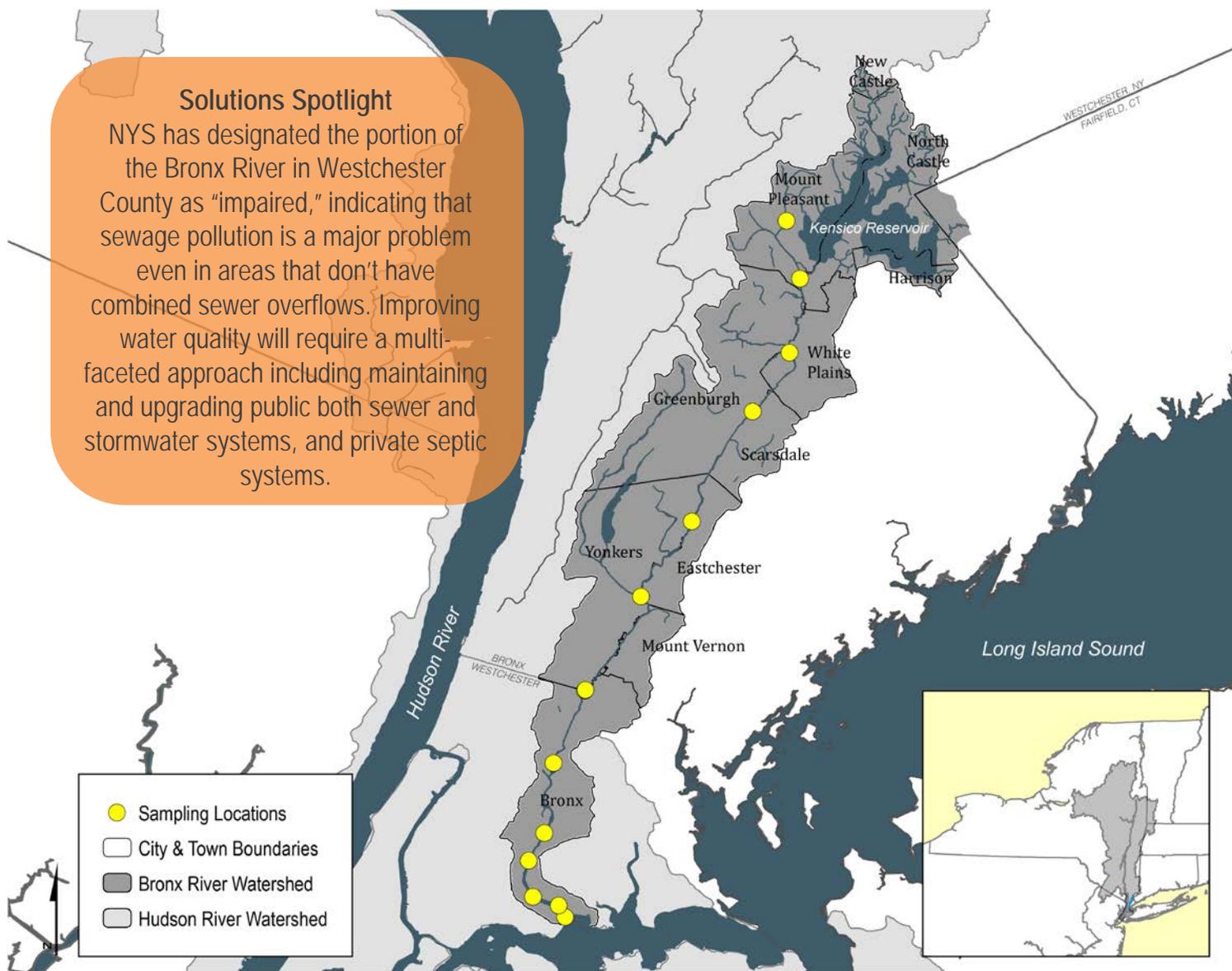


# BRONX RIVER

Community Water Quality Monitoring Results

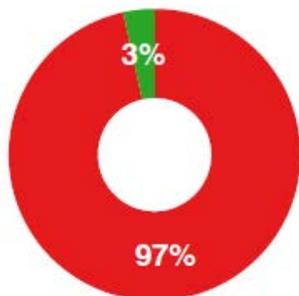
2017-2018



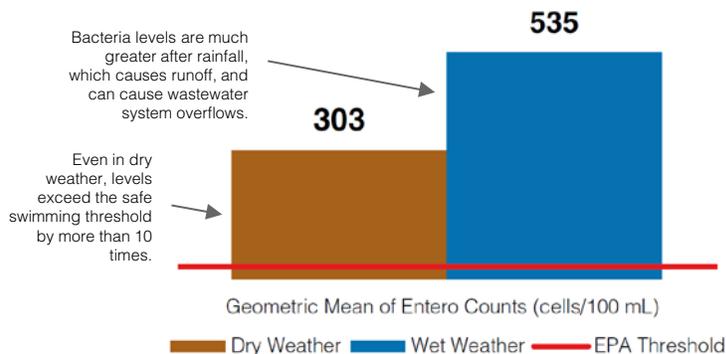
## What the Data Show

What portion of samples were safe for swimming?

Only 3% of samples collected at non-tidal sites met the EPA guideline for safe swimming.



How high were the bacteria levels?



More: Explore a watershed map, data from each sampling site, year-to-year patterns and other info at [riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/bronx-river](http://riverkeeper.org/water-quality/citizen-data/bronx-river).  
Learn about the Bronx River Alliance at [bronxriver.org](http://bronxriver.org).

**Community Science**

The water quality data presented here are based on an analysis of 208 samples collected since 2017 by community scientists. Samples were collected once or twice monthly from May to October and processed by the Sarah Lawrence College Center for the Urban River at Beczak. This work is supported by Patagonia and Westchester Community Foundation. To get involved contact Diana Fu: [diana.fu@bronxriver.org](mailto:diana.fu@bronxriver.org).

**A Little About the Bronx River**

The Bronx River travels 23 miles from suburban Westchester to the Bronx, where it empties into the East River. It is the only major waterway in New York City that is not entirely tidal.

**Why We Measure Bacteria**

Fecal indicator bacteria such as *Enterococcus* ("Enterococcus") usually do not make us sick. But because they live in the guts of warm-blooded animals, when these bacteria are present in water, pathogens that can make us sick may also be present.

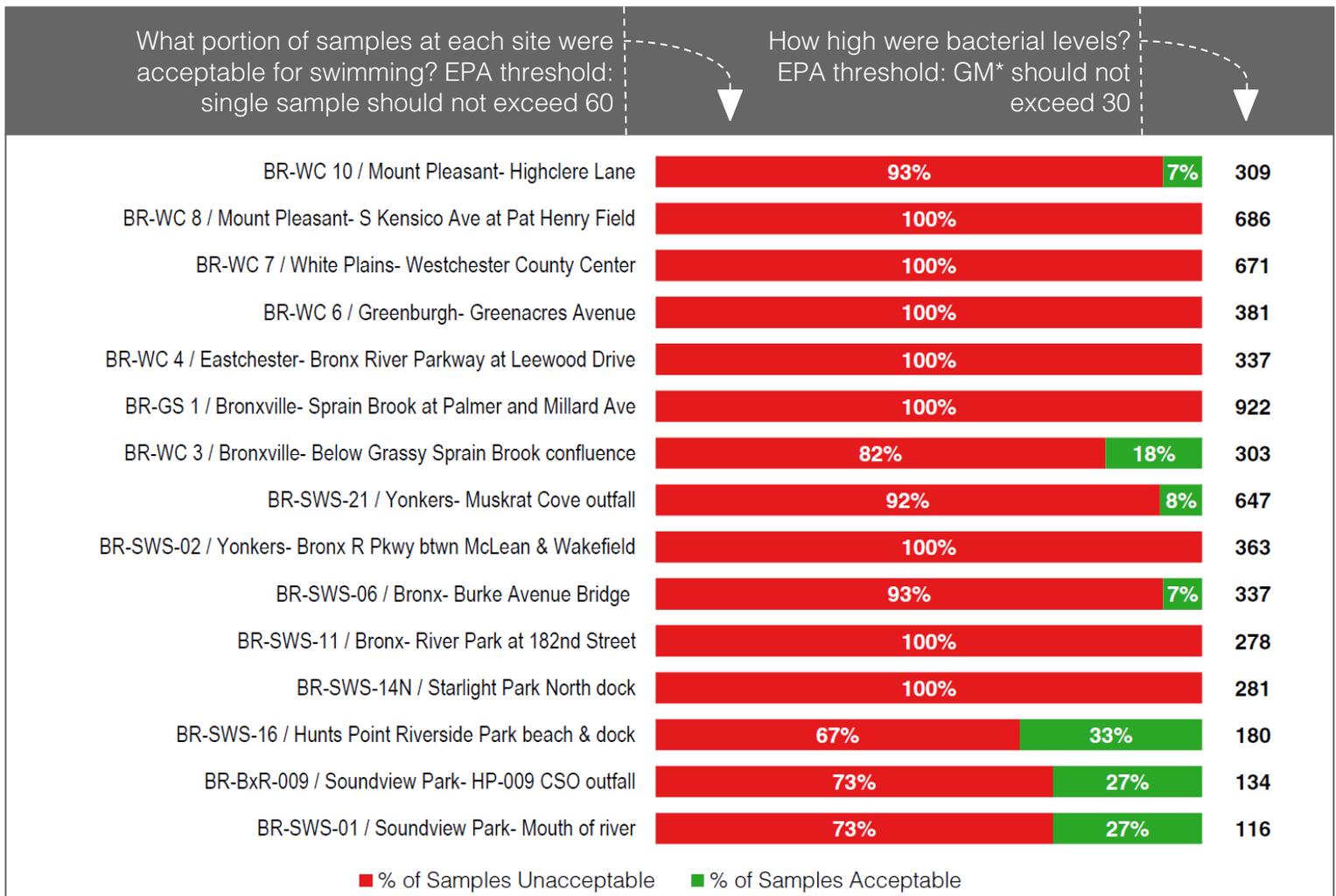
Sources of fecal bacteria may include sewer overflows and failures, inade-

quate sewage treatment, urban or farm runoff, septic system failures, wildlife and contaminated sediment.

While research continues, the EPA has set thresholds to define if water is safe for swimming based on decades of science relying on measurements of these bacteria. Data are shown in Enterococcus cells per 100 mL.

**Signs of Progress**

By testing for Enterococcus regularly, the Bronx River Alliance has spotted problem outfalls and has worked with municipalities such as Yonkers to stop sewage leaks into the river. In 2018, Westchester County and the Bronx River Alliance won a NYS grant to incorporate climate resiliency into the existing Bronx River Watershed Plan.



\*The geometric mean (GM) is a weighted average of all samples.