



Community Air Monitoring



About THRIVEair

THRIVEair is a community air monitoring project in S/SW Philadelphia co-designed by members of Philly Thrive and public health scientists at Drexel University.

We are monitoring air pollution at locations surrounding the former Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES) Refinery site between June 2023 and June 2024.

Why are we monitoring the air?

- There is a need for more benzene monitoring near the former PES refinery site because:
 - Government regulators only have one air monitor near the site
 - HILCO stopped monitoring benzene at its fence line at the end of 2022
- The information we learn will be used to advocate for the health and wellness of the community.

Which pollutants are we monitoring?

- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are a group of chemicals that evaporate in the air easily (they are "volatile")
 - Some of the VOCs we are monitoring are: benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene
- Fine Particles (also called PM_{2.5})
- Metals including lead, cadmium, chromium, and others



Our Study Design

The study was co-designed with Philly Thrive, meaning that scientists and community members worked together to decide **what** types of air pollution to measure, and **where** to measure it. When picking locations we considered wind direction, areas most impacted by the former refinery, and automobile traffic.

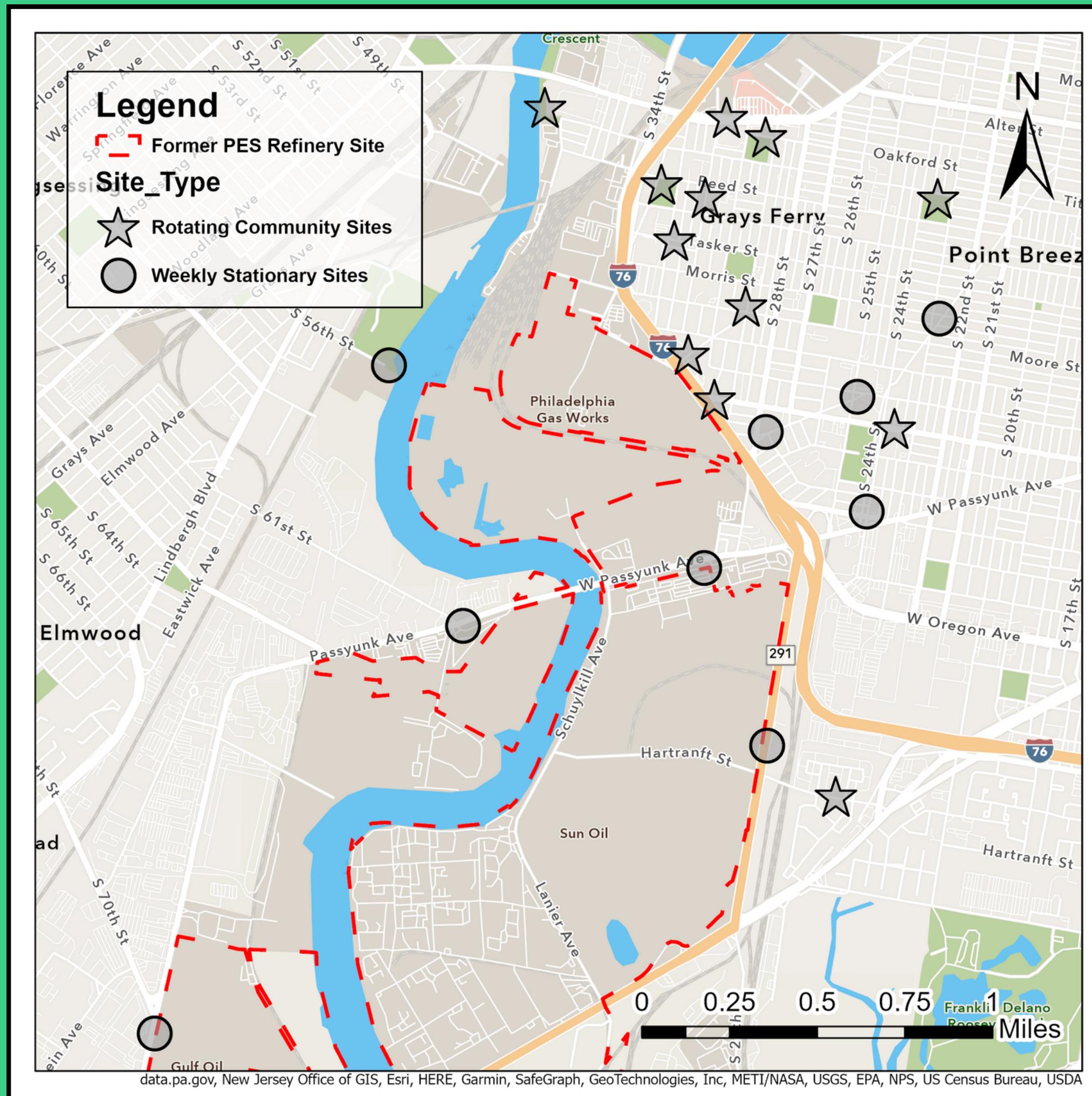
After we collect data across all the Grays Ferry locations, we'll be able to predict what we think the pollution concentrations are between the sites using a method called modeling.



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Our Site Locations



Stationary Sites - We are monitoring 9 sites every week for VOCs including benzene. These locations were chosen to include areas upwind and downwind of the former refinery site, to get a better idea of how construction at the site is affecting pollution.

Rotating Sites - We are monitoring 12 additional sites of community interest for 2 weeks in summer and 2 weeks in winter for VOCs, particles, and metals. These sites were chosen because they are downwind of the former refinery site, where we think most of the pollution from the site will travel.

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For more information, results from the study, and to access our full dataset, please visit our website at:

THRIVEairphilly.com

