



Arundel Rivers Bacteria Monitoring Report

Hi everyone! My name is Riley Kuehn and am excited to introduce myself as Arundel Rivers' new Programs Assistant. You may know me as Arundel Rivers' 2024 Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps (CCCC) Member. As the CCCC member, I took the lead on our bacteria monitoring program and am delighted for the opportunity to continue working with community members like you during our 2025 monitoring season. This report is a summary of our initial findings from the 2024 season. Keep reading to find out how each of our 29 sites in the South, West, and Rhode River watersheds scored!



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What do we test for?

Polluted rainwater can carry **Enterococcus bacteria** into our waterways from animal waste or failing septic or wastewater systems. This bacteria can be harmful to humans and pets. Bacteria testing gives an indication of how safe it is to swim through the EPA pass-fail system. For recreational swimming, the recommended threshold is 104cfu per 100 mL. Arundel Rivers always recommends following the **golden rules of swimming**:



Don't swim after a major rain event



Don't swim with a major cut or wound

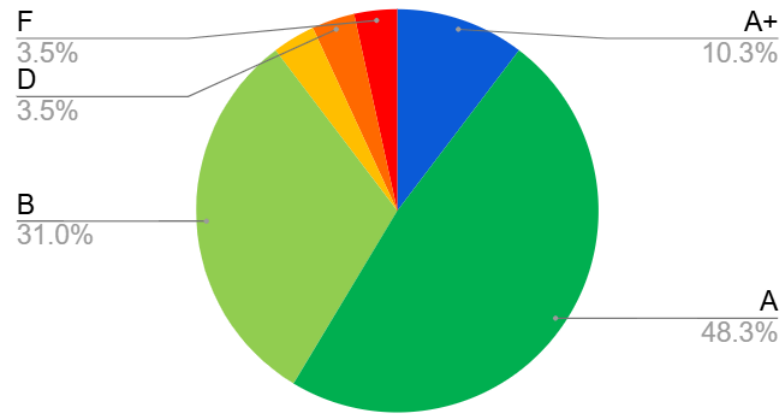


Always check [Swimguide.org](https://www.swimguide.org)

Statistic Snapshot

- 10% of the 29 bacteria sites passed every week this summer
- 77% of our total 419 samples passed
- 3 sites (Upper Beards Creek, School Creek, and Holly Hill Harbor) failed more than half of the time
- 93% (27 out of 29 sites) passed at least 60% of the time
- 89% of the samples that failed had a rainfall event 24 or 48 hours prior to testing

Bacteria Sites by Letter Grade



Our findings are based on the 29 sites Arundel Rivers tested at least more than once throughout the 15 week season. Check the individual site's testing period to find out more.

Grade	Value
A+	100%
A	80-99%
B	60-79%
C	40-59%
D	20-39%
F	0-19%

What Can You Do?



Don't feed the geese! Goose poop contains harmful bacteria



Scoop up your dog poop and throw it away



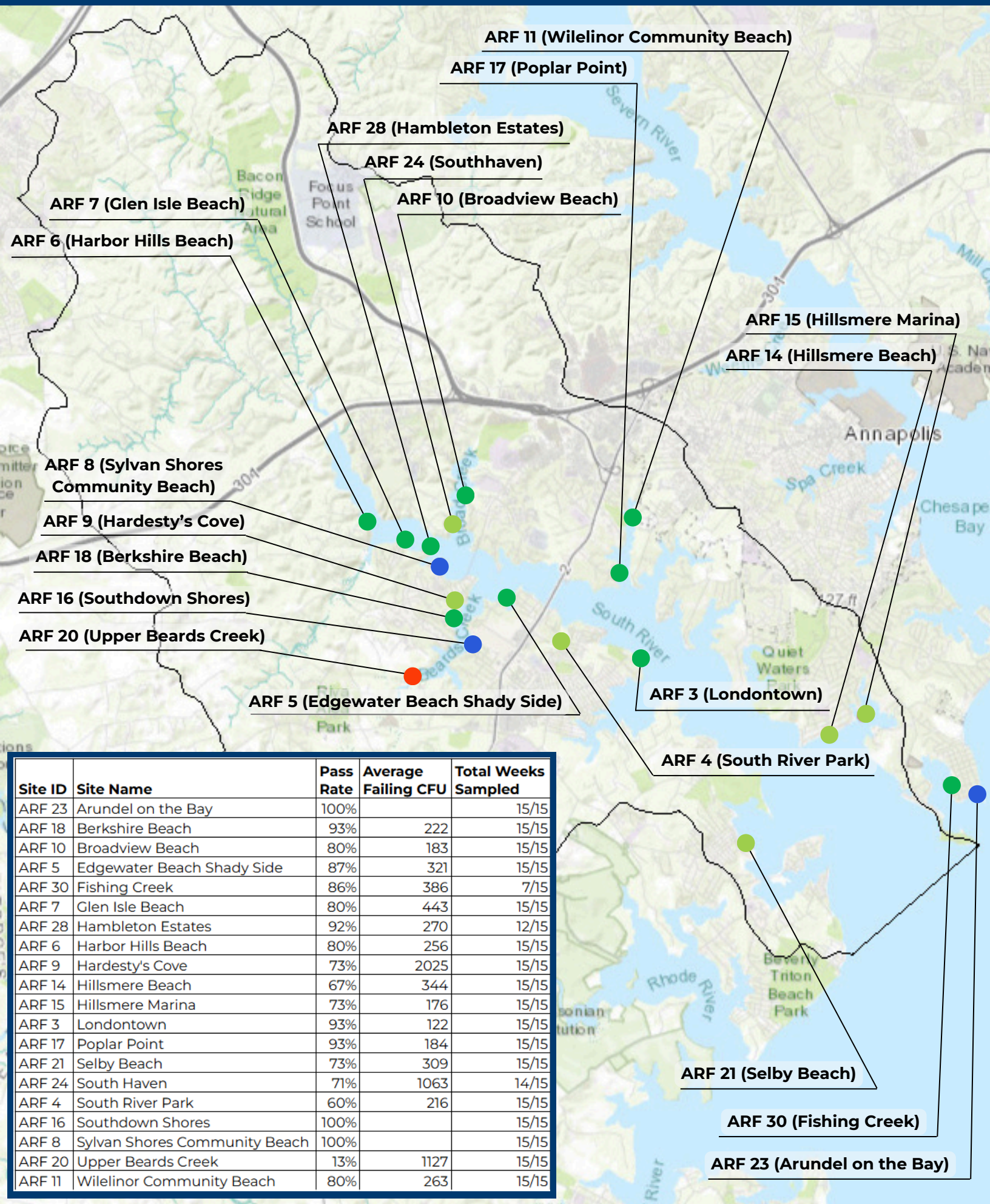
Stay up to date on [Swim Guide](https://www.swimguide.org)

A big thanks to our dedicated volunteers!



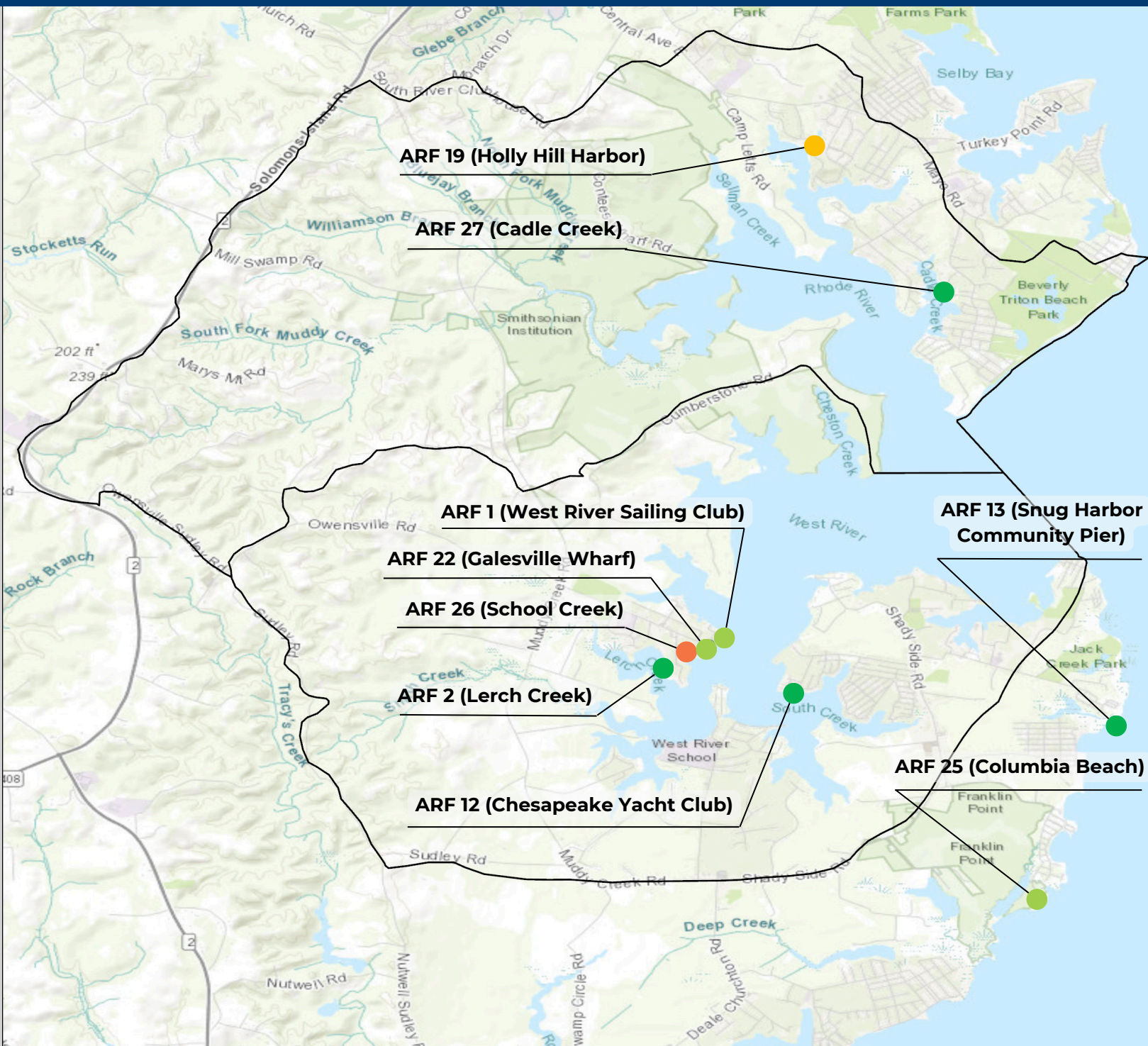
Want to volunteer with us next season? Email riley@arundelrivers.org

South Watershed



Site ID	Site Name	Pass Rate	Average Failing CFU	Total Weeks Sampled
ARF 23	Arundel on the Bay	100%		15/15
ARF 18	Berkshire Beach	93%	222	15/15
ARF 10	Broadview Beach	80%	183	15/15
ARF 5	Edgewater Beach Shady Side	87%	321	15/15
ARF 30	Fishing Creek	86%	386	7/15
ARF 7	Glen Isle Beach	80%	443	15/15
ARF 28	Hambleton Estates	92%	270	12/15
ARF 6	Harbor Hills Beach	80%	256	15/15
ARF 9	Hardesty's Cove	73%	2025	15/15
ARF 14	Hillsmere Beach	67%	344	15/15
ARF 15	Hillsmere Marina	73%	176	15/15
ARF 3	Londontown	93%	122	15/15
ARF 17	Poplar Point	93%	184	15/15
ARF 21	Selby Beach	73%	309	15/15
ARF 24	South Haven	71%	1063	14/15
ARF 4	South River Park	60%	216	15/15
ARF 16	Southdown Shores	100%		15/15
ARF 8	Sylvan Shores Community Beach	100%		15/15
ARF 20	Upper Beards Creek	13%	1127	15/15
ARF 11	Wilelinor Community Beach	80%	263	15/15

West and Rhode Watersheds



Site ID	Site Name	Pass	Average	Total Weeks
ARF 12	Chesapeake Yacht Club	87%	186	15/15
ARF 22	Galesville Wharf	73%	245	15/15
ARF 2	Lerch Creek	93%	693	15/15
ARF 26	School Creek	23%	565	13/15
ARF 1	West River Sailing Club	73%	211	15/15
ARF 27	Cadle Creek	92%	244	12/15
ARF 19	Holly Hill Harbor	40%	822	15/15
ARF 25	Columbia Beach	71%	235	14/15
ARF 13	Snug Harbor Community Pier	93%	168	15/15

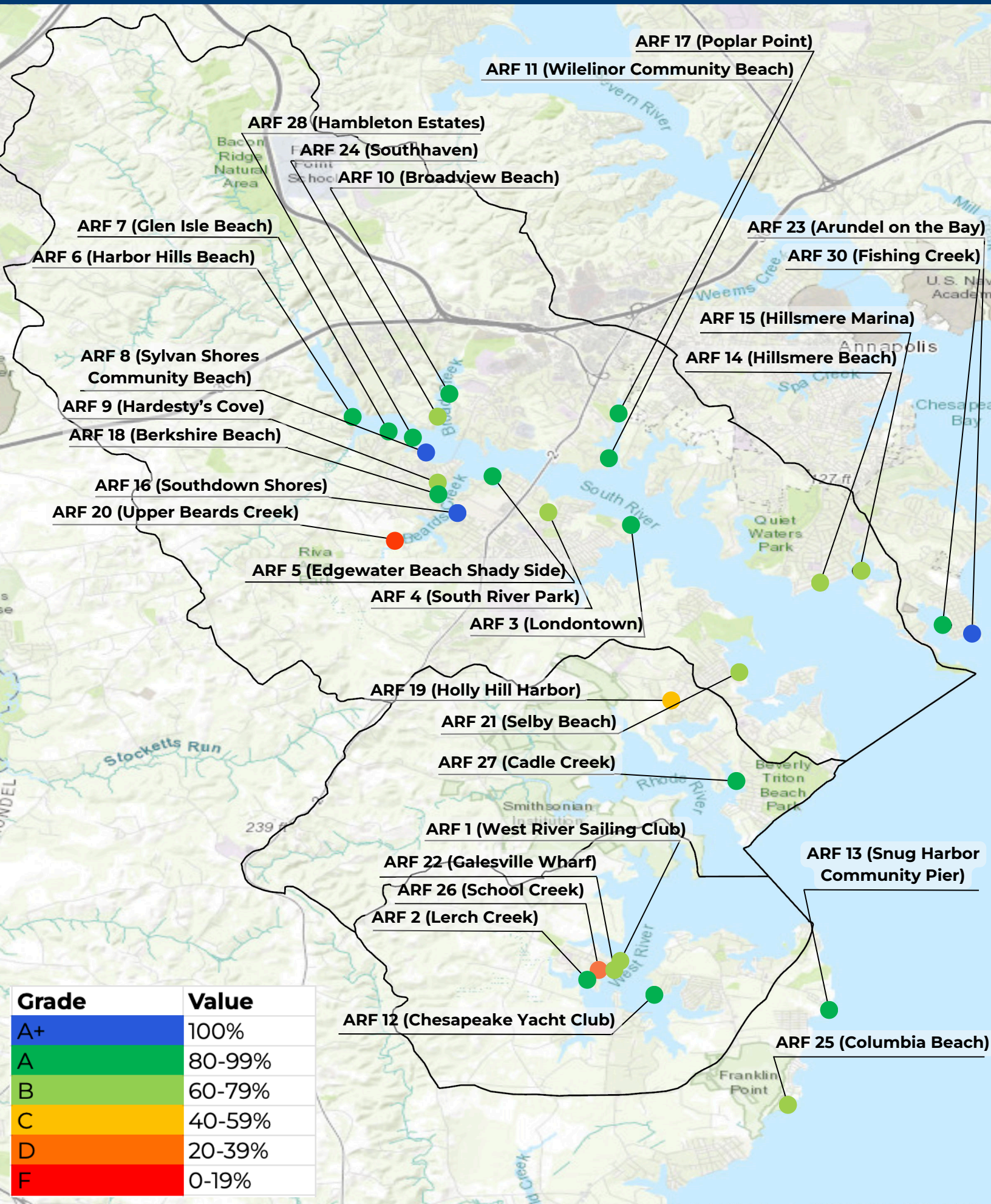
Key Terms:

CFU (Colony Forming Units) = A unit that estimates the number of bacteria cells

Pass/Fail threshold = Readings above 104 CFU are considered failing

Sampling season = The season runs from Labor Day weekend to Memorial Day weekend which is 15 weeks in total

South, West, and Rhode Watershed



ARF 28 (Hambleton Estates)

ARF 24 (Southhaven)

ARF 10 (Broadview Beach)

ARF 7 (Glen Isle Beach)

ARF 6 (Harbor Hills Beach)

ARF 8 (Sylvan Shores Community Beach)

ARF 9 (Hardesty's Cove)

ARF 18 (Berkshire Beach)

ARF 16 (Southdown Shores)

ARF 20 (Upper Beards Creek)

ARF 5 (Edgewater Beach Shady Side)

ARF 4 (South River Park)

ARF 3 (Londontown)

ARF 19 (Holly Hill Harbor)

ARF 21 (Selby Beach)

ARF 27 (Cadle Creek)

ARF 1 (West River Sailing Club)

ARF 22 (Galesville Wharf)

ARF 26 (School Creek)

ARF 2 (Lerch Creek)

ARF 12 (Chesapeake Yacht Club)

ARF 17 (Poplar Point)

ARF 11 (Wilelinor Community Beach)

ARF 23 (Arundel on the Bay)

ARF 30 (Fishing Creek)

ARF 15 (Hillsmere Marina)

ARF 14 (Hillsmere Beach)

ARF 13 (Snug Harbor Community Pier)

ARF 25 (Columbia Beach)

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