DEARBORN
PUBLIC
HEALTH

DEARBORN
COMMUNITY AIR QUALITY PROGRAM

2025 REPORT

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LETTER from ABDULLAH HAMMOUD
Mayor, City of Dearborn

DEAR NEIGHBORS,

In Dearborn, we take pride in hard work, resilience, and community. Protecting the health and wellbeing of our residents is at the core of every decision we make, and that includes understanding and improving the air we all share.

This air quality report reflects our commitment to building a Green and Healthy Dearborn, as outlined in our Dearborn 2035 Strategic Plan. We are actively working with all of our departments to become a model city for health in all policies because we know that the decisions and investments we make at the local level and public health are deeply connected.

Dearborn's history has brought opportunity, but it has also left some neighborhoods carrying a heavier environmental burden than others. At the same time, this report shows that we are making progress, with overall air quality improving from last year. But it also makes clear that there is more work ahead.

This work is part of a larger commitment to building a healthier Dearborn. Across the city, we are making investments that improve quality of life and address long-standing environmental challenges. We have partnered with Dearborn Public Schools to invest in green schoolyards that create healthier spaces for our children, developed three new parks, expanded green infrastructure, and continue to offer free tree plantings to grow our tree canopy year after year.

In 2025, we established Dearborn's Environmental Commission so residents have a real seat at the table as we shape a healthier and more sustainable future. This work is not something local government can do alone. It requires partnership, accountability, and a shared commitment to improving every neighborhood in our city.

We also know that transparency matters. This report is part of our commitment to share information, track our progress, and use data to guide better decisions. By investing in local air quality monitoring and making that data accessible, we are giving residents the tools they need to stay informed and protect their health.

I encourage every resident to engage with this report, sign up for alerts, and stay connected to this work. Together, we can continue to build a stronger, healthier Dearborn.

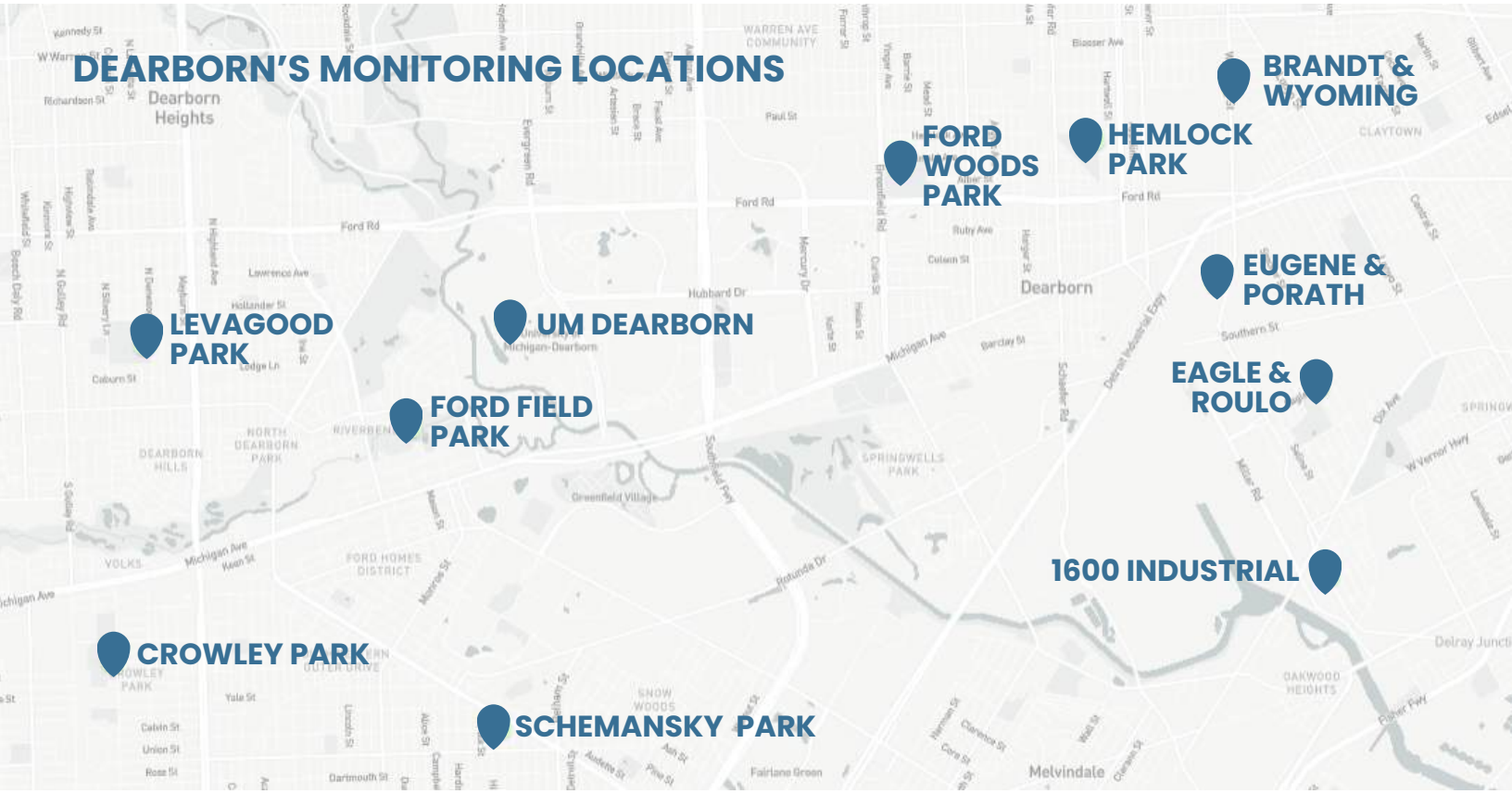
Respectfully,

Abdullah H. Hammoud
Mayor, City of Dearborn

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ABOUT THIS REPORT

About this Report: This report outlines the City of Dearborn's investment in environmental and public health through its air quality work. This is the second annual public report after last year's 2024 Community Report. This report aims to educate you with a deeper understanding of the air that you breathe in your community every day. You will learn about air quality in Dearborn between January-December 2025; how 2025 and 2024 compare, along with other findings (see pages 10-11); and how this program is working for you as a Dearborn resident. Together, we can use this information and tools to advocate and work towards a healthier Dearborn.



PROGRAM HISTORY

May 2023 - Present

In 2023, the City of Dearborn's Department of Public Health (DPH) received a grant to launch a new air quality network. This allowed DPH to tackle long-standing challenges and growing issues of community wellbeing. Air pollution is among these priority issues.

As a historically industrial city, Dearborn suffers from air pollution. These issues are felt particularly by the city's South and East ends, which are recognized by the state of

Michigan as "overburdened" by pollution and have some of the highest asthma rates nationwide. Exposure to air pollution both causes and worsens these health conditions. Working closely with Detroit-based JustAir, DPH has collected air quality data for over two-and-a-half years, making data publicly available through JustAir's dashboard at JustAir.app.

To date, partners have deployed 11 air quality monitors across Dearborn and launched a publicly accessible dashboard at JustAir.app. Monitor locations were selected based on where people live and spend time, and proximity to industrial corridors. The City's monitors measure particulate matter, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and carbon monoxide—some of the most common and widespread air contaminants. DPH has collected more than 2,552,600 air quality data points. This data is being used to inform the City's health-in-all-policies approach to city planning, investments, and programming.

PROJECT TIMELINE

MAY 2023: Project begins

AUG - DEC 2023: Monitors deployed

FEB 2024: Public dashboard launch

MAY 2024: Focus groups, data analysis

MAY 2025: 2024 report published

AUG 2025: City Council funds program

OCT 2025: Monitor upgrades

APR 2026: 2025 report published

JustAir's public dashboard, JustAir.app, also allows residents to sign up for air quality alerts. Over 230 people are currently receiving text alerts from Dearborn monitors. In addition, the city has informed residents about the program via social media and generated earned media. Finally, partners created a first-of-its-kind Air Quality Index (AQI) Light at Levagood Park, which showcases colors based on real time air quality.

IMPROVEMENTS IN 2025

Although the project started as a pilot, in August 2024, Dearborn's City Council recognized its importance to residents and partners and voted to make it a city-funded program.

This support enabled several program enhancements. Therefore the Department of Public Health and JustAir added several new features to make the program even more useful to residents.

- Upgraded air quality monitors at Schemansky Park and Hemlock Park (to take more frequent data readings and measure more pollutants in the air);
- Installed a new monitor on the U-M Dearborn campus;
- Replaced damaged monitors;
- Installed metal signs (English and Arabic) at each air quality monitor.

In addition, 2025 saw an even more collaborative approach to regional air quality improvements. The City shared its program's air quality data with Wayne State University's Population Health Outcomes Information Exchange (PHOENIX) Project, in order to develop an advanced health mapping tool. The City of Dearborn has also agreed to share its data with the Wayne County Health Department in order to further health outcomes beyond city limits. In these ways, the Dearborn Community Air Quality Program benefits Dearborn's residents, as well as its neighboring communities.

Image details (left to right): The new UM-Dearborn Air Quality Monitor being installed by JustAir's Jacob Steere & Dayan Abdulla; A social media post by DPH educating citizens on what data monitors collect; Newly installed metal signs in English & Arabic at the Eugene & Porath monitor.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

JustAir's public dashboard is designed to make air quality data accessible and actionable, empowering residents to make informed health decisions. The City of Dearborn and DPH have continued to leverage technology tools—including a public dashboard showcasing real-time AQI readings, opt-in text alerts, interactive charts, and educational materials—to support community awareness. DPH also actively engaged residents throughout the project through focus group discussions, social media, informational signage placed directly on monitor poles, surveys, and community events.

In addition, the Dearborn Community Air Quality program has been featured in publications like Second Wave Media and highlighted in a United Nations report on local air quality monitoring networks, expanding awareness both in and beyond the community.

Recognizing Dearborn is a multilingual community, every monitor is accompanied by monitor signage in both Arabic and English. This has been consistent from the beginning of air quality monitoring in Dearborn. This year, however, each site's signs have been improved, upsized, and upgraded to durable metal. Visitors to a nearby air quality monitor can more easily learn about their purpose and sign up for realtime air quality alerts by text or email.

A NEW MONITOR ON CAMPUS

As part of enhancing the program in 2025, a new monitor was installed on University of Michigan-Dearborn's campus in October. Its proximity to greenspace—which absorbs air pollution—will provide valuable comparative data against devices located near industry and residential neighborhoods. But this new device is exciting for other reasons as well: it is located in an area of high population density and foot traffic. Its data is closely correlated to many peoples' breathing environments.

Moreover, the visible monitor with its prominent multi-lingual signs can expose more people to learning about air quality. It is especially fitting that it is located outside of the Environmental Interpretive Center, providing students and visitors an up-close air quality education. (And it is already providing opportunities: in November, DPH and JustAir staff teamed up to guest lecture students in an Environmental Health class held in the Center.)

"I keep track of air quality to alert my mother with COPD about days and times she should take it easy. My husband with severe asthma gets the alerts himself."

SNOW WOODS RESIDENT

"Neighborhood quality is a better guide than AirNow.gov's broad region measurements. Local readings can vary quite a bit. I am less likely to get caught unaware."

CROWLY PARK RESIDENT

DPH's Data Scientist Hayat Hachem and Health Communications Specialist Celeste Kettaneh at the new UM-Dearborn air quality monitor.

AIR QUALITY DATA

Measurements & Findings

ABOUT MONITORS & WHAT THEY MEASURE

Dearborn's air quality monitors are small devices mounted on utility poles throughout the city. Each monitor has a solar panel and contains pollutant sensors, but no cameras. The monitors send measurements to JustAir's software, which provides data to both the city and residents through the JustAir dashboard. Dearborn's monitors measure temperature, humidity, and three primary pollutants:

PM Tiny particles in the air, like dust, soot, and smoke that can penetrate deep into the body to cause health problems.

O3 Ground-level ozone forms when chemicals react to heat and sunlight. This forms smog and can irritate breathing.

NO2 A gas produced mainly by vehicle engines and power plants, which contributes to smog and worsens health conditions like asthma.

Whichever pollutant is the highest health risk at a given time is displayed on JustAir's dashboard and can trigger text alerts. Ozone (O3) can trigger alerts in warm weather; however, particulate matter (PM) is the primary pollutant of concern that triggers alerts in Dearborn.

GOOD (0 - 50 AQI)

MODERATE (51 - 100 AQI)

UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS (101 - 150 AQI)

UNHEALTHY FOR EVERYONE (151 - 200 AQI)

VERY UNHEALTHY (201 - 300 AQI)

HAZARDOUS (300 + AQI)

AIR QUALITY INDEX

The data results on the next pages are displayed using the Air Quality Index (AQI). The AQI is the Environmental Protection Agency's scale from 0 to 500 that translates complex air pollution measurements into easy-to-understand categories. It uses color-coded levels (green for "Good", red for "Unhealthy" etc.) to help people quickly understand current air quality and what it means for their safety.

2025 AIR QUALITY DATA

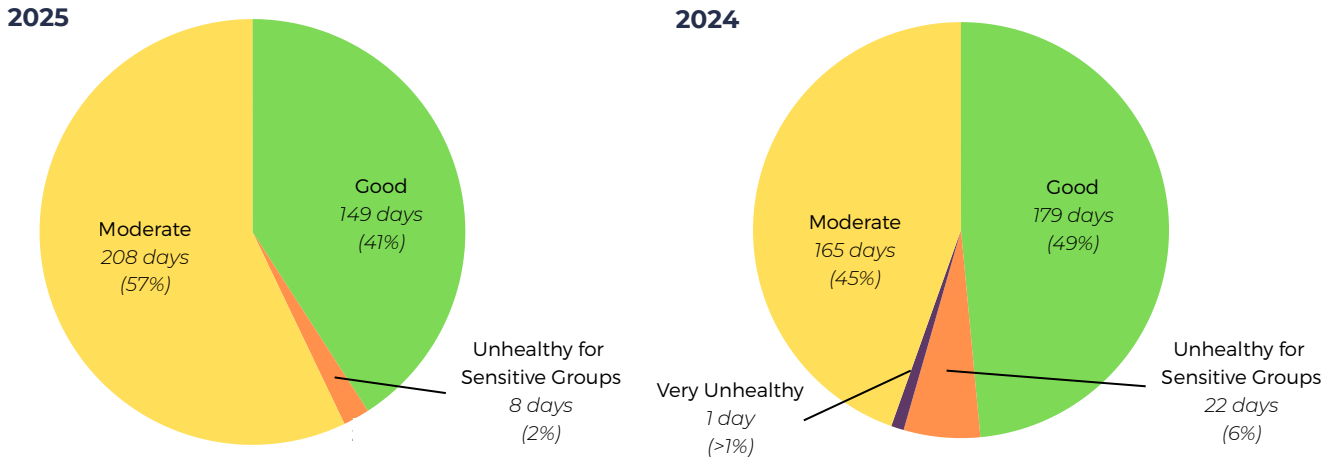
The data in this report is from the calendar year 2025. The City collected data every day from January to December 2025 from 10-11 stationary air quality monitors (the 11th monitor began collecting data in October). Because 2024 was the first complete year of data collection, we can now compare 2025 and 2024's data, as well as explore notable trends within 2025 itself.

So: how did Dearborn's air in 2025 compare to its air in 2024? To answer this question, we will start by looking at the highest AQI in the city every day of the year, then look at the year's averages overall, and then provide more nuance about when and where air quality was better and worse in Dearborn.

MAXIMUM AQI ACROSS ALL MONITORS

Figure 1 shows the highest the AQI reached anywhere in Dearborn on every day of 2025. Figure 1 shows the maximums by day in 2025, and as compared to 2024. Although 2025 saw fewer days reach concerning levels, 2024 had more "Good" days overall.

Figure 1: 2025 Maximum AQI Breakdown vs. 2024



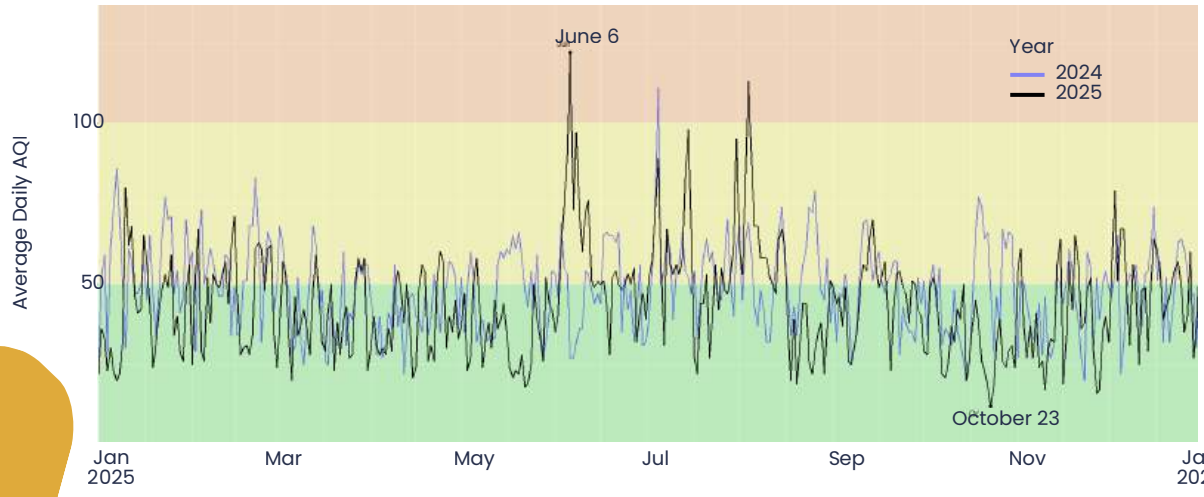
AIR QUALITY TRENDS ACROSS THE YEAR

Figure 2 below displays the daily average AQI, calculated across the entire community for the year. Unlike Figure 1's maximum daily readings, it averages all monitor readings together each day, revealing the city's overall air quality trends. (2025 is the black line.)

The best and worst single days are labeled on Figure 2. October 23 was the best air quality day (in 2024 it was November 23). The worst air quality day in Dearborn in 2025 was June 6 (in 2024 it was July 5). This was due to heavy smoke from Canadian wildfires. The other spikes in July were July 5 following Fourth of July fireworks (a weekend known for having poor air quality), plus three more heavy Canadian wildfire smoke days. Early August's spike was likewise due to conditions that kept wildfire smoke low

in the atmosphere, though fireworks from Homecoming festivities certainly could have contributed. Overall, summer 2025's wildfire events added significant pollution to the local pollution already present.

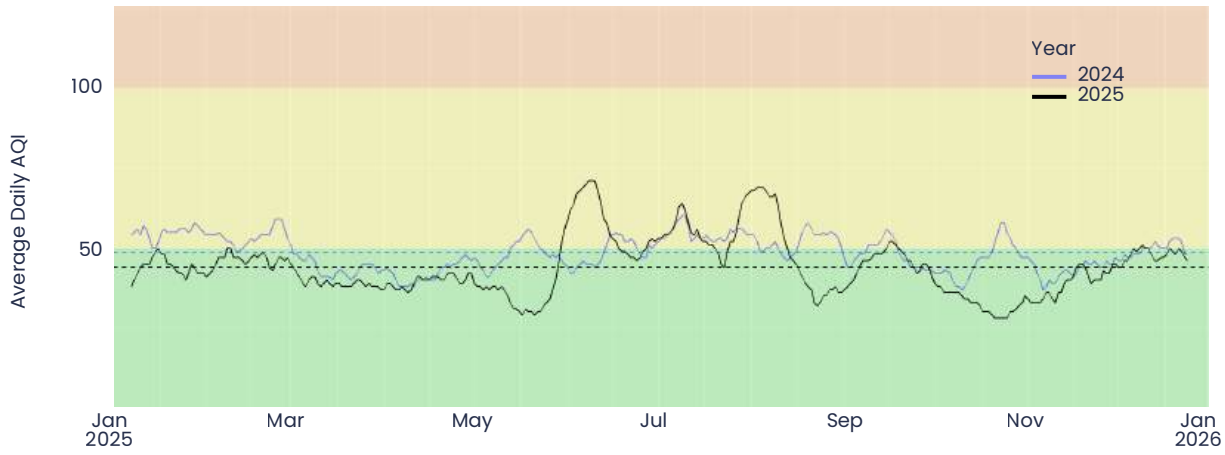
Figure 2: 2024 & 2025 Average Daily AQI (Average from Each Day)



The best and worst days can often be traced to specific events. But what happens throughout most days usually affects peoples' health more than any one high or low day. That's why annual trends are important.

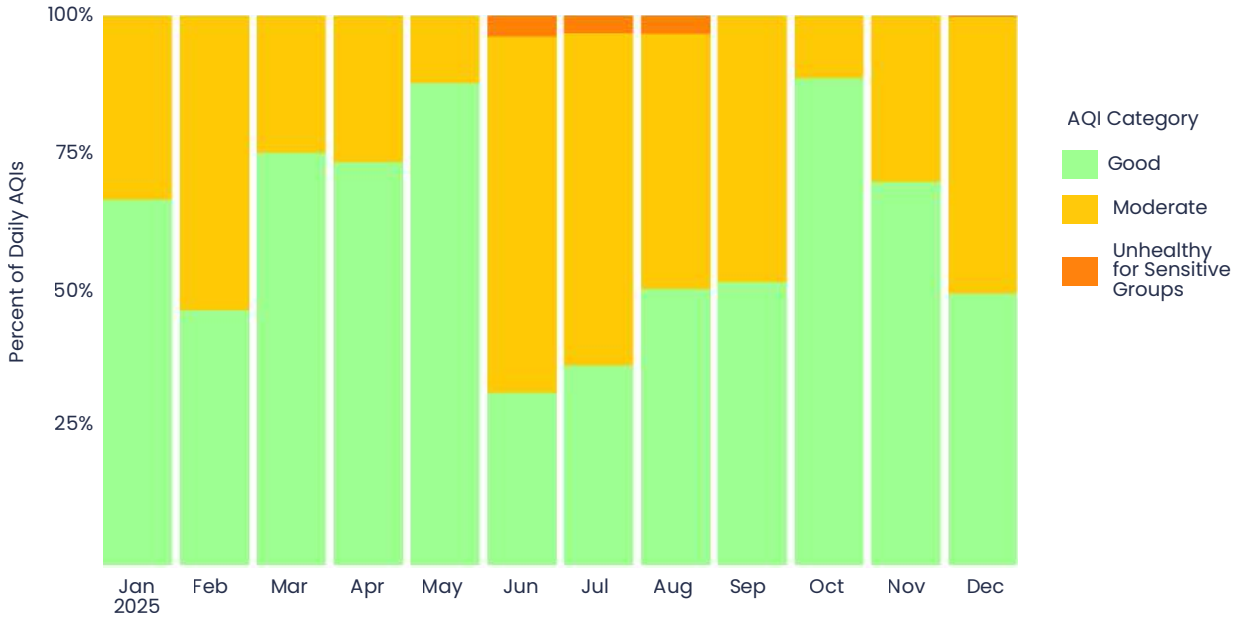
Figure 3 displays another look at the data based on longer averages, making it easier to understand. This view makes it easier to compare 2025 to 2024 because averages are calculated based on the week before and the week after. Figure 3 includes the annual average for each year, as displayed as a dotted line: 2024's average AQI was 49 and 2025's was an average AQI of 44, a 5-point decrease. As we will elaborate further, this doesn't tell the whole story of year-to-year trends. But it does shed light on how these years compare to each other.

Figure 3: 2024 & 2025 Average Daily AQI (Average from 14 Days)



One important insight is that the highest consistent peaks occurred during summer months in both years — but 2025's summer peaks were more numerous, higher, and longer. This is especially concerning because summertime is when exposure matters most: children are out of school, residents are taking advantage of the weather with outdoor recreation, and people are simply outside more often, meaning poor air quality translates directly into greater public health impact. (One example: Dearborn's homecoming festivities in early August took place within one of the poorest air quality periods of the year.) Summer's elevated pollution levels are likely driven by higher temperatures that accelerate chemical reactions in the atmosphere, stagnant weather patterns that trap pollutants, and regional wildfire events.

Figure 4: Air Quality Breakdown by Month

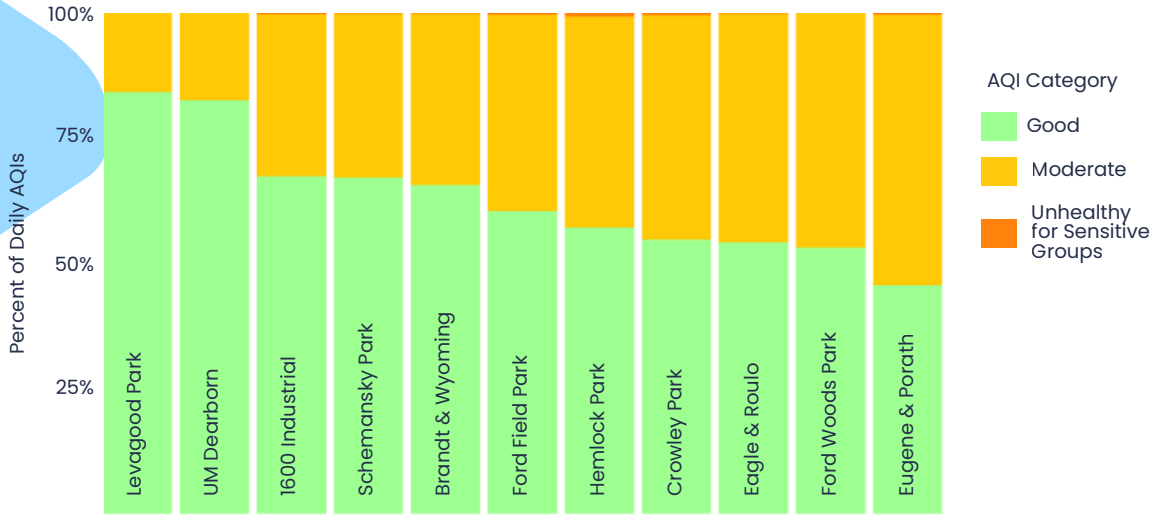


Zooming out even further, let's explore how each month of 2025 compares to one another. Figure 4 shows how often pollution levels reached different AQI categories each month. Each month, many days fall in the "Good" range. However, "Good" air quality consists of half or less of the days for four months of the year: February, June, July, and December. This means that for a third of the year — 33% of all months — residents are breathing clean air only half the time or less.

RANKINGS BY MONITOR & DISTRICT

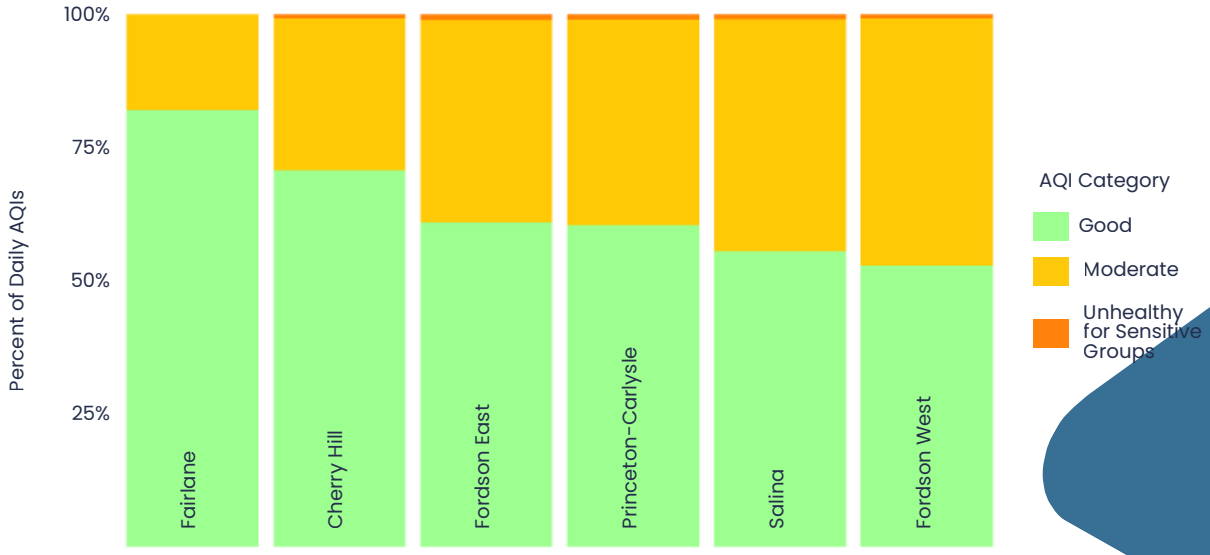
Air quality can vary significantly within the same city or even neighborhood, which is why DPH has 11 monitors throughout the city. Parts of Dearborn are known to have higher pollution due to high-traffic roadways, industrial facilities, and other aspects of the built environment. Figure 5 compares air quality performance across all monitoring locations in the network. Each monitor is ranked by its average AQI over the entire year.

Figure 5: Air Quality Ranking by Monitor



The City is divided into nine districts (see Addendum) and seven districts have at least one air quality monitor. These districts were chosen for monitors based on preexisting air quality burden. Because air quality varies block-by-block, having just one or two monitors in a district does not give a complete picture of overall air quality of that district. However, measuring data in multiple parts of the City allows DPH to begin to identify and evaluate priority areas for interventions.

Figure 6: Air Quality Ranking by District (Note: not all districts host monitors)



HOW DID 2025 COMPARE TO 2024? AND OTHER TAKEAWAYS

Averaged across the year, Dearborn's 2025 air quality was, overall, slightly better than in 2024. This lower baseline is positive news, significant for residents' health, and may be partly due to changes made locally and regionally. However, it's important to note that a yearly average is also affected by factors and events outside of Dearborn city limits, such as wildfires in other parts of the continent—meaning 2026's numbers might look

The 2025 DPH summer fellows visiting the Eugene & Porath monitor with DPH Data Scientist Hayat Hachem and JustAir's Jacob Steere.

different, even if local sources of pollution remain the same or decrease. It will be necessary to collect data over more years to see longer-term trends and the impact of intervention activities.

But this year's data can tell us more than yearly trends. A few other takeaways:

- Poor air quality can occur any time of year and be driven by unpredictable and faraway events, not only common local pollution. However, summer tends to have more days of concern in Dearborn than other seasons. Summertime pollution exposure in was notably higher in 2025 compared to 2024.
- Dearborn's network is well-distributed across Districts, and viewing data by district or by monitor can tell residents how their area compares to others.
- As in 2024, the vast majority of days in Dearborn in 2025 were "Good" or "Moderate." "Moderate" days aren't dangerous for most people, but they can cause minor symptoms for sensitive individuals like those with asthma. However, extended periods of even "Moderate" air quality can have a negative impact on health over time.
- Further data collection is important for identifying longer-term trends and revealing where air pollution can be reduced. These efforts will facilitate regional collaboration and provide greater means to compare Dearborn's air quality to neighboring communities, peer communities in Michigan, and across the country.

TAKING ACTION

Use Data to Stay Safe & Create Change

Collecting air quality data is only the first step—the real impact comes from turning data into concrete actions that protect our health and improve our community's air. This means, at minimum, air quality information remains accessible. Therefore, it is the Department of Public Health's recommendation and hope that the City Council will extend funding for Dearborn's Air Quality Program to continue beyond August 2026.

Micho Assi (left) and Ramsey Saymuah (right), members of the City of Dearborn Environmental Commission, at the 2025 Dearborn Homecoming festival educating residents about the commission.

With accurate and accessible air quality data in hand, there are three types of change individuals or communities can take to stay safe and reduce pollution:

Individual Action

Staying informed is the first step to staying safe. Sign up for air quality text alerts at JustAir.app/signup. When you receive a text alert indicating poor air quality, consider taking these actions for you and your community's health: avoid outdoor activity, keep windows closed, use indoor air filters and purifiers, wear an N95 mask outside, choose public transportation over driving, avoid using gas lawn equipment, and check in on neighbors who may be most affected.

Environmental Action

The community can support further investments in trees, green space, and other nature-based solutions in Dearborn to absorb particulate matter and improve air quality.

Plant trees and support natural solutions to keep air clean, install green buffer zones between residents and industry, and advocate or organize with groups to advance local clean air policies. (The city offers free tree planting for residents to have on their easement.)

Structural Action

Pursue long-term policy changes such as holding polluting entities accountable, creating no-idling zones, and updating trucking routes to reduce emissions in residential areas. These changes can be supported by long-term air quality data collection.

HOW THE CITY IS WORKING TOWARDS CLEANER AIR

The City of Dearborn is making strides to improve its residents' air quality. While addressing certain factors, such as wildfire smoke, lie outside of the City's domain, local government has other means to better the community's breathing environment.

The Mayor's Dearborn 2035 Strategic Plan places strong emphasis on a Green & Healthy Dearborn, protecting "the physical and mental health of Dearborn residents by creating the environmental and social conditions for people to lead healthy and dignified lives." To achieve this, one of its goals is to "deindustrialize land, increase green and walkable spaces, and improve air quality for all neighborhoods." Collecting and reporting air quality data, such as in this report, is an important step in this process.

A family playing at Crowley Park, the location of an air quality monitor.

Moreover, the City has held local businesses accountable for air pollution from fugitive dust and other environmental impacts in order to keep nearby residents safe.

Besides the Strategic Plan, the City's environmental goals are also embedded in the Dearborn 2030 Master Plan, which governs land use. These include:

- Create and enhance natural features and ecosystems (including tree canopy) throughout the City;
- Reduce the community's environmental footprint by increasing efficiency in resource use and reducing emissions and pollution (such as EV-friendliness policies);
- Reclaim the Rouge River and allow for greater accessibility (connecting residents with green space).

Each of these primary goals, when implemented, benefits air quality.

The City has gone to lengths to ensure that Dearborn is a safer place to walk. This encourages more walking and biking than vehicle use, which is an important contribution to reduced tailpipe emissions. The City has addressed this through installing raised crosswalks, illuminating stop signs, and other traffic calming measures. The Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan (RTA) selected Dearborn for funding to improve bus stops and related infrastructure at Michigan and Schaefer. Dearborn will also contribute towards the RTA infrastructure. These interventions are designed to provide mobility options beyond automobiles—to increase accessibility and visibility for all modes of travel between neighboring educational, residential, commercial, and mixed uses.

The City planted roughly 500 trees in 2025, increasing green space and enhancing tree canopy. It has continued to invest in its 44 City parks, including pocket parks, which create small green spaces in developed areas to provide physical and mental health benefits and improve residents' immediate breathing environment.

Monitors throughout the city (from left to right: Levagood Park, Schemansky Park, Ford Woods Park, and Hemlock Park).

NEXT STEPS

Continued Air Monitoring

For the City of Dearborn

The City of Dearborn's Public Health Department remains committed to maintaining this air quality monitoring network to build a comprehensive, long-term dataset. This ongoing data collection will enable evidence-based policy decisions, inform targeted public health programs, and help protect the wellbeing of all Dearborn residents. By continuing to monitor air quality across the city, leaders can better understand pollution patterns, respond to emerging concerns, and work toward cleaner air for our community's future.

For Residents

If you aren't already using JustAir to track your Dearborn air quality, use the QR code below or visit JustAir.app. There you can find the Dearborn monitor(s) nearest to you and sign up for alerts. If you find this service valuable or learned something through this report, please tell your friends and family about Dearborn's Air Quality Program!

Salina Elementary and Intermediate Schools, which sit between an industrial facility and a residential neighborhood.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This program would not have been possible without strong leadership and innovative vision from the City of Dearborn's Department of Public Health, especially former Director Ali Abazeed; Dearborn City Council's recognition of the program's value through approving the department's request to fund Dearborn's air quality network for an additional term; JustAir's technical platform; and initial project seed funding from MI Next Cities (NextEnergy) and CIV:LAB.

Dearborn Public Schools deserves recognition and thanks as a partner in working for a healthier, greener Dearborn, exemplified by its Dearborn Green Schoolyards project.

Special thanks are due to Dearborn City Council members for recognizing the program's value and approving the department's request to fund Dearborn's air quality network for an additional term. Thank you to these supportive members of the 34th Dearborn City Council Council:

- Council President Michael T. Sareini
- Council President Pro Tem Leslie C. Herrick
- Council Member Kamal Alsawafy
- Council Member Ken Paris
- Council Member Robert Abraham
- Council Member Mustapha Hammoud
- Council Member Gary Enos

ADDENDUM

STAY CONNECTED

Social Media

Instagram.com/DearbornDPH

Facebook.com/DearbornDPH

Linkedin.com/company/dearborndph/

Dearborn Public Health Resources

- Public Health Department - dearborn.gov/residents/public-health#
- Solar program - dearborn.gov/solar
- Free tree program - dearborn.gov/residents/home-property/order-free-tree
- Bulk storage & fugitive dust city ordinance - dearborn.gov/residents/public-health/bulk-storage-fugitive-dust#
- Additional city resources - linktr.ee/dearborndph

CITY DISTRICT MAP