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## Hudson River

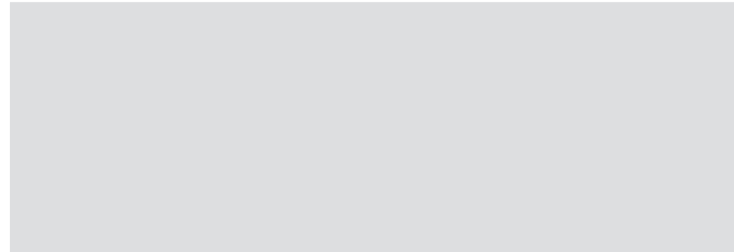
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## Hudson River



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The Hudson is a world-class river. It travels over 300 miles from its source in the Adirondacks through the Appalachian Mountains in the Hudson Highlands, and into 150 miles of tidal estuary to the mouth of New York Harbor. [Learn more about the Hudson River:](#)

### Water Quality

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### Relevant Riverkeeper Work

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- [> Stop Polluters](#)
- [> Drink NYC Tap Water](#)

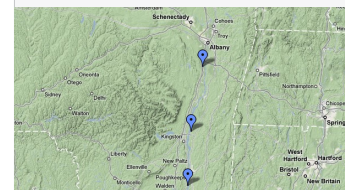
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### Water Testing Locations



[> Check the water quality near you](#)

### Additional Resources

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### Action Needed:

- > Request additional testing  
Contact your local health department and ask them to increase testing sites.

## Hudson River > Water Quality

### Water Quality

One of the most frequently asked questions in the Hudson Valley is whether it is safe to swim and boat in the Hudson River. Each year, millions of citizens spend time in or on the Hudson River and the waters surrounding New York City. Since the passage of the Clean Water Act, water quality has improved dramatically and over the past several decades, citizen activism has made it increasingly unacceptable for government and industry to treat our rivers as dumping grounds.

### Water Testing Locations



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About 4 billion PET bottles end up in the waste stream.

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## About Water Quality Testing

In order to begin adequately addressing the question of whether it is safe to swim in the Hudson River and the waters around New York Harbor, and to influence more sensible public policy, Riverkeeper and Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University joined forces in 2006 to launch a pilot water quality study aboard the Riverkeeper patrol boat. The primary goal of this ongoing project is to characterize the conditions of the Hudson River estuary through the monitoring of nutrients, total bacterial cell counts, and the pathogen *Enterococcus* which indicates contamination from sewage.

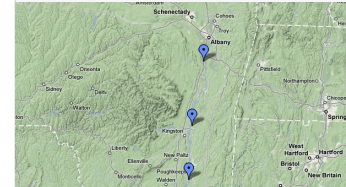
### ▼ Riverkeeper and Lamont-Doherty's water quality testing program

Riverkeeper and Lamont-Doherty's water quality testing program is the first to regularly test Hudson River water quality from New York Harbor to Albany and to make the data publicly available within days. Water quality data from local, state and federal authorities can take months or years to be made public.

The 2006-2007 pilot study yielded data from sampling at 27 sites along the Hudson River. In June 2008, the program entered its second phase and is now sampling from 70 sites as far north as Troy, with more to come. This more frequent and timely testing is beginning to discern patterns and develop practical science-based guidelines. As our water quality monitoring program continues and trends become apparent, we will make more and more information available to the public.

- [▶ Swimable River Campaign](#)
- [▶ Current Testing Standards](#)
- [▶ Aging Infrastructure, Precipitation, Sewage and the Hudson](#)
- [▶ The Sewage Indicator - Enterococcus](#)
- [▶ Other Hudson River Pollutants](#)

### Water Testing Locations



[> Check the water quality near you](#)

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### Publications

#### FULL REPORT:

- [> "Finger in the Dike, Head in the Sand"](#)
- [> \*More Publications\*](#)

### Related Info

- [> What are we testing for?](#)
- [> Safe Recreation tips](#)
- [> Water Quality Testing Partners](#)
- [> Initial Findings](#)
- [> How to read a water bill](#)

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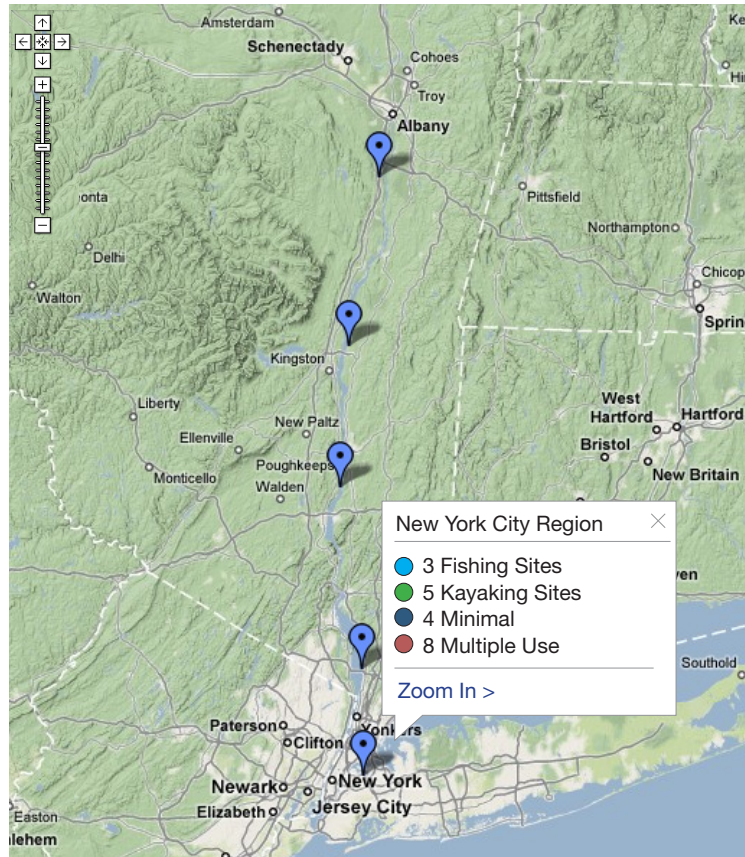
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[Hudson River](#) > [Water Quality](#) > [Water Testing Locations](#)

## Water Testing Locations

Click on specific location from the menu or by clicking a dot on the map:



- Fishing:** designated off-shore fishing is the primary source of contact
- Kayaking:** public launch for kayakers is the primary source of contact
- Minimal:** contact with water, if any, is limited and in transit
- Multiple Uses:** any combination of recreational boating, fishing, kayaking or fishing
- None:** no direct contact with the water has been observed

### Relevant Riverkeeper Work

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#### CASES

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## Hudson River > Water Quality > Water Testing Locations

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### Action Needed:

> Request additional testing  
Contact your local health department and ask them to increase testing sites.

Hudson River > Water Quality > Water Testing Locations > Roosevelt Island

## Roosevelt Island

Testing Source:

About the Location   What do the numbers mean?   Testing Agency



The East River, east of Roosevelt Island, has recreational boating and fishing, jet-skiing and kayaking.

### Water Quality Enterococcus Count

### Basic Sampling Data

■ Enterococcus count (under 35/100ml) is acceptable by EPA standards\*   
 ■ Enterococcus count (between 35 and 104/100ml), if sustained over time, would be unacceptable by EPA standards\*   
 ■ Enterococcus count (over 104/100ml) is unacceptable by EPA standards\*

#### Water Quality, Enterococcus Count

Sample Date	Enterococcus Count	of	Prior Day	2 Days Prior	3 Days Prior	5 Days Prior
9/26/2006	2		0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
10/18/2006	135		1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
11/10/2006	112		0.0	3.6	3.6	3.6
12/13/2006	30		0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
4/18/2007	344		0.0	0.9	8.5	8.5
5/23/2007 11:39AM	4		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
6/18/2007	8		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
7/11/2007 11:54AM	1		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
8/16/2007	4		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
9/6/2007 11:54AM	1	Acceptable	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
5/19/2008 12:31PM	0	Acceptable	0.0	0.1	0.2	1.1
6/24/2008 11:05AM	109	Unacceptable	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3
7/2/2008 12:03PM	0	Acceptable	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
7/14/2008 11:24AM	187	Unacceptable	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
8/19/2008	0	Acceptable	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1

72 Samples Taken

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All precipitation data is recorded and cumulatively calculated from wunderground.com

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About the Location   What do the numbers mean?   Testing Agency

We have based our assessment of "acceptable" water quality on the federal guidelines outlined in the 2000 Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act (BEACH Act). There are multiple factors that determine public health risk to swimmers. Exposure to sewage is only one aspect of this risk. The BEACH Act suggests that a single water sample with a value of greater than 104 Enterococcus/100ml, or five or more samples with a geometric mean (a weighted average) greater than 35 Enterococcus/100ml, indicates water quality that is unsafe for swimming.

About the Location   What do the numbers mean?   Testing Agency

#### CURRENT TESTING RESOURCE:

Riverkeeper with  
Columbia LDO  
1234 street name  
New York, NY 10003

#### AGENCY WHICH SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE:

Columbia County Dept. of Health  
325 Columbia Street  
Hudson, NY 12534  
p: (518) 828.3358  
[www.columbiacountyny.com/depts](http://www.columbiacountyny.com/depts)

Contact this agency to request additional testing:  
[name@domain.org](mailto:name@domain.org)

PUBLIC ACCESS

**\*This page is on hold, pending riverkeeper Feedback**

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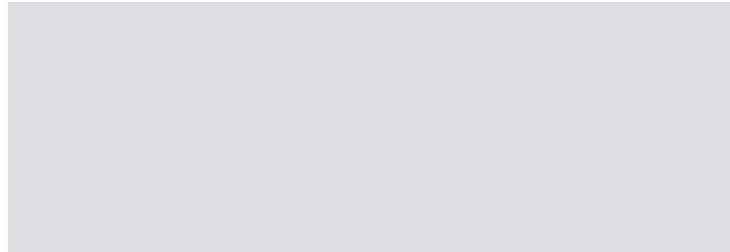
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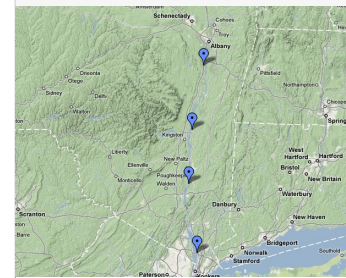
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The Hudson is a world-class river. It travels over 300 miles from its source in the Adirondacks through the Appalachian Mountains in the Hudson Highlands, and into 150 miles of tidal estuary to the mouth of New York Harbor. The River is known for its vast ecological diversity, for its place in American history, and for its sheer beauty. Learn more about the recreational access to the river:

### Map View



[> See full map of public access](#)

### ▼ Adirondack Headwaters

#### SITE 1: Hudson Avenue Waterfront

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[Map location >](#)



#### SITE 2: Front Street Waterfront

[Download Map PDF \(1.2MB\)](#)  
[Map location >](#)



#### SITE 3: Hudson Shores Park

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[Map location >](#)



### ► From Fort Edward to Troy

### ► Mid-Hudson

### ► The Highlands and Verplanck

### ► Croton and the Tappan Zee

### ► New York Harbor

### ► The Hudson Canyon

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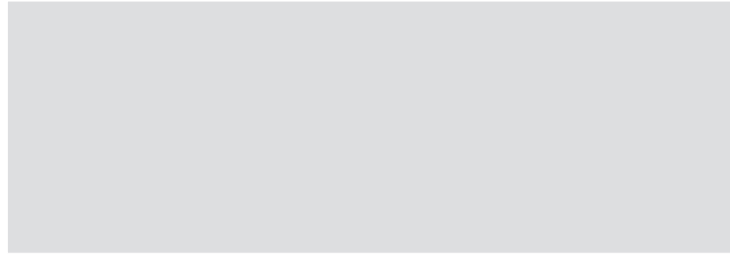
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## History



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Henry Hudson first came upon the Hudson River by accident in 1609. Hired by the Dutch East India Company to find a short passage to India, the Englishman sailed his ship Half Moon 150 miles up the Hudson to Albany before realizing that it was not the route he was seeking. At that time, there were approximately 10,000 natives living on both sides of the river. The tribes were part of the Algonquin Confederacy which included the Delaware, Mohican (aka Mohegan) and Wappinger tribes. The Mohican tribe was friendly and peaceful, but Hudson's crew distrusted them and fighting followed. As Dutch and other European settlers arrived in the Hudson Valley, they struggled with the natives for land. By the end of the century, most of the native tribes had been forced west or were destroyed by war and small pox brought in by the Europeans.

### ▼ River Plays a Key Role in the American Revolution

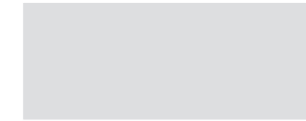
During the 1700s, the colonists realized that the river was essential for the transport of troops and supplies and that if the British gained control of it, they would be able to divide and conquer the American forces. West Point, Fort Montgomery, Fort Clinton and Fort Constitution had all been built in the Bear Mountain region to prevent the British from advancing up the river. In 1778, colonists created the Great Chain, two-foot long iron links which stretched across the river between West Point and Constitution Island to prevent the British from sailing upriver from New York City. The British, however, never came that far up the river so the chain was never put to the test. General Benedict Arnold, in command of West Point, was offered 20,000 pounds sterling by the British if he would help them take control of the Hudson and in 1780, he attempted to surrender the fort to the British. Fortunately for the colonists, the plot was discovered when the American forces captured Major John André, the British officer to whom Arnold had passed plans for West Point. Arnold narrowly escaped to a British war ship. [Learn More >](#)

### ▶ Traders, Artists and Millionaires

### ▶ The Conservation Movement

### ▶ The Birth of Riverkeeper

### Riverkeeper on YouTube



**Down the Hudson**  
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet.

[Watch the Video on YouTube>](#)

### About Us

> [Riverkeeper's Future Vision](#)  
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet.

### Traveling Exhibit

Come see our exhibit celebrating the 400th anniversary of finding the Hudson near you:

- Tarrytown, NY from March 1st through April 20th, 2009
- Pier 40, Manhattan from April 21st through May 5th, 2009

[See more of our events >](#)

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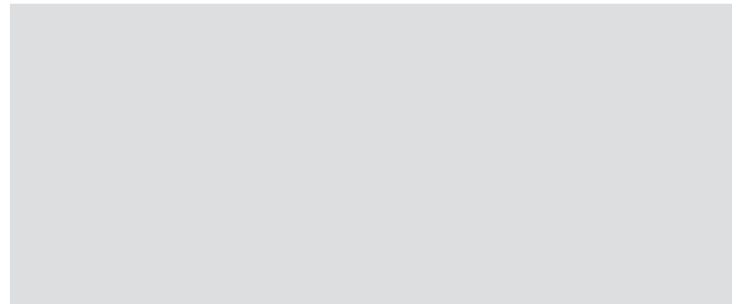
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## River Plays a Key Role in the American Revolution

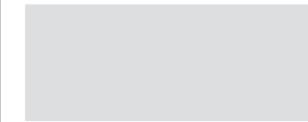


During the 1700s, the colonists realized that the river was essential for the transport of troops and supplies and that if the British gained control of it, they would be able to divide and conquer the American forces. West Point, Fort Montgomery, Fort Clinton and Fort Constitution had all been built in the Bear Mountain region to prevent the British from advancing up the river. In 1778, colonists created the Great Chain, two-foot long iron links which stretched across the river between West Point and Constitution Island to prevent the British from sailing upriver from New York City. The British, however, never came that far up the river so the chain was never put to the test. General Benedict Arnold, in command of West Point, was offered 20,000 pounds sterling by the British if he would help them take control of the Hudson and in 1780, he attempted to surrender the fort to the British. Fortunately for the colonists, the plot was discovered when the American forces captured Major John André, the British officer to whom Arnold had passed plans for West Point. Arnold narrowly escaped to a British war ship.

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### Riverkeeper on YouTube



**Down the Hudson**  
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet.

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### About Us

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### Traveling Exhibit

Come see our exhibit celebrating the 400th anniversary of finding the Hudson near you:

- Tarrytown, NY from March 1st through April 20th, 2009
- Pier 40, Manhattan from April 21st through May 5th, 2009

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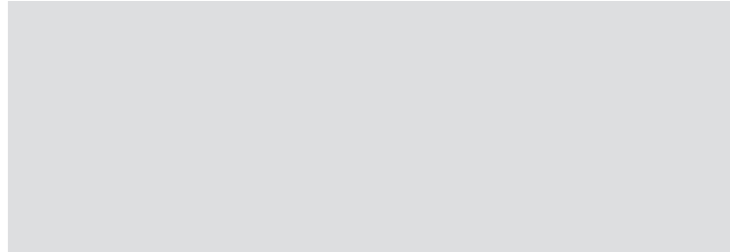
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## Local Ecology



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The Hudson is a world-class river. It travels over 300 miles from its source in the Adirondacks through the Appalachian Mountains in the Hudson Highlands, and into 150 miles of tidal estuary to the mouth of New York Harbor. The River is known for its vast ecological diversity, for its place in American history, and for its sheer beauty. Learn more about the recreational access to the river:

### Fish

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### Birds

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### Invertebrates

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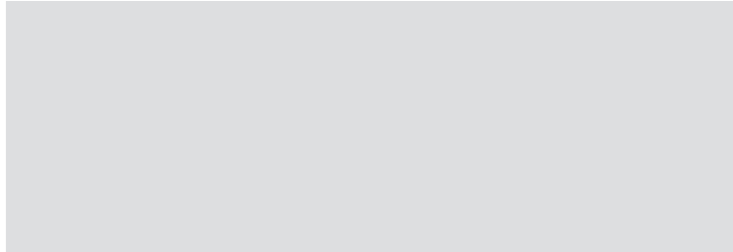
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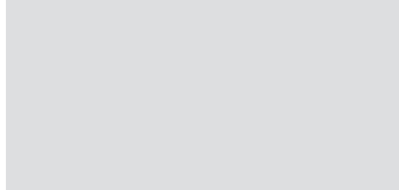
## Fish



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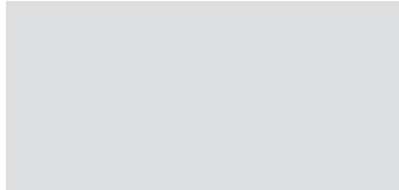
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### Species Name



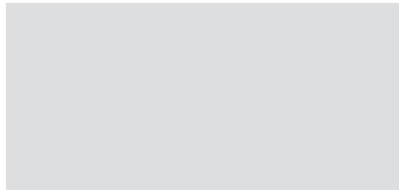
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### Species Name



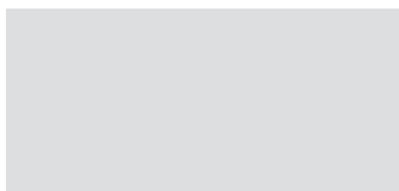
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