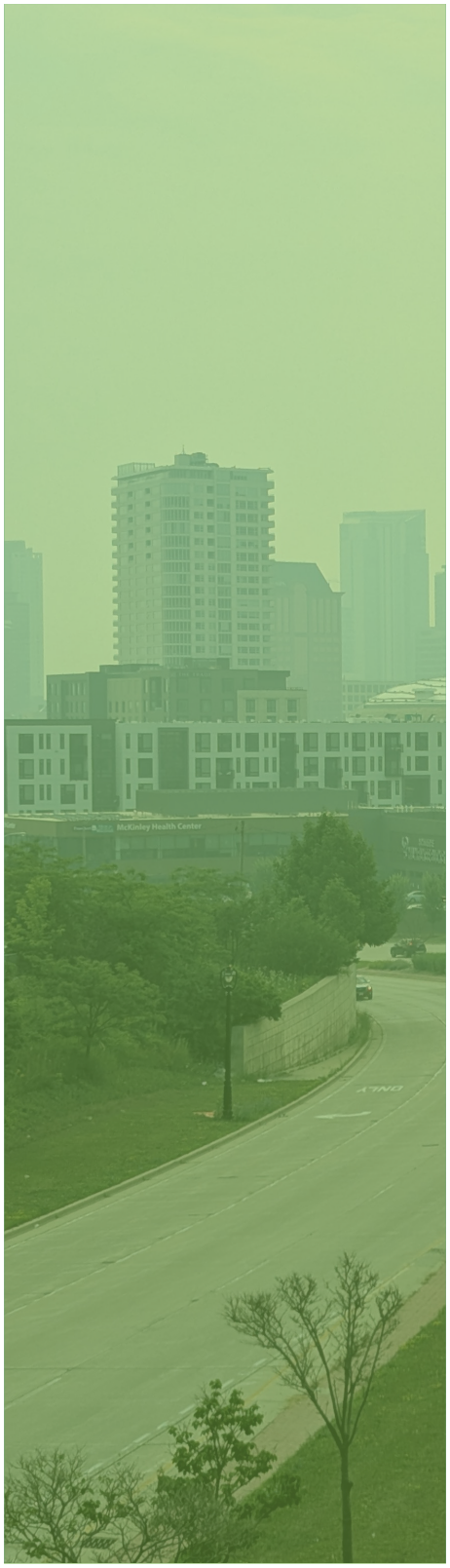

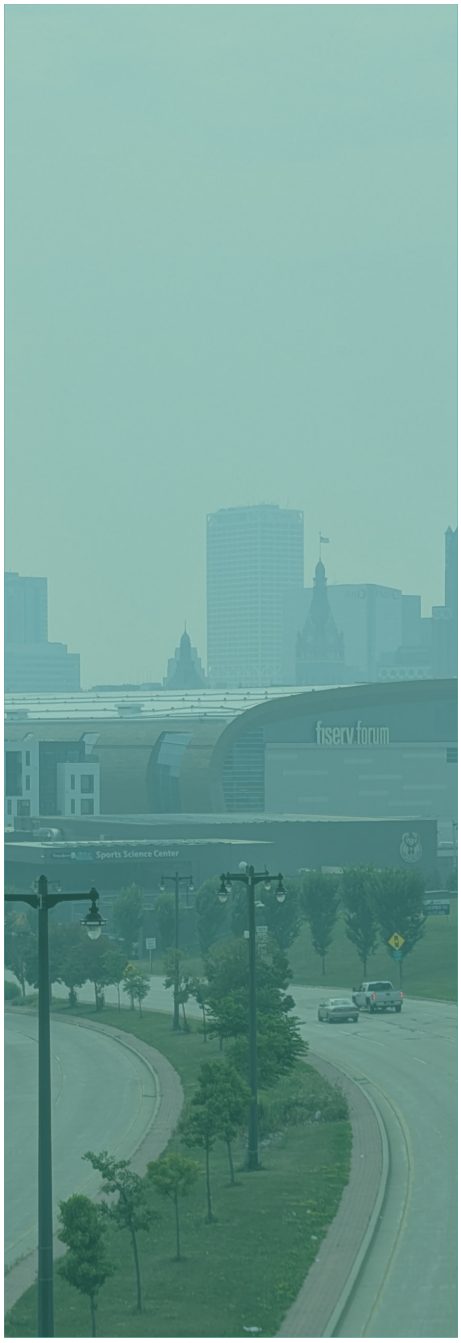

2025 MILWAUKEE AIR QUALITY REPORT

MKE FreshAir Collective

DATA YOU CAN USE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MKE FreshAir Collective exists because this work matters deeply to the communities we serve. We are driven by a shared understanding that access to accurate, timely air quality information is not a luxury, but a necessity for protecting health and advancing equity. This work is rooted in community, and it continues to grow because of the people and partners who believe in its importance.

We are grateful to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, particularly through the Minority Health Program's Community Grant, for their continued investment in this work. Their support has enabled us to strengthen our data infrastructure, analyze neighborhood-level air quality trends, and translate those insights into meaningful, community-centered action. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to addressing health disparities and ensuring that all communities have access to the information they need to thrive.

We also extend our appreciation to our partners in the Wisconsin Department of Natural resources for their collaboration and for providing critical data that helps us better understand the intersection of air quality and health outcomes across Milwaukee.

There are also funders and supporters who have chosen not to be publicly recognized in this moment. While we cannot name them, we want to acknowledge their contributions and express our sincere gratitude. Their trust and investment in this work have been essential... and they know who they are.

We are especially thankful for our Board of Directors, whose guidance, leadership, and belief in this mission have helped shape MKE FreshAir Collective's growth from a passion-driven idea into an emerging leader in environmental justice, air quality education, and community-informed research in Wisconsin.

Finally, we want to recognize our growing network of community partners across Milwaukee and beyond. From hosting sensors to supporting outreach, collaboration has been at the heart of everything we do. There are far too many to name individually, but their collective impact is undeniable. Together, we are building a stronger, more informed, and more resilient community.

This report was created by the Data You Can Use & MKE FreshAir Collective Teams:

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If you have questions about the data or this report, please contact Langston Verdin (langston@mkefreshair.com) or Amanda Beavin (amanda@datayoucanuse.org).

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MKE FreshAir Collective, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit air quality monitoring organization based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We are a collective of environmental advocates and concerned residents passionate about creating a healthier, more equitable environment for all who live, work, and play in our city. Our mission is to collect accurate air quality data, foster meaningful community engagement, and drive action to improve indoor and outdoor air quality in Milwaukee with a steadfast focus on health equity and dismantling systemic racism.

We do this work because it matters not only to researchers, academics, and data scientists, but to families across Milwaukee who are increasingly facing the impacts of poor air quality. As wildfire smoke reaches our city year after year, access to accurate and timely information has become essential. People need to know when it is safe to be outside, how to protect their health, and how to reduce exposure for themselves and their families. Our role is to ensure that communities have access to the timely information they need to make those decisions with confidence.

Today, MKE FreshAir Collective operates a network of air quality sensors in 27 locations across the City of Milwaukee. These sensors are intentionally located in predominantly Black and Brown communities that have historically experienced higher environmental pollution burdens, divestment, health disparities, and less access to localized air quality data. By providing neighborhood-level information, we are helping close long standing gaps in awareness and visibility around air quality conditions.

Clean air is foundational to health, and access to reliable information is a critical first step toward protecting it. In the last year, we broadened the scope of what we measure. In addition to AQI and PM2.5, we installed three near-reference sensors to increase our focus on ozone (O3) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2), both of which have significant impacts on respiratory and cardiovascular health. These pollutants are especially harmful for children, older adults, and individuals with pre-existing conditions, like asthma.

Thank you for being part of this work and for helping us move toward a future where every community has the information and resources needed to breathe easier.

Danika & Langston
Co-Executive Directors
MKE FreshAir Collective

INTRODUCTION

The connection between poor air quality and negative health outcomes is both well documented and deeply alarming. Decades of scientific research have demonstrated that exposure to air pollution significantly increases the risk of a wide range of health conditions, including asthma attacks, bronchitis, cardiovascular disease, stroke, lung cancer, and premature death. For many individuals, especially children, older adults, and those with existing health conditions, poor air quality can worsen chronic illness and reduce overall quality of life.[1] The World Health Organization has identified air pollution as a carcinogen due to its established links to cancer and a wide range of serious health impacts.[2] In addition to increasing cancer risk, exposure to air pollution contributes to short-term respiratory complications and the development or worsening of chronic diseases over time.[3]

The impacts of air pollution are also not experienced equally. Decades of systemic racism, discriminatory housing practices, redlining, and inequitable industrial zoning have resulted in many communities of color being disproportionately exposed to higher levels of harmful air pollutants. These longstanding inequities continue to contribute to significant disparities in respiratory health, cardiovascular disease, and overall health outcomes.[4,5] These environmental inequities are a lasting consequence of systemic racism and continue to shape the quality of the air people breathe every day. The result is an ongoing cycle of unequal health outcomes that disproportionately impacts historically marginalized communities and underscores the urgent need for equitable environmental and public health solutions.

MKE FreshAir Collective recognizes the deep connection between environmental conditions and longstanding social inequities. As a result, we intentionally place many of our air quality sensors in communities that are more likely to experience disproportionate environmental burdens and health disparities. By collecting neighborhood-level data in these areas, *we aim to better understand and document these inequities while supporting advocacy, awareness, and stronger protections for communities facing the greatest exposure to air pollution.*

1 Pope CA 3rd, Dockery DW. (2006). Health effects of fine particulate air pollution: lines that connect. Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association, 56(6), 709-742. https://doi.org/10.1080/10473289.2006.10464485

2 National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, "Air Pollution and Your Health."

3 National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, "Air Pollution and Your Health."

4 American Lung Association, 2022, "Air Pollution and Health Equity."

5 Clark LP, Millet DB, Marshall JD. "National Patterns in Environmental Injustice and Inequality: Outdoor NO2 Air Pollution in the United States." *Environmental Health Perspectives*. 2014 Mar;122(5):439-45.

ABOUT THE DATA

Neighborhood Sensors and Air Quality Data

Using state-of-the-art, accessible technology and the latest scientific methods, our sensors measure three sizes of particulate matter (PM_1, $PM_{2.5}$, and PM_{10}), and CO2. We work closely with local and state agencies, community-based organizations, and public health advocates to ensure our data informs policies and decisions that protect community health.

This report's analysis is focused on the Air Quality Index (AQI). AQI is a standardized tool used to communicate how clean or polluted the air is on a given day and what associated health concerns might be present. It incorporates multiple pollutants, including PM and CO2, and converts pollutant concentrations into a simple scale from 0 to 500, with higher values indicating worse air quality and greater health risks. The chart below provides information about the potential health risks associated with AQI levels.

US AQI Level	PM2.5 (µg/m³)	Health Recommendation (for 24 hour exposure)
WHO PM2.5 (µg/m³) Recommended Guidelines as of 2024: **0-5.0**		
Good 0-50	0-9.0	Air quality is satisfactory and poses little or no risk.
Moderate 51-100	9.1-35.4	Sensitive individuals should avoid outdoor activity as they may experience respiratory symptoms.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups 101-150	35.5-55.4	General public and sensitive individuals in particular are at risk to experience irritation and respiratory problems.
Unhealthy 151-200	55.5-125.4	Increased likelihood of adverse effects and aggravation to the heart and lungs among general public.
Very Unhealthy 201-300	125.5-225.4	General public will be noticeably affected. Sensitive groups should restrict outdoor activities.
Hazardous 301+	225.5+	General public at high risk of experiencing strong irritations and adverse health effects. Should avoid outdoor activities.

Image source: https://www.iqair.com/us/newsroom/what-is-aqi

Particulate matter (PM) refers to small, inhalable particles in the air. Particulate matter is measured by its size, with PM2.5 having a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or smaller - so small that we cannot even see it! The particles are especially harmful because they can penetrate deep into the lungs and even the bloodstream when inhaled, contributing to respiratory and cardiovascular problems.

CO2 refers to carbon dioxide, which is a common pollutant from burning fossil fuels like oil and natural gas. It is a greenhouse gas, meaning it traps heat from the sun, and is a major contributor to global climate change.

Although each sensor measures temperature, barometric pressure, and relative humidity, they were not installed with the intent of capturing accurate readings for these variables (e.g., some are placed in direct sunlight against a brick wall, while others remain in constant shade). As a result, no analysis of temperature, barometric pressure, relative humidity, PM_1, or PM_{10} data was conducted for this report.

This report presents data from 27 neighborhood air quality sensors across Milwaukee between January and December of 2025. Each sensor began collecting data at different points in time, with the longest running sensor installed in 2020, and the most recent added in September 2025. Additionally, challenges due to WiFi, electricity, and access to the sensors located at individuals' private homes sometimes led to sensors being down for extended periods of time. As a result, some air quality sensors have a full year of data, while others reflect a shorter monitoring period. To account for these differences, comparative analysis between sensor locations was conducted using monthly averages rather than annual averages. This approach ensures a fair and consistent comparison across all monitoring sites, regardless of how long each sensor has been active.

Data Quality Review

To ensure the data used in this report was valid, Data You Can Use ran a data quality review test before analyzing the data. The test identified the number of valid days that could be used for daily AQI averages and the number of valid months that could be used for monthly AQI averages for each sensor. In order for a day or month to be considered valid, it must have sensor readings for 70% of the time period. For a day, this would require 17 hourly AQI readings to calculate a daily average. For a month, this would require 20 valid days to calculate a monthly average.

This test ensures accurate analysis of the data, as sensors can occasionally stop producing AQI readings due to technical difficulties.

Air Quality Alert Data

In 2025, Milwaukee experienced significant smoke pollution from wildfires burning in Canada and Northwest United States. Inhalation of wildfire smoke can lead to significant short-term and long-term health impacts. In this report, we analyze air quality patterns alongside Air Quality Alerts issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Air Quality Alerts are issued by the DNR with the intent to notify the public when air quality measures are exceeding nationally defined standards, indicating that the air quality could be harmful to the public's health. The DNR issues alerts based on a series of predictive models and analyses.

The Air Quality Alert data used in this report was obtained from the Wisconsin DNR, and represents days where Air Quality Alerts were issued for the PM2.5 pollutant.

Other Data Sources

Each sensor is paired with a dedicated analysis section that features a map of nearby potential pollution sources and neighborhood-level demographic and health data.

The two potential pollution sources highlighted in this report include Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) sites and major roads and freeways. The Toxic Release Inventory is a database managed by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that identifies locations and quantities of chemical released to air, water, and land. The TRI locations in this report represent potential sources of air pollution as of March 2026. Major roads and freeway locations were accessed through the Milwaukee ArcGIS REST Services Directory in April 2026. The data is limited to the city limits of Milwaukee.

The neighborhood-level demographic and health data comes from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) and the Center for Disease Control's PLACES Health Data. The data is pulled for the area within a half-mile radius of each sensor, using census tract boundaries. Census tracts are geographic divisions created by the U.S. Census Bureau to collect and present data from surveys they administer. Census tracts usually contain a population size around 4,000 people, but can be different geographic sizes[1]. The Data You Can Use team carefully reviewed and adjusted these half-mile sensor boundaries, using their professional judgment to include or exclude specific census tracts based on size, geography, and neighborhood characteristics. This method aims to create an accurate and meaningful demographic snapshot of the community immediately surrounding each sensor site.

1 See this link for more information about census tracts: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/glossary.html#par_textimage_13

QUICK FACTS

2025 Average AQI across all sensors: **39.56**
- *2024 average AQI:* ***35.34***

Highest daily average AQI recorded: **198.08**
- *Washington Heights on July 31st*

Worst air quality month: **July**
- *Average AQI:* ***61.59***

Best air quality month: **October**
- *Average AQI:* ***22.81***

Lowest annual average AQI in 2025
Roosevelt Grove (24.31)

Highest annual average AQI in 2025
Near Westside (46.34)

Days with at least one sensor's daily average AQI classified as "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" or worse (over 100): **21**

Number of sensors that experienced at least one "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" AQI day (101 to 150): **24**

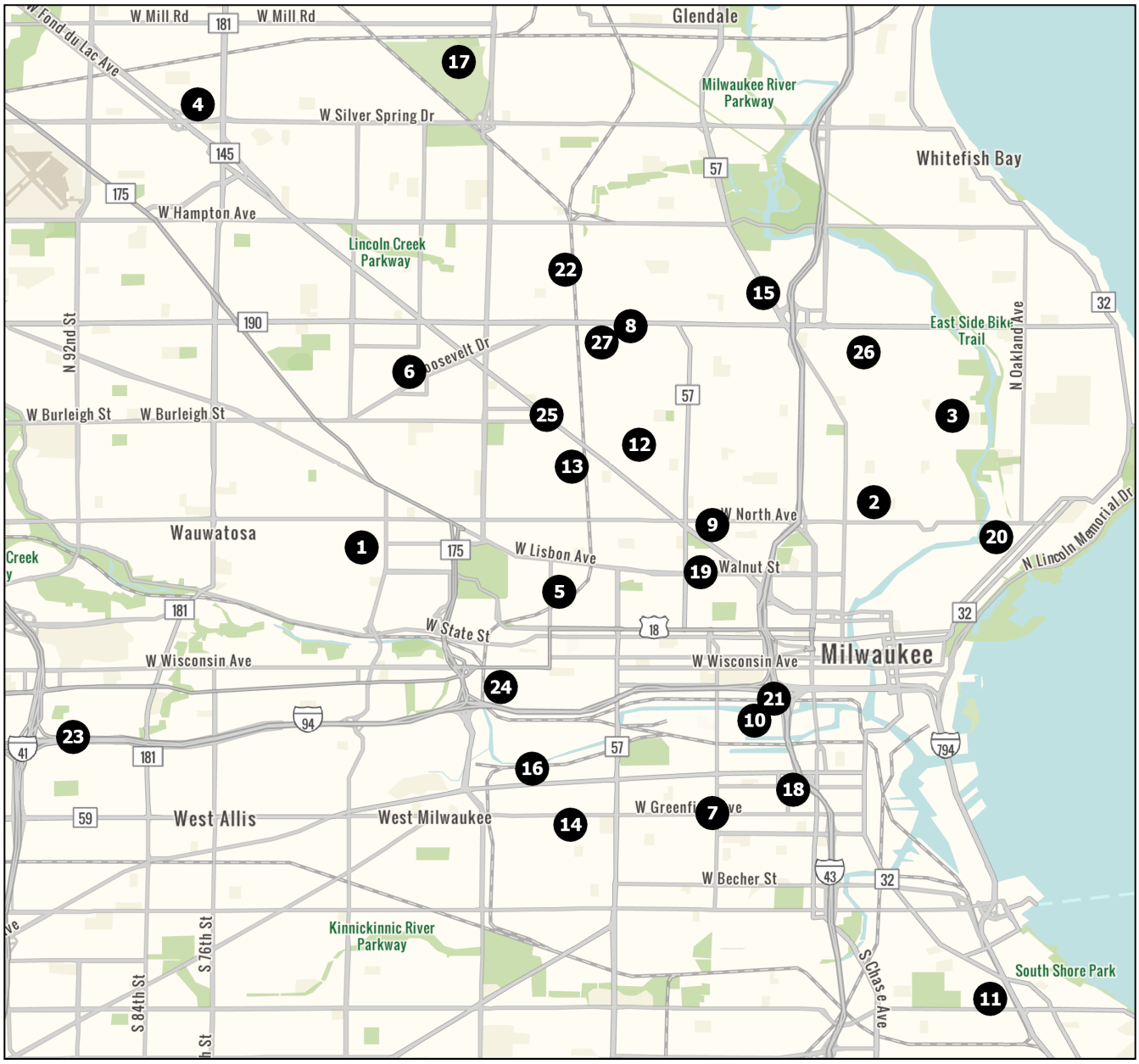
Number of wildfire smoke days (with Air Quality Alert issued): **20**

King Park, **Roosevelt Grove**, **Rufus King**, and **Riverwest** most often had **significantly different air quality** than the rest of the group.

The sensors that **most often had the best air quality** were **Harambee**, **Riverwest**, and **Roosevelt Grove**.

The sensors that **most often had the worst air quality** were **Near Westside**, **Menomonee South**, **Lower Eastside**, and **Rufus King**.

Roosevelt Grove experience the **best air quality during the wildfire smoke events**, while **Lower Eastisde**, **Near Westside**, and **Rufus King** experience the **worst air quality during wildfire smoke events**.



Monitor Location (Launch Date)

1. Washington Heights (2/2020)
2. Harambee (5/2021)
3. Riverwest (11/2022)
4. Silver Spring (12/2022)
5. Near Westside (12/2022)
6. Grasslyn Manor (3/2023)
7. Clarke Square (5/2023)
8. Franklin Heights (5/2023)
9. Lindsay Heights (6/2023)
10. Menomonee S (6/2023)
11. Bayview (6/2023)
12. Amani (12/2023)
13. Metcalfe Park (1/2024)
14. Burnham Park (2/2024)
15. Rufus King (3/2024)
16. Silver City (3/2024)
17. Havenwoods (4/2024)
18. Walker Square (5/2024)
19. King Park (8/2024)
20. Lower Eastside (8/2024)
21. Menomonee N (10/2024)
22. Lincoln Creek (7/2025)
23. Cannon Park (7/2025)
24. Piggsville (7/2025)
25. Roosevelt Grove (7/2025)
26. Williamsburg (9/2025)
27. Melvina Park (10/2025)

Map created March 2026

HOW DOES AIR QUALITY DIFFER ACROSS MILWAUKEE?

Methods

To determine how the air quality differed across Milwaukee neighborhoods, the Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test was used to understand differences between neighborhood sensor data. The Wilcoxon test is used to test for significant differences between one subset of a population to the whole. For example, when looking at math test scores, this test could be employed to see if Class A's math scores differ significantly from the entire school's test scores. This test determines if the subset is significantly different from the whole, but does not indicate the direction of that difference.

Data You Can Use received hourly data from the 27 neighborhood air quality sensors. The data was cleaned and aggregated to calculate daily AQI medians for each sensor. Because each sensor began collecting data at different points in time, with the most recent only added in September 2025, the Wilcoxon test was run for every month of 2025 to ensure the most accurate analysis. For a sensor location to be included in a month's test, the sensor needed to have recorded data for 70% of that month, or roughly 20 days. See the Data Quality Review for more information.

Once the test statistic was calculated, the critical values of the Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test were used to determine if the specified sensor carries a significantly different value from the median. The analysis values are based on the 99% (0.01) confidence level. After determining significance for each month for each sensor, a significant rate was calculated, highlighting the proportion of analyzed months that were found to be significantly different from the group.

Results

Two sensors - **King Park** and **Roosevelt Grove** - are significantly different for every month that the test could be run. Neither of these sensors had 12 months available for analysis. However, two additional sensors that had all months available for analysis - **Rufus King** and **Riverwest** - were significantly different from the group 11 of the 12 months. Other sensors with high significance rates include **Silver Spring**, **Lindsay Heights**, **Menomonee South**, and **Cannon Park**. See the table on the next page for the full results.

This test can not determine the direction of the difference, but looking at the monthly AQI averages of each sensor can provide insight. The monthly AQIs for Roosevelt Grove, Riverwest, Silver Spring, Lindsay Heights, and Cannon Park were lower than the group's average AQI for every month found to be significantly different. This could suggest that those sensors tend to have better air quality than the group. On the other hand, the monthly AQIs for Rufus King and Menomonee South were higher than the group average for every month found to be significantly different. This suggests that those sensors tend to have worse air quality than other areas of Milwaukee. The King Park sensor had a lower AQI for most of the months that were found significantly different, but had a higher AQI in the month of November. Overall, it is likely that King Park tends to have better air quality than other areas.

Table 1: Wilcoxon Statistical Test Results

Sensor	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	%
Roosevelt Grove	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	100
King Park	X	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	100
Riverwest		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	92
Rufus King	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	92
Silver Spring	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	X		X	88
Lindsay Heights	X		X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	88
Menomonee South	X	X	-	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	82
Cannon Park	-	-	-	-	-	-		X	X	X	X	X	80
Harambee	X	X	X	X	X			X		X	X	X	75
Burnham Park			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	75
Walker's Square				-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	70
Clarke Square			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			67
Washington Heights	X	X	X	X			X	X			X	X	67
Amani			X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	67
Silver City	X	X	X						X		X	X	50
Williamsburg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		X	-	-	50
Lincoln Creek	-	-	-	-	-	-			X	X	-	-	50
Near Westside	X	X	X				X	X	X				50
Metcalfe Park	X	X			X					X		X	42
Lower Eastside				X		X	-	-	-	-		X	38
Havenwoods					X				X	X		X	33
Franklin Heights	-	X			X							X	27
Menomonee North	X			-								X	18
Bayview				-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Grasslyn Manor	-		-			-	-	-	-	-			0
Melvina Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			-	0
Piggsville	-	-	-	-	-	-					-	-	0

X = Significant Difference - = Not Enough Observations Blank = No Significant Difference

% Column shows the significance rate, or the proportionate of months found to be significantly different divided by the total number of months that test was run (test could only be run for sensors with 20 or more days of observation in the month).

MONTHLY AND DAILY AQI ANALYSIS

For each month and day, the sensor with the best air quality (lowest AQI) and the worst air quality (highest AQI) was identified.

Table 2: Monthly AQI Averages

Month	Group Average AQI	Highest Average AQI	Lowest Average AQI
January	29.67	38.74 (Menomonee South)	36.99 (Harambee)
February	35.93	41.81 (Near Westside)	22.79 (Harambee)
March	29.49	34.89 (Near Westside)	22.60 (Harambee)
April	31.71	39.14 (Rufus King)	26.84 (Harambee)
May	25.06	32.85 (Rufus King)	18.92 (Riverwest)
June	59.56	70.70 (Near Westside)	52.86 (Riverwest)
July	61.59	71.67 (Near Westside)	40.44 (Roosevelt Grove)
August	55.68	65.02 (Near Westside)	37.95 (Roosevelt Grove)
September	44.61	53.77 (Near Westside)	24.90 (Roosevelt Grove)
October	22.81	32.93 (Near Westside)	12.42 (Roosevelt Grove)
November	30.63	36.82 (Menomonee South)	14.05 (Roosevelt Grove)
December	41.88	50.95 (Menomonee South)	15.82 (Roosevelt Grove)

The charts below highlight the five sensors that most often had the best air quality of the group and the five sensors that most often had the worst air quality of the group. The percentage represents the number of the days available for analysis where the sensor had the highest or lowest AQI of the group. The data includes days where ties occurred.

Figure 1: Top 5 Sensors with Highest Percentage of Days with Lowest AQI of All Sensors

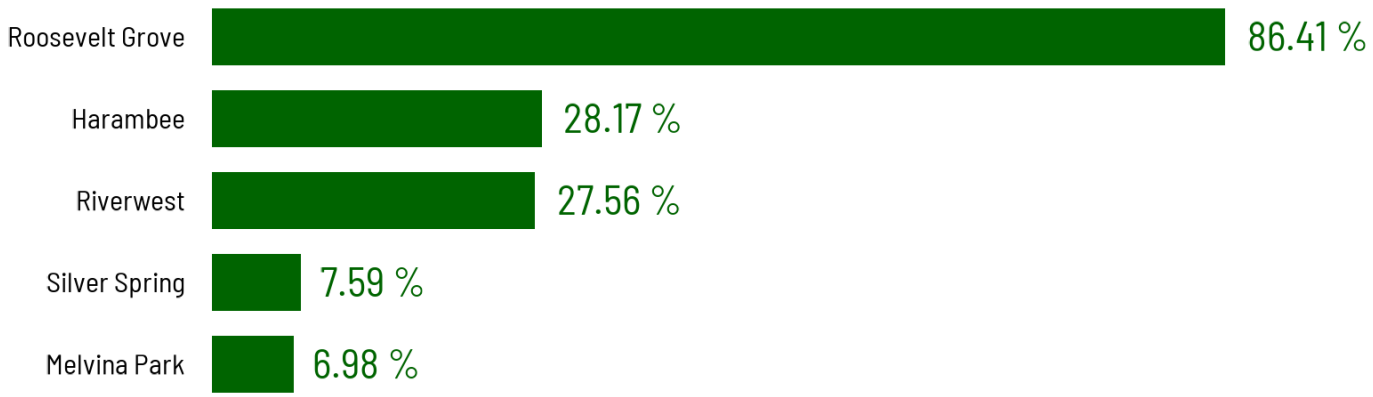
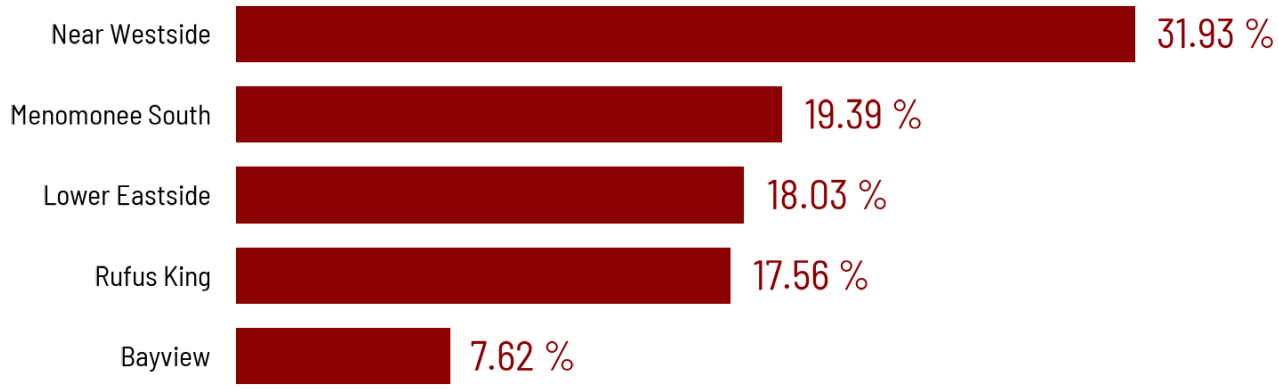


Figure 2: Top 5 Sensors with Highest Percentage of Days with Highest AQI of All Sensors



Based on daily and monthly average AQIs, the sensors that most often had the best air quality were Harambee, Riverwest, and Roosevelt Grove. The sensors that most often had the worst air quality were Near Westside, Menomonee South, Lower Eastside, and Rufus King.

A CLOSER LOOK AT WILDFIRE SMOKE

In 2025, Milwaukee experienced significant smoke pollution from wildfires burning in Canada and western United States. During these events, the particle pollution in Milwaukee is ten to twenty times higher than on a normal summer day. These events cause acute health effects (coughing, irritation, headaches) as well as chronic effects days later (heart attack, stroke, and asthma attacks). Due to climate change, our region is predicted to have more frequent and intense wildfire smoke events. Wildfire smoke may unfortunately become a "new normal" for Wisconsin summers.

22

Days with Air Quality Alerts issued in **Wisconsin**

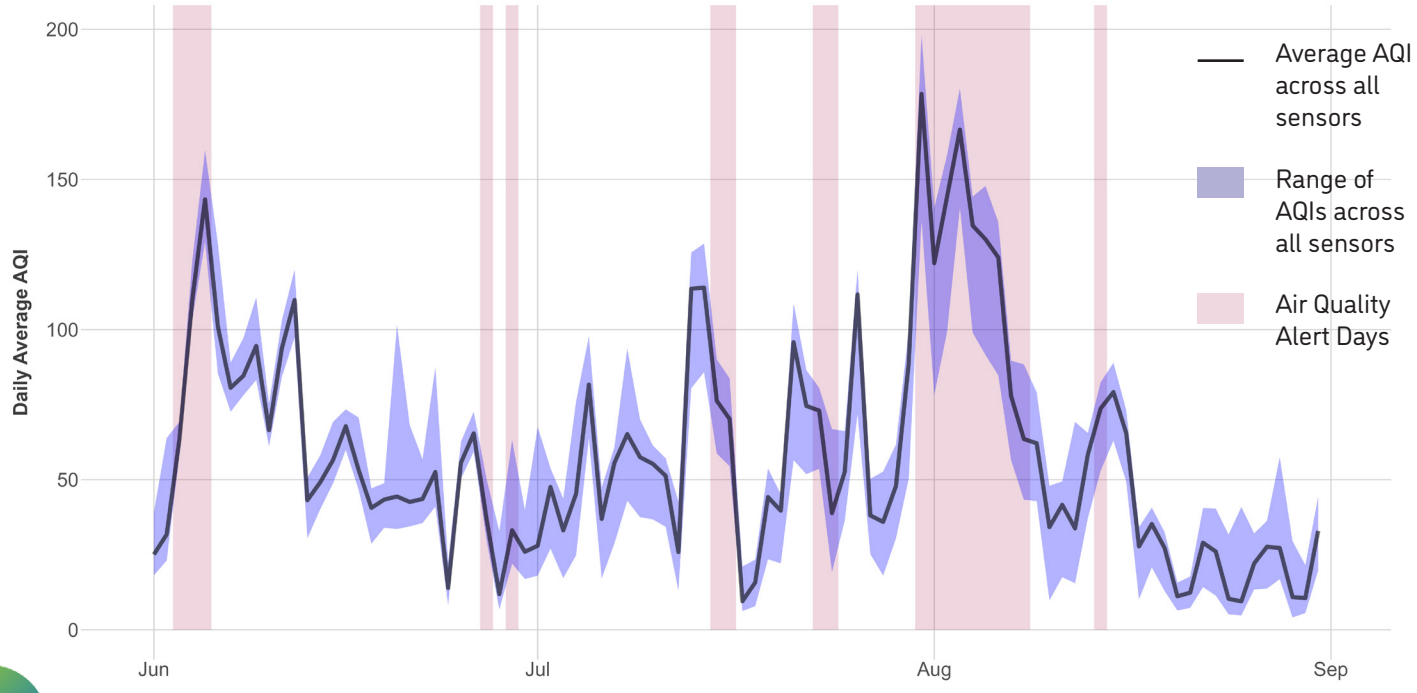
20

Days with Air Quality Alerts issued in **Milwaukee**

Air Quality Alerts (AQAs) are issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The alerts are intended to notify the public when air quality measures are exceeding nationally defined standards, indicating that the air quality could be harmful to the public's health. The DNR issues alerts based on a series of predictive models and analyses.

The neighborhood sensors help up understand what areas of Milwaukee were most impacted by the smoke pollution. The figure below shows the daily AQI average throughout the summer months, with Air Quality Alert days highlighted.

Figure 3: Average AQI across All Sensors for Days with AQAs



While air quality was generally worse across the city on and around Air Quality Alert days, AQI levels varied greatly during many of the wildfire smoke events. This means that smoke pollution impacts areas of the city differently, and some communities experience worse air quality than others.

The table below provides the average daily AQI for each sensor across only Air Quality Alert days (alert days). This helps us identify what areas of the city experienced worse air quality during the wildfire smoke events.

Table 2: Average AQI across Alert Days

Sensor	Average Daily AQI across Alert Days	Number of Alert Days Available for Calculation
Lower Eastside	110.22	17
Near Westside	103.37	20
Rufus King	103.26	20
Menomonee South	103.17	19
Lincoln Creek	103.10	14
Cannon Park	102.69	14
Washington Heights	102.52	19
Piggsville	101.94	14
Harambee	99.7	20
Amani	98.54	20
Havenwoods	98.44	20
Franklin Heights	96.95	20
Silver City	96.73	20
Metcalfe Park	96.38	20
Clarke Square	96.27	20
Walker's Square	94.38	18
Burnham Park	93.87	20
Lindsay Heights	93.15	20
Menomonee North	92.58	20
Riverwest	91.16	20
King Park	90.77	20
Roosevelt Grove	76.35	14
Bayview	70.24	6
Silver Spring	67.95	8

The Grasslyn Manor, Melvina Park, and Williamsburg sensors did not have any AQI readings during the AQA days, and are excluded from this list.

Sensors with Better Air Quality During Wildfire Smoke Events
Across the 20 Air Quality Alert days, **four sensors had the lowest AQI of all sensors - or best air quality - on at least one day** (including tied days*).

Roosevelt Grove	Burnham Park	King Park	Lindsay Heights
14 Days	**4 Days**	**1 Day**	**1 Day**

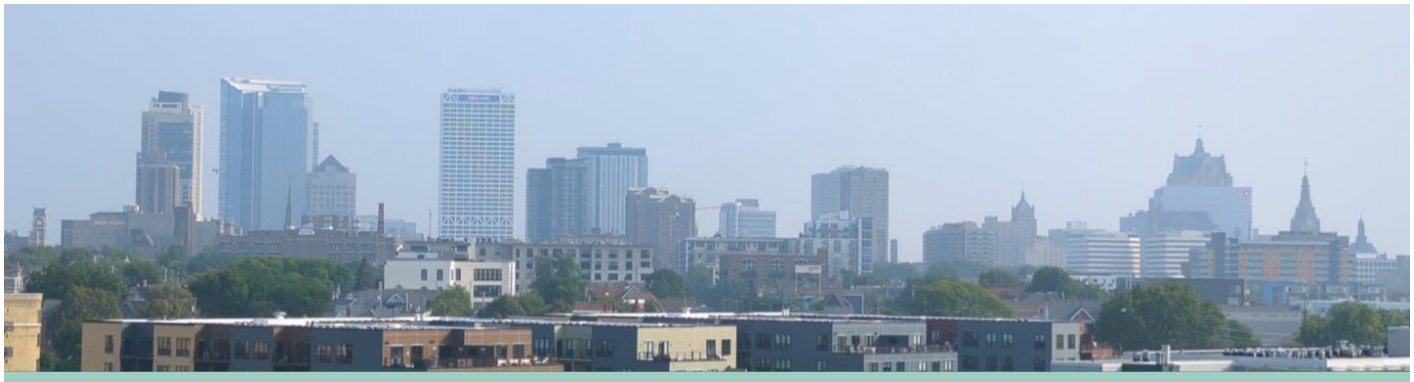
Sensors with Worse Air Quality During Wildfire Smoke Events
Across the 20 Air Quality Alert days, **five sensors had the highest AQI of all sensors - or worst air quality - on at least one day** (including tied days*).

Lower Eastside	Near Westside	Rufus King
8 Days	**5 Days**	**4 Days***

Washington Heights	Amani
3 Days	**1 Day***

While the air quality was poor everywhere, Roosevelt Grove experienced the best air quality during the wildfire smoke events, while Lower Eastside, Near Westside, and Rufus King experienced the worst air quality during the wildfire smoke events.

Comparison: 2024 to 2025
Milwaukee did not experience wildfire smoke events in 2024. Of the 21 sensors analyzed in the 2024 Milwaukee Air Quality Report, 20 had worse annual average AQIs in 2025. On average, the annual AQIs for the 20 sensors were 4.8 points higher in 2025 than 2024.



Follow @mkefreshair on instagram to learn how to protect yourself during wildfire smoke events.

SENSOR SPOTLIGHT

Across all the data and analysis, seven sensors stood out from the rest. The data suggests that Roosevelt Grove, Riverwest, and Harambee had better air quality than other areas of Milwaukee in 2025, while Rufus King, Menomonee South, Near Westside, and Lower Eastside experienced worse air quality than other areas.

Sensors with Better Air Quality than Average

Roosevelt Grove

- Lowest average AQI of the group for every month active
- Had the most days with the best air quality (86% of daily AQI averages)
- Overall average AQI is 18.9 points below the group average
- Better air quality during wildfire smoke events (29 points below the group average AQI)

Riverwest

- 11 out of 12 months had lower AQI than the group average
- 2 months had the best air quality overall
- 28% of days had the best air quality of the group
- Overall average AQI is 5 points below the group average

Harambee

- 9 out of 12 months had lower AQI than the group average
- 4 months had the best air quality overall
- 28% of days had the best air quality of the group
- Overall average AQI is 5 points lower than the group average

Sensors with Worse Air Quality than Average

Near Westside

- Every month had higher AQI than the group average
- 7 months had the worst air quality overall
- 32% of days had the worst air quality of the group
- Overall average AQI is 5 points higher than the group average

Menomonee South

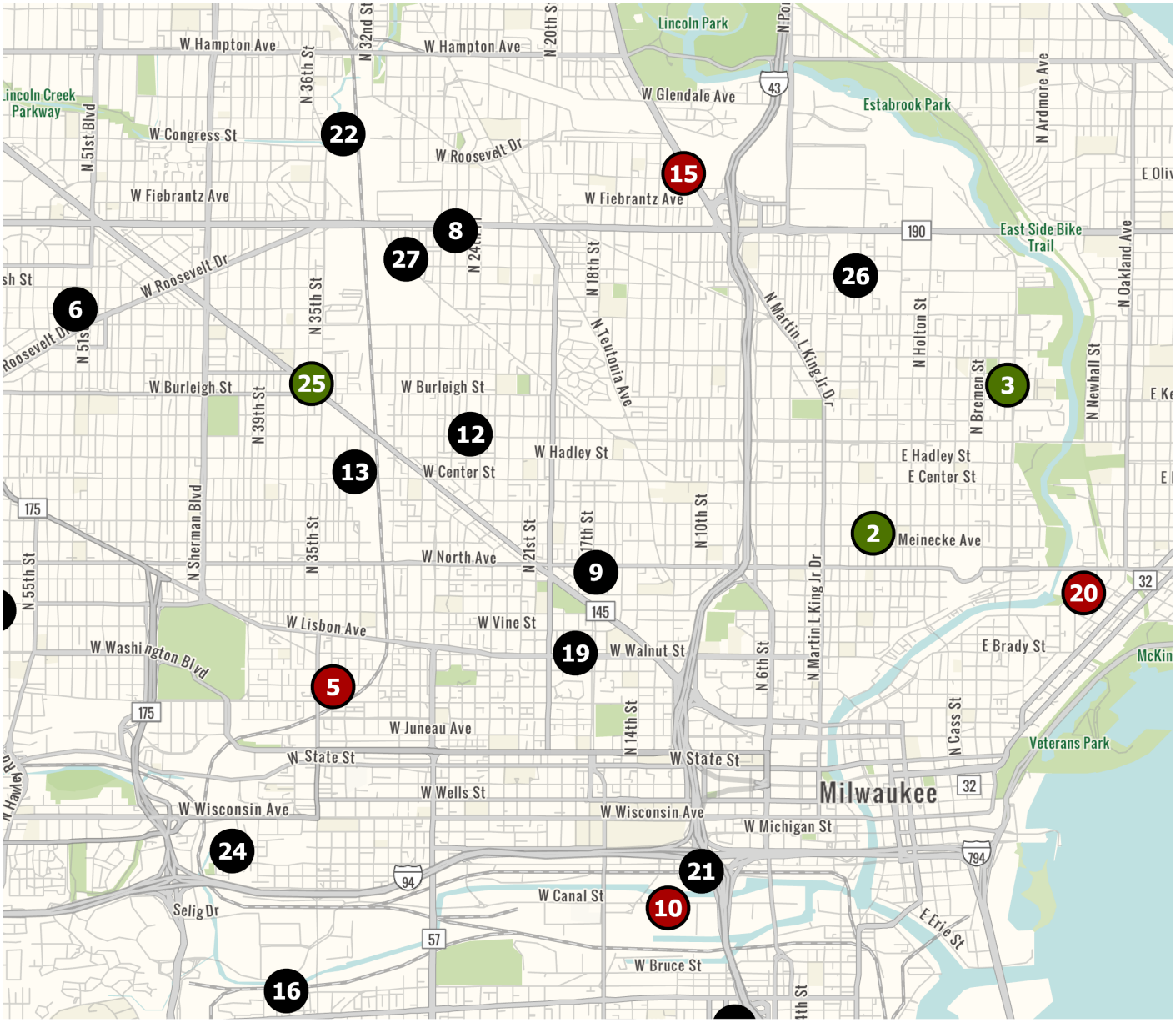
- Every month had higher AQI than the group average
- 3 months had the worst air quality overall
- 19% of days had the worst air quality of the group
- Overall average AQI is 5 points higher than the group average

Rufus King

- Every month had higher AQI than the group average
- 2 months had the worst air quality overall
- 18% of days had the worst air quality of the group
- Overall average AQI is 5 points higher than the group average
- Worse air quality during wildfire smoke events (7 points above the group average AQI)

Lower Eastside

- Every month had higher AQI than the group average
- 18% of days had the worst air quality of the group
- Worse air quality during wildfire smoke events (8 points above the group average AQI)



Monitor Location (Launch Date)

- 5 Near Westside (12/2022)
- 10 Menomonee S (6/2023)
- 15 Rufus King (3/2024)
- 20 Lower Eastside (8/2024)
- 2 Harambee (5/2021)
- 3 Riverwest (11/2022)
- 25 Roosevelt Grove (7/2025)

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

This 2025 MKE FreshAir Collective Air Quality Report highlights the importance of neighborhood-level environmental data in identifying and addressing health inequities in Milwaukee. Our findings demonstrate that air quality varies greatly across a single city and reinforce the importance of real-time, accurate, and local monitoring — particularly in communities historically overburdened by environmental hazards. Through this work, we aim to ensure that residents have access to timely, actionable data to help protect their health and advocate for cleaner, safer environments.

Looking ahead to 2026, we have several exciting iniatives planned:

- Expanding our sensor network with three near-reference grade sensors, which will measure nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and ozone (O_3) alongside particulate matter. This will provide valuable insights into pollutants that have significant health impacts but are often under-monitored at the community level.
- Growing our indoor air monitoring initiatives in homes, community gathering spaces, childcare centers, and public facilities to address the often-overlooked issue of indoor air quality - especially during severe air quality alert days.
- Advocating for stronger, equity-centered environmental health policies informed by our growing network of hyper-local data, like the environmental and health benefits of anti-idling practices.

HOW CAN YOU CHECK YOUR LOCAL AIR QUALITY?

1) Download the AirVisual app by IQAir on your phone to access the real-time air quality data

2) Follow your neighborhood sensors directly through the app, to track the air quality wherever you live, work, and play

3) Get notifications when air quality gets unhealthy or worse

See your air quality right now: bit.ly/MKE-AQI

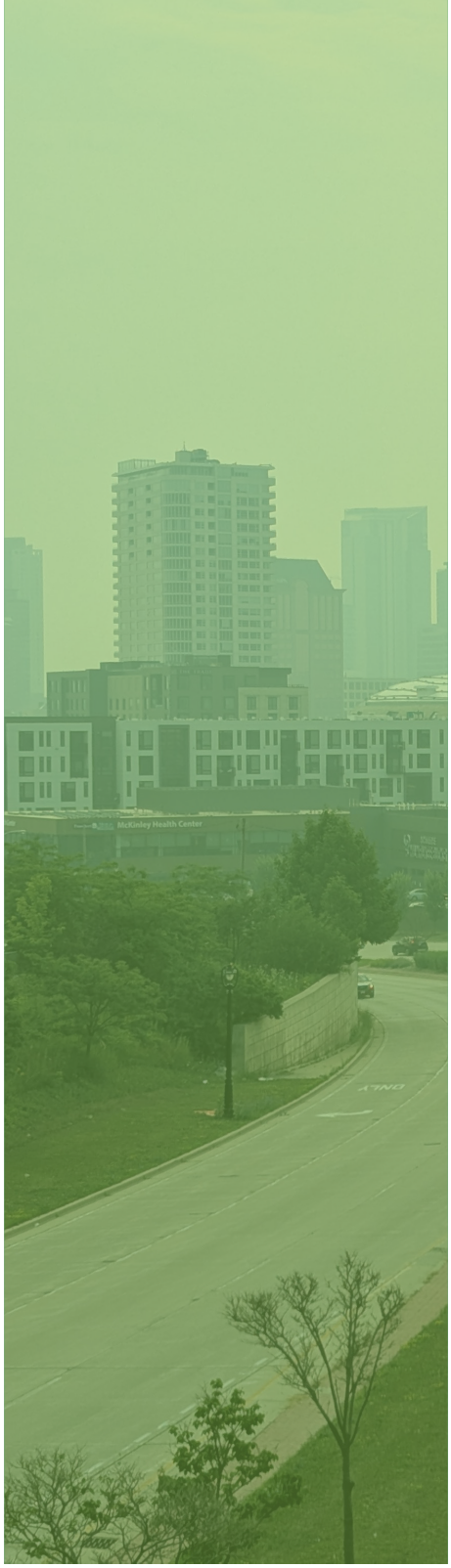

MKE
FreshAir
Collective

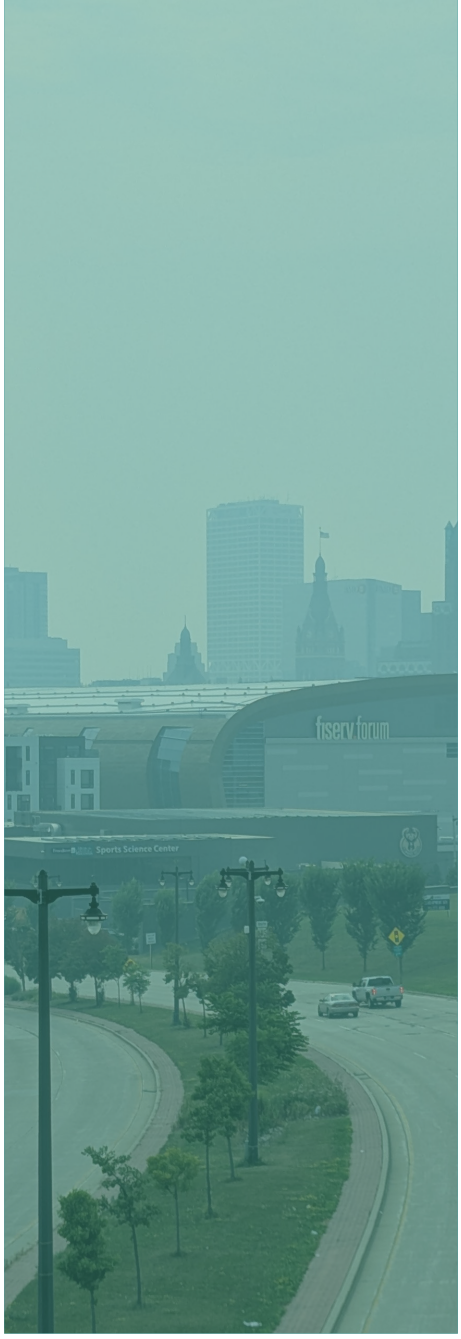

834
21
7:39 PM
41
65°
WALNUT WAY - INDOORS
MKE FRESHAIR - LINDSAY HEI...
21
41
IQAir


WE
ARE IN THIS
TOGETHER
FRED KAEMS


MKE FRESH AIR
COLLECTIVE, INC.
ESTD
2019
CLEAN AIR IS A
HUMAN RIGHT


Diverse





MKE FreshAir Collective

DATA YOU CAN USE