



# Benzene Monitoring

## February 2024



From Jan. 31 - Feb. 28, 2024, we measured benzene:

- average: **2.18**  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- lowest: **1.30**  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- highest: **6.77**  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  is said:  
"micro-grams per cubic meter"

In previous monthly summaries, we compared our measurements to those collected by Hilco the year before. In Dec. 2022, Hilco stopped collecting data on fenceline benzene, so we don't have values to compare to from January of 2023.

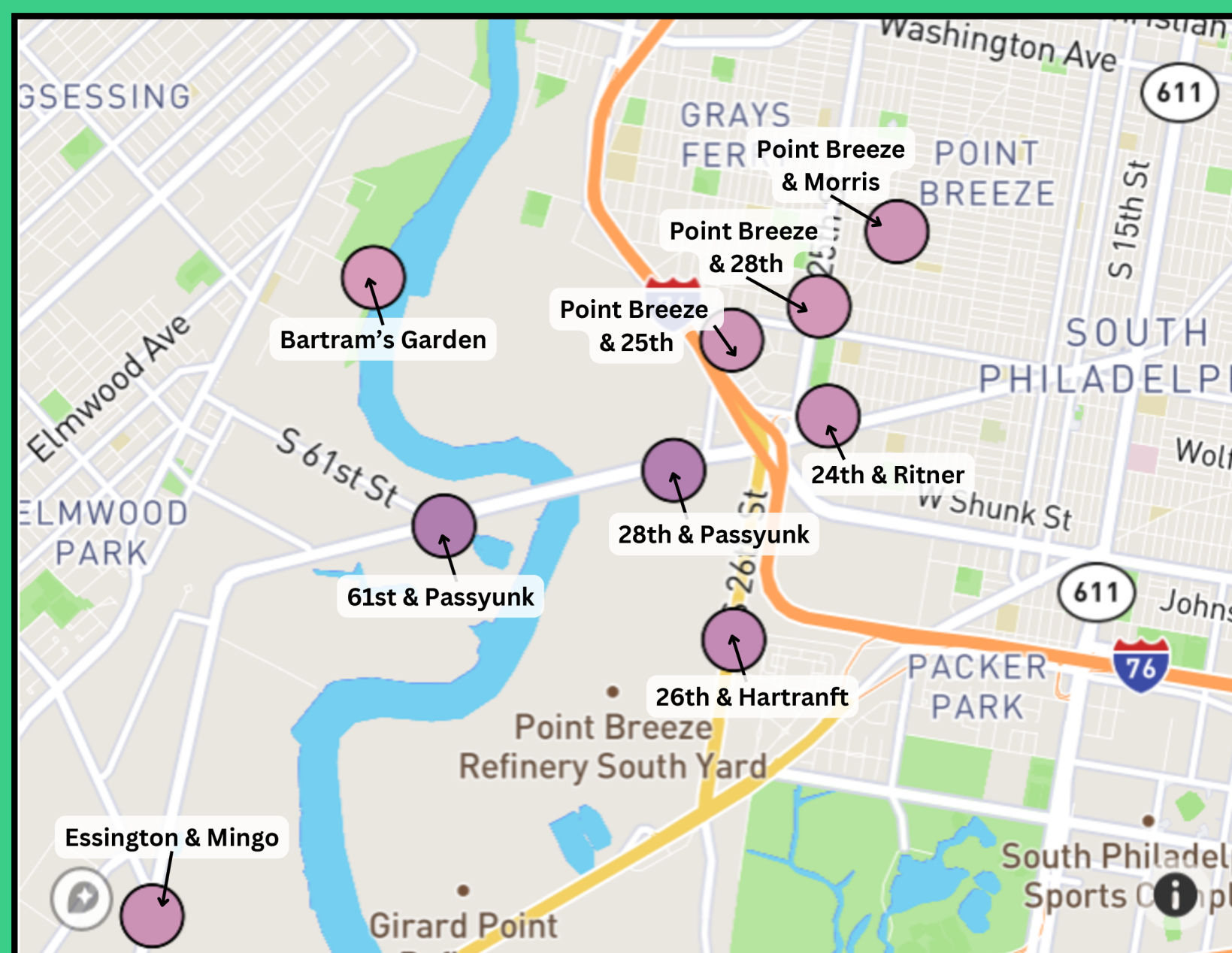
## What is Benzene?

- Benzene is harmful because it can cause cancer.
- Benzene is an invisible gas that comes from car exhaust, cigarette smoke, gas stations, and forest fires.
- We are concerned about benzene in Philadelphia because of emissions from the former refinery site and pollution from car traffic.

## How is Benzene Measured?

- "Concentration" means the amount of something in the air. We measured concentration with micrograms (shown with the symbol  $\mu\text{g}$ ) per cubic meter ( $\text{m}^3$ ) of space.
- Outdoor benzene concentrations are not regulated in the United States, so we are comparing our data to Europe's annual average standard for outdoor benzene. We want our year-long average benzene concentration to be **below** 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

January 31 - February 28, 2024



This map shows the average benzene concentration at each site between October 25th and November 29. Darker colors indicate higher benzene concentrations.

- The site with the highest average concentration was 28th & Passyunk, and overall, concentrations were higher this month than last month.
- The site with the lowest average concentration was Bartram's Garden.
- Most of the sites had benzene concentrations **below** the European annual standard of 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$





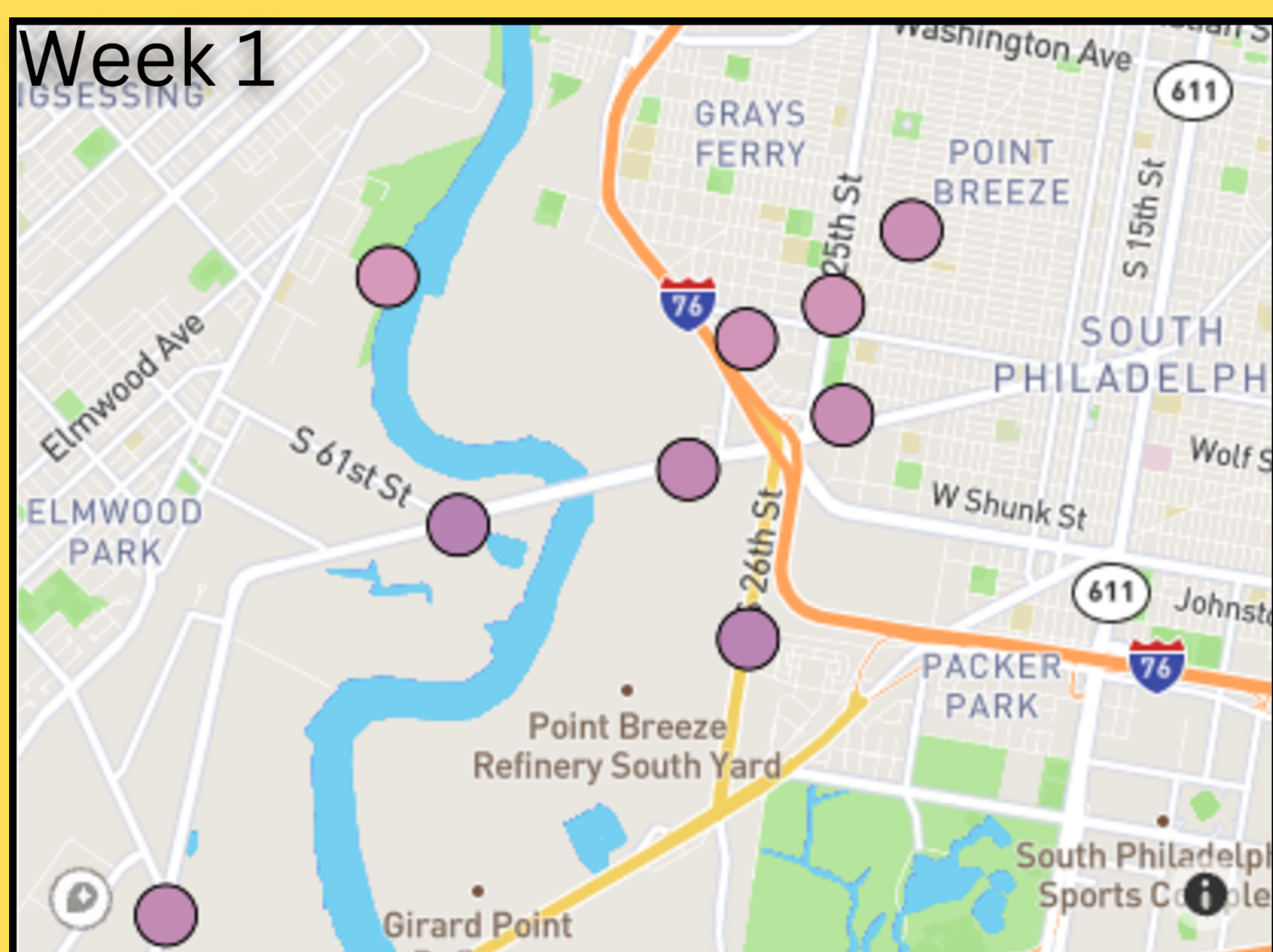
# Benzene Results February 2024



## Benzene concentrations at each site, during each week

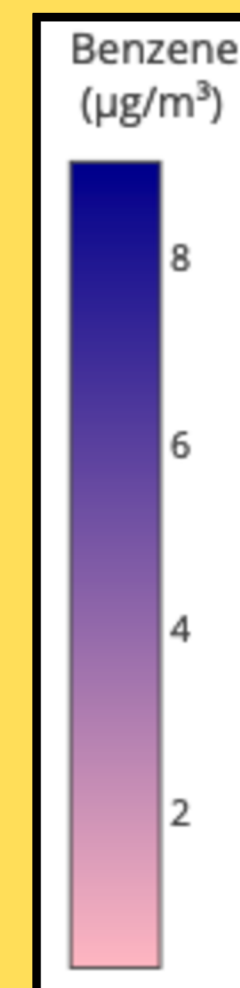
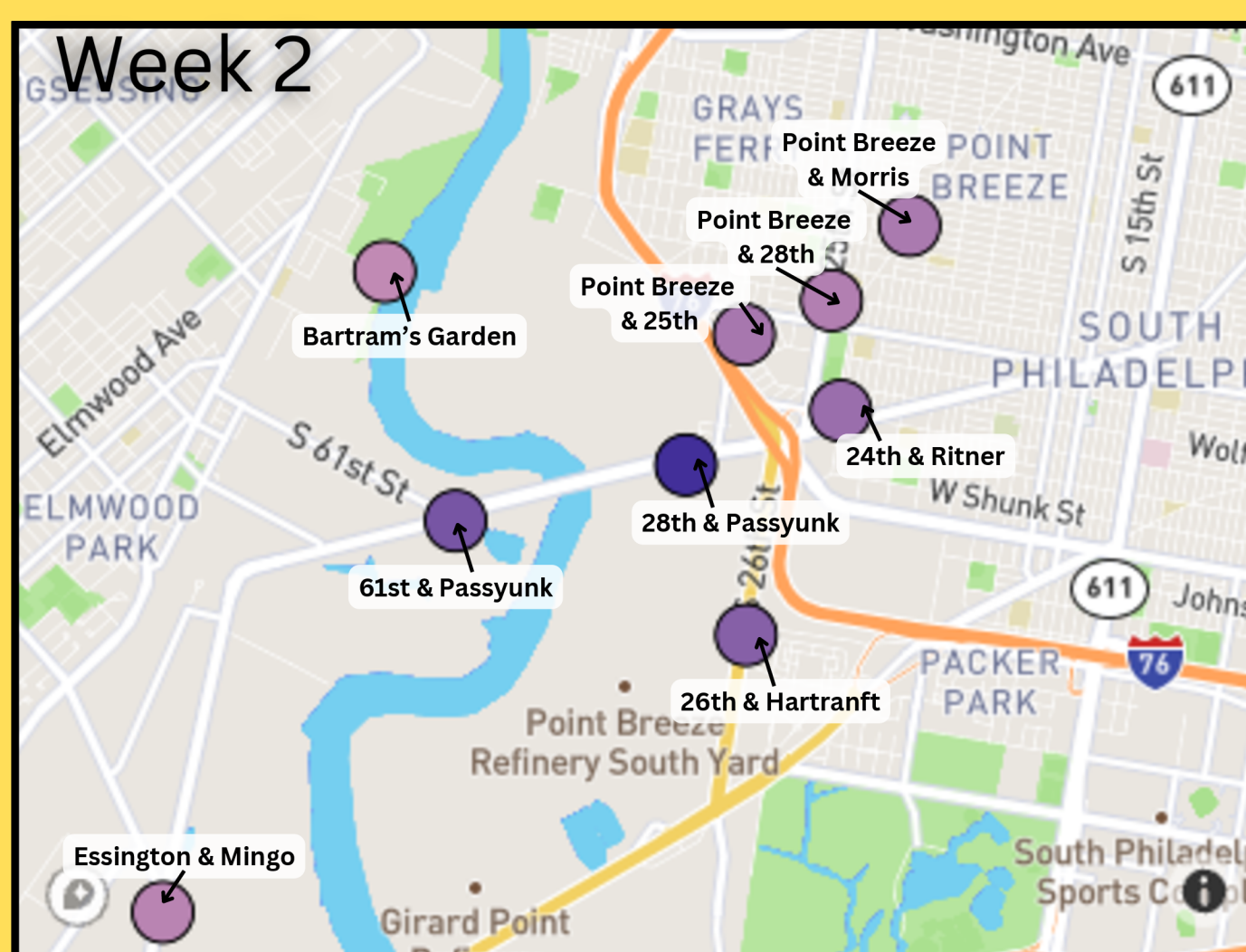
January 31 - February 7, 2024

Week 1



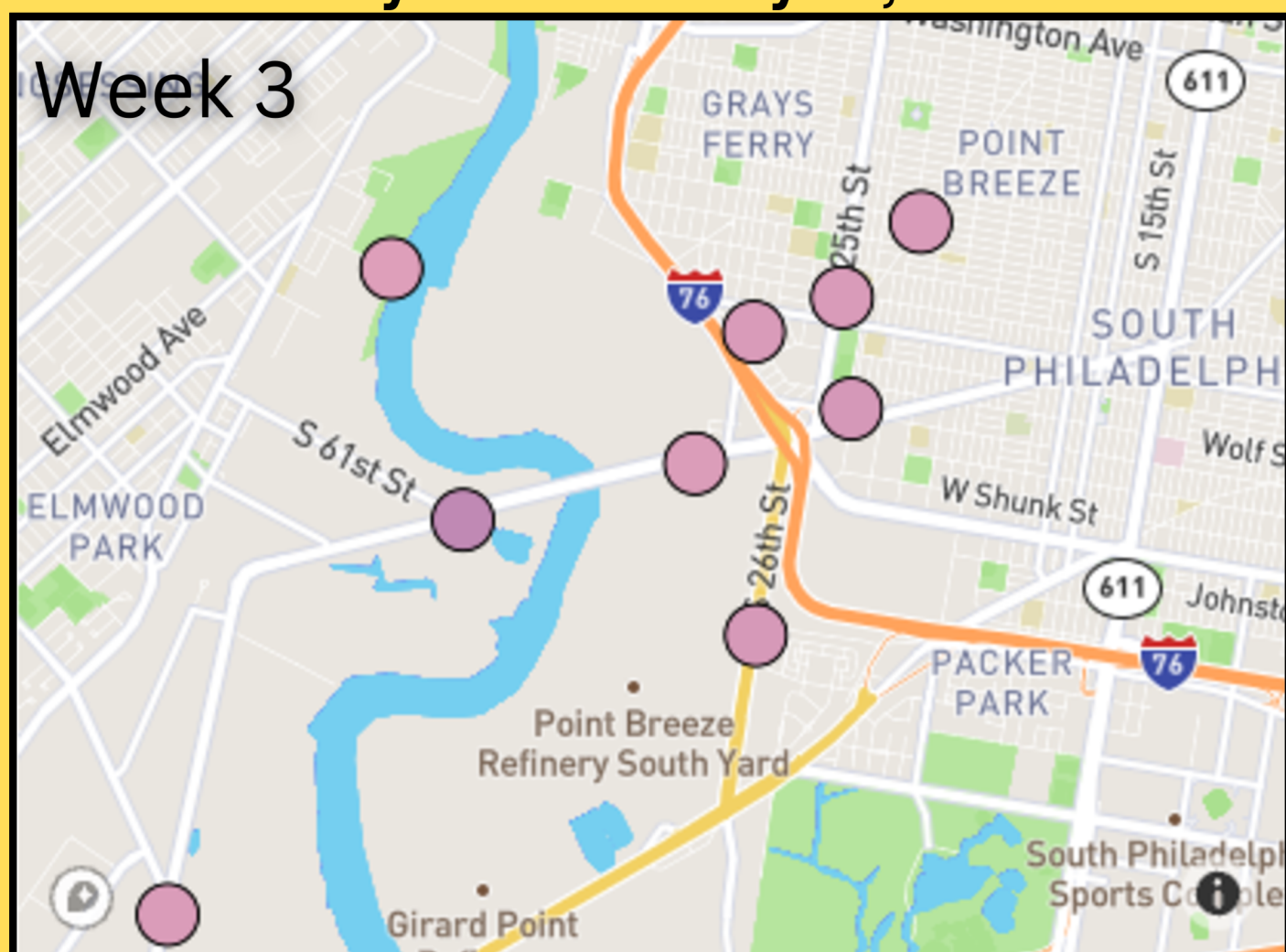
February 7 - February 14, 2024

Week 2



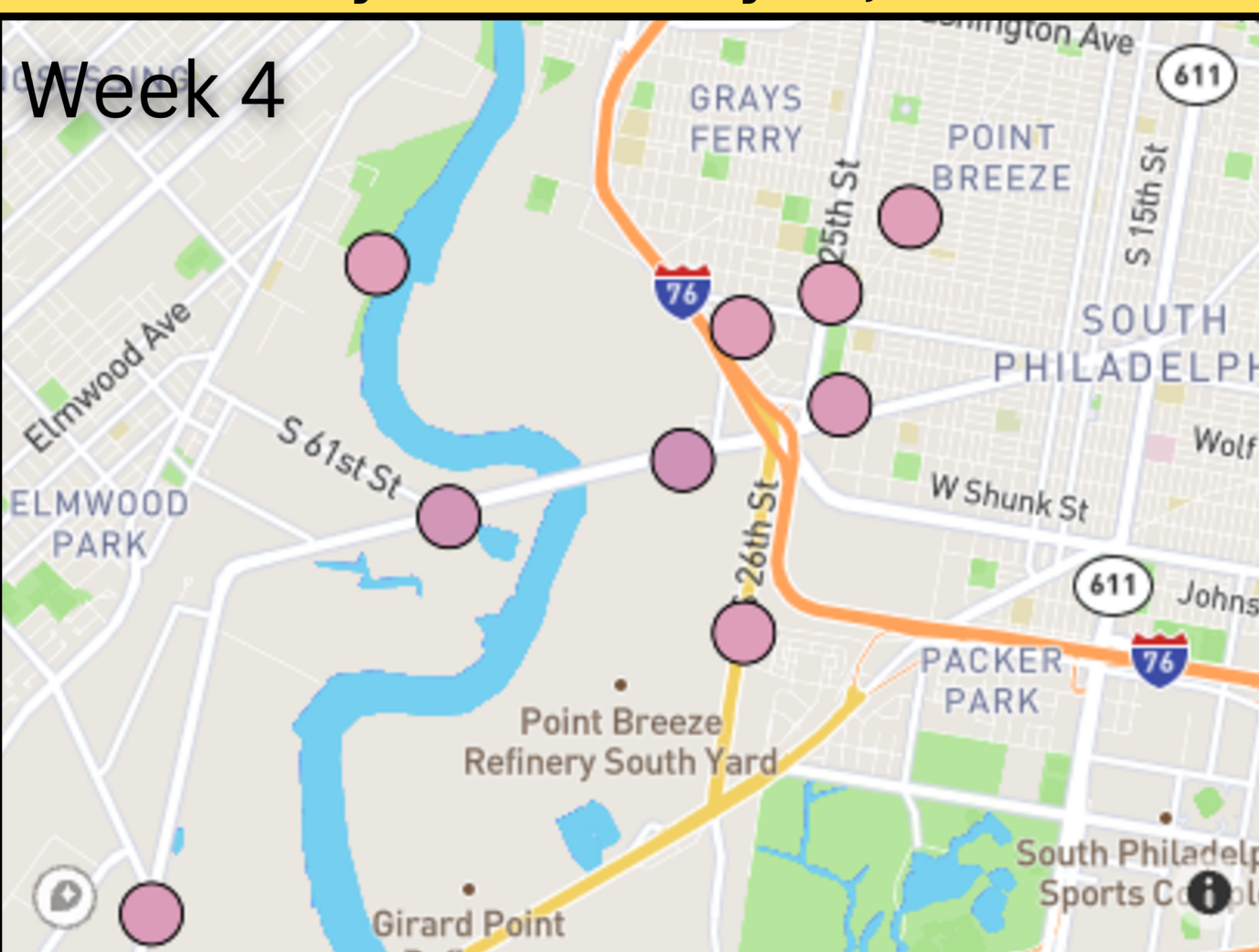
February 14 - February 21, 2024

Week 3



February 21 - February 28, 2024

Week 4



Lighter pink means **less benzene** (lower concentrations), while darker purple means **more benzene** (higher concentrations).

This month, concentrations were higher (darker purple), especially during week 2 at the 28th and Passyunk site.

*We leave air monitors at each site for one week. You can interpret the results shown here as the average concentration at that site over the period of time in the title.*

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Benzene isn't the only chemical we measured in the air. To see the results for other pollutants and for more information about the study, visit our website at:

**THRIVEairphilly.com**

