FECAL INDICATOR BACTERIA IN THE SAW MILL RIVER

The Sarah Lawrence College Center for the Urban River in Yonkers has participated in a long term fecal indicator bacteria study of the Saw Mill River. Samples collected by various stakeholders throughout the watershed were processed for quantity of enterococcus cells per 100 mL.

This infographic provides information pertaining to the sites along the Saw Mill River that are studied compared to their historic geometric mean of 9 years.

EPA EXPOSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

COLOR KEY

Less than historic GM

To avoid exposure to chronic contamination of the fecal indicator bacteria enterococcus, the EPA recommends the geometric mean should not exceed 30 cells/100mL.
To avoid exposure to occasional high levels of contamination, no more than 10% of samples should exceed 110 cells/100mL.

Greater than historic GM

DUCK POND SPILLWAY
150

TERTIA BROOK TRIBUTARY
547

PLEASANT AVENUE
674

NANNYHAGEN BROOK TRIBUTARY
970

SAW MILL RIVER ROAD
669

ABOVE MINE BROOK
849

MINE BROOK TRIBUTARY
402

CROSS WESTCHESTER EXPRESSWAY
280*

RUM BROOK BALLFIELDS
436

RUM BROOK TRIBUTARY
473

V.E. MACY PARK BALLFIELDS
390

SOUTH COUNTY TRAIL AT FARRAGUT AVENUE
288

HEARST STREET
146

TORRE PLACE
1676

WALSH ROAD
2355

SMR DAYLIGHTED AT VAN DER DONCK PARK
791

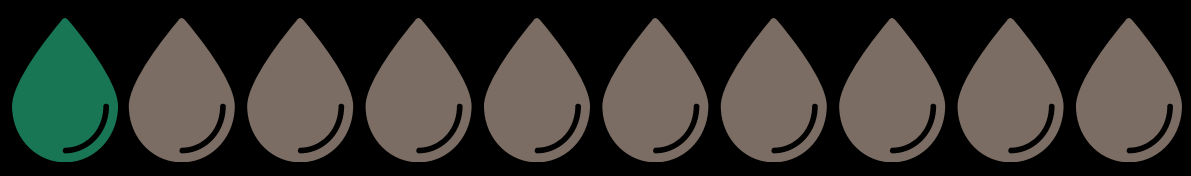
WHY IS GEOMETRIC MEAN (GM) USED?

A geometric mean is an average that indicates a central tendency of a finite set of positive real numbers. We use GM because it has been deemed as more accurate than the arithmetic mean for certain types of data.

* No historic GM to compare to

Sampling Location

AN ESTIMATED 1 IN 10 SAMPLES WERE CONSIDERED SAFE FOR HUMAN CONTACT ON THE SAW MILL RIVER IN 2024



WHY THIS DATA MATTERS

THERE ARE OVER 170,000 PEOPLE WHO LIVE WITHIN THE SAW MILL RIVER WATERSHED LIMITS

642

APROX. # SPECIES WHO CALL THE SAW MILL RIVER HOME

14.1

MILES OF SOUTH COUNTY TRAILWAY, MOST OF WHICH RUNS ALONG THE RIVER

32

CUBIC FEET PER SECOND OF AVERAGE DISCHARGE OF THE SAW MILL RIVER INTO THE HUDSON RIVER

WAYS COMMUNITY MEMBERS USE THE RECREATIONAL SPACES ALONG THE RIVER:

- HIKING
- WALKING
- CYCLING
- BIRDING
- RUNNING
- SKATING
- SNOWSHOEING
- PLANTINGS & RESTORATION
- RESEARCH
- LEARNING

HUMANS COMING INTO DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE RIVER ARE AT RISK OF EXPOSURE TO BACTERIA THAT MAY BE HARMFUL TO THEIR HEALTH. WE KNOW THAT PEOPLE ARE USING THE RIVER AS A RECREATIONAL RESOURCE, ESPECIALLY DURING WARMER TEMPERATURE DAYS.

THE SAW MILL RIVER AND ITS WATERSHED IS ALSO HOME TO HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT ANIMAL SPECIES. THEY ARE ALSO HIGHLY IMPACTED BY EXCESS BACTERIA ENTERING THE ECOSYSTEM DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY.

ULTIMATELY, THIS PROBLEM CAN LEAD TO LONG TERM NEGATIVE EFFECTS IN OUR ENVIRONMENT INCLUDING THE DECLINE OF SPECIES POPULATIONS, INCREASE IN DISEASE AND GENETIC MUTATIONS, & COLONY DISRUPTION OF HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTAL BACTERIA.

THE SAW MILL RIVER WATERSHED DEPENDS ON AND DESERVES SAFE WATER QUALITY.

TO CONTINUE LEARNING ABOUT WATER QUALITY AND ITS IMPACT ON OUR LOCAL WATERWAYS, CHECK OUT

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CENTER FOR THE URBAN RIVER AT BECZAK

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