Reducing Alternative Transportation Barriers to Federally Managed Lands in Southwest Philadelphia and Delaware County, PA

John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum



Authorized by Congress in 1972, the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum is America's first Urban National Wildlife Refuge.

Currently the refuge is 993 acres in size, of which 200 acres are Pennsylvania's last remaining freshwater tidal marsh.

Heinz is an important stopover for migrating birds along the Atlantic flyway and supports a diverse array of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife.

Providing environmental education to urban youth, as well as conservation awareness and outdoor experiences, are major refuge goals.

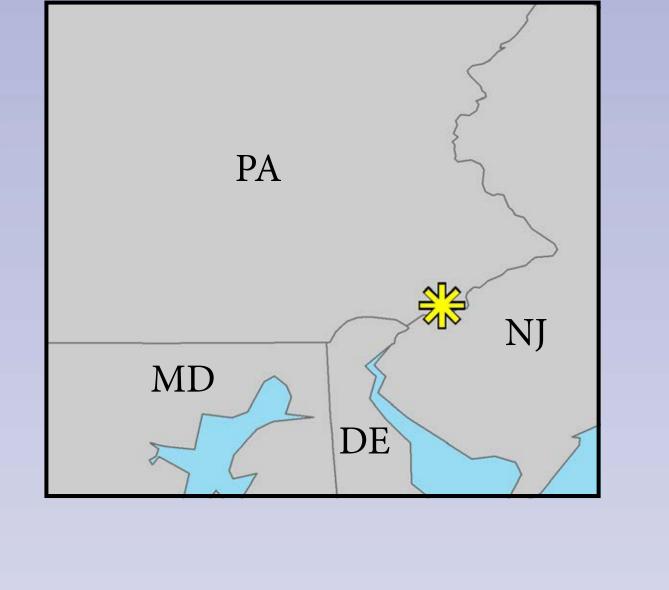
The refuge spans Philadelphia and Delaware Counties.

- Philadelphia Neighborhood: ▼Eastwick
- Delaware County Municipalities:
- ➡ Tinicum Township
- Folcroft Borough
- Darby Township

The refuge is surrounded, and in places bordered, by large transportation and industrial uses. These include:

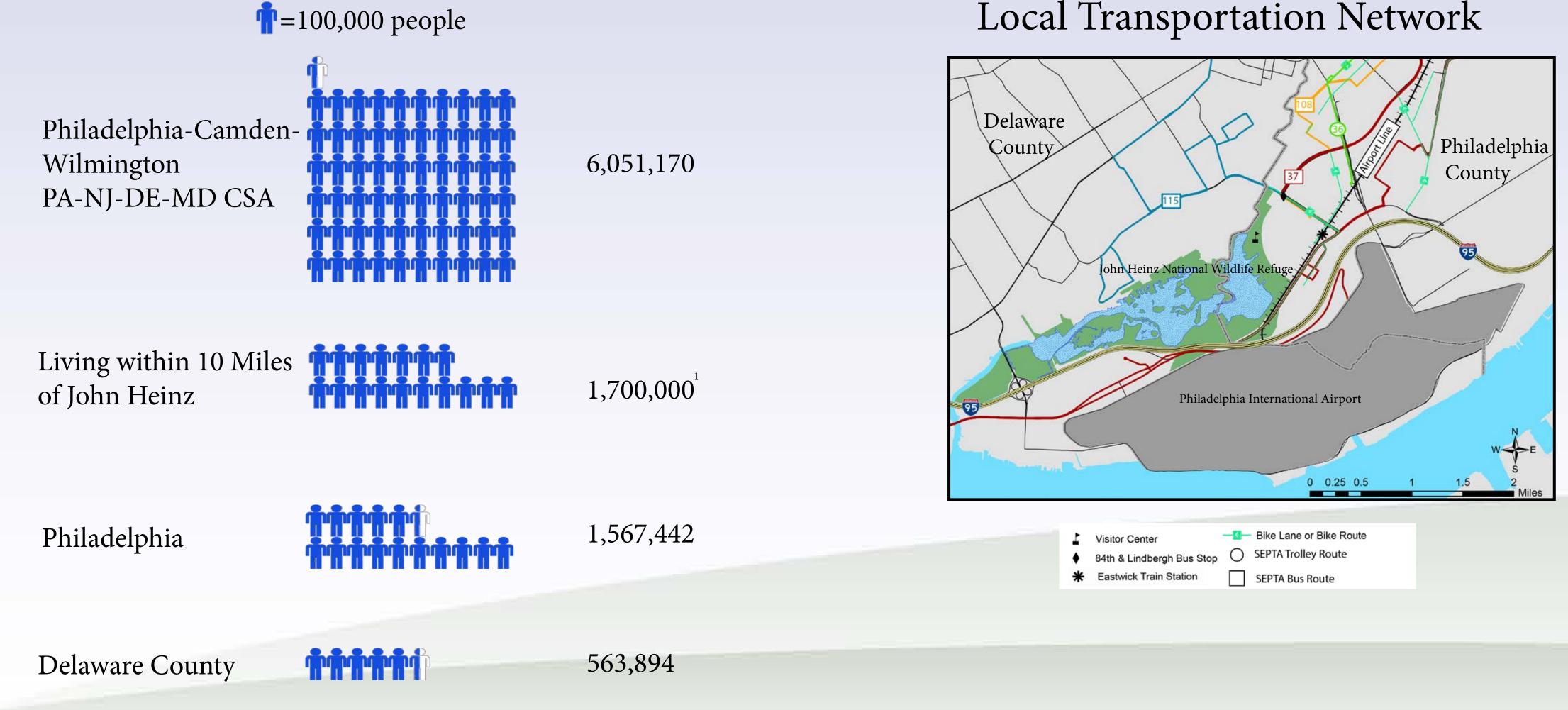
- Philadelphia International Airport
- Interstate 95
- Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site

Local Population (2015)





Local Transportation Network



Urban Conditions in Southwest Philadelphia and Delaware County

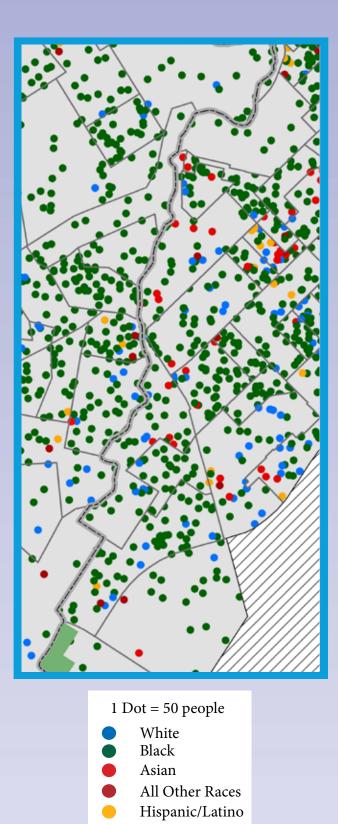
The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) recognizes that urban areas present a strategic opportunity to reach new audiences that are currently not visiting nor aware of the Service. Refuges that are in the heart of where the people are located provide the best opportunity to engage new audiences. Building this constituency ultimately benefits the entire Refuge System and the broader conservation community by nurturing new supporters.

John Heinz has focused on the Kingsessing, Eastwick, and Paschalville neighborhoods of southwest Philadelphia.

The demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of these neighborhoods are often different from typical FWS visitors, as well as from other Philadelphia and Delaware County Residents:

There are more people of color High school graduation

	Phila.	Del.Co.
White	45.1%	70.6%
Black	44.0%	21.4%
Asian	7.4%	5.6%
All Other	3.5%	2.4%
Hispanic/		
Latino	14.0%	3.7%



// No Data



rate is low

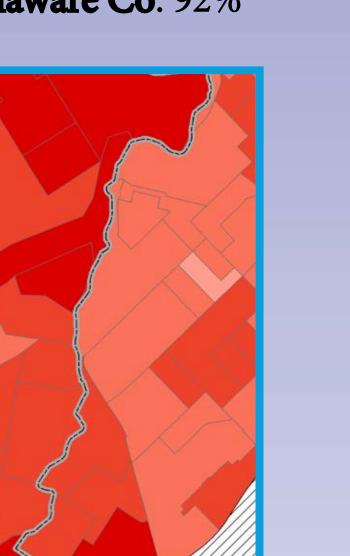


61-80.9%

82-92.9%

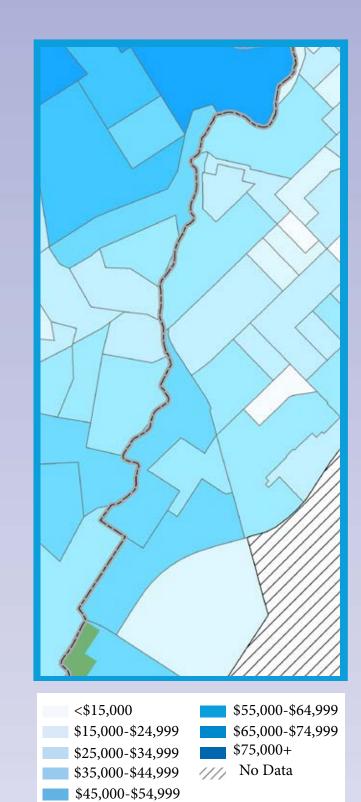
93-100%

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Median household income is low

Median Household Income Philadelphia: \$37,640 **Delaware Co**: \$64,174



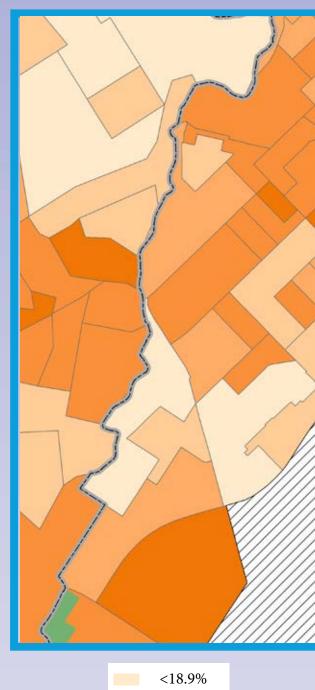
Fewer people own vehicles

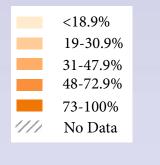
Number of Vehicles per Household Philadelphia: 0.67 **Delaware Co**: 0.89

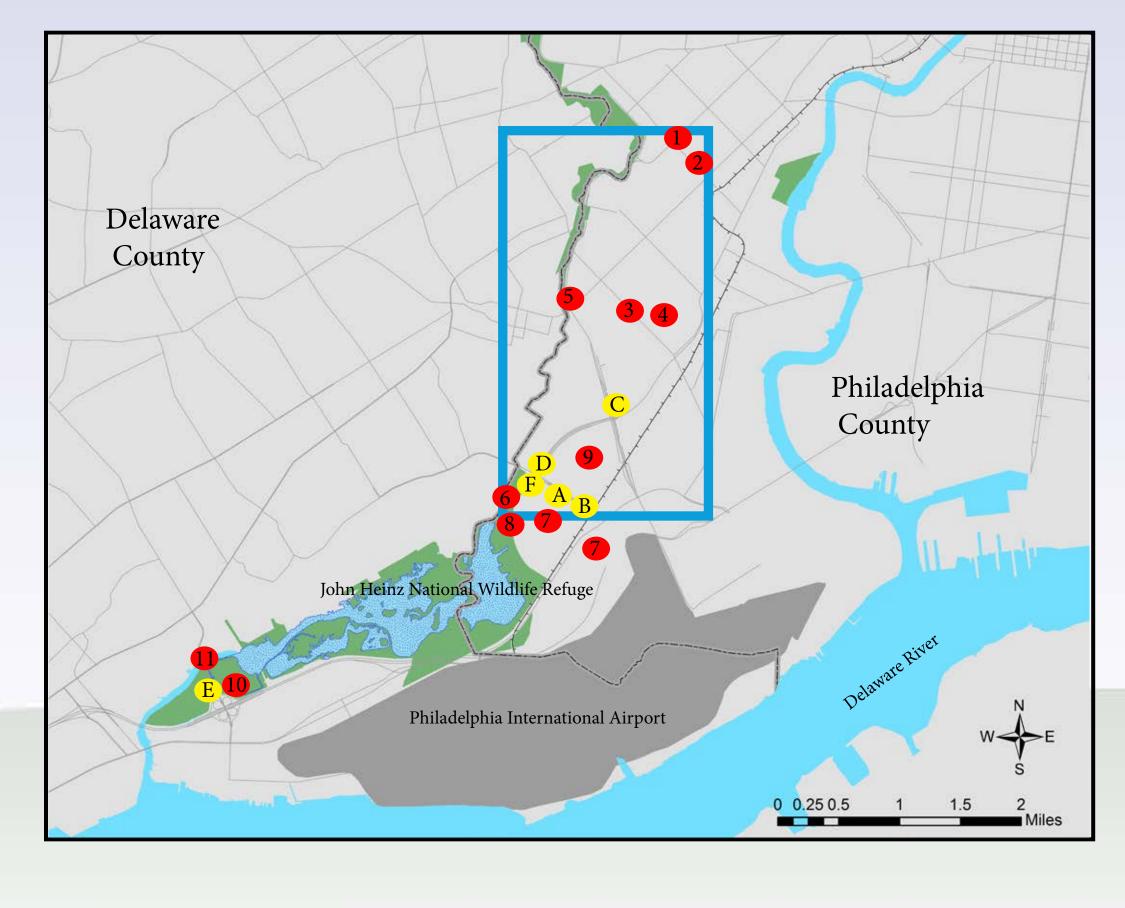


Many people rent their homes

Percent Rental, Occupied Housing Units Philadelphia: 47% Delaware Co: 30%





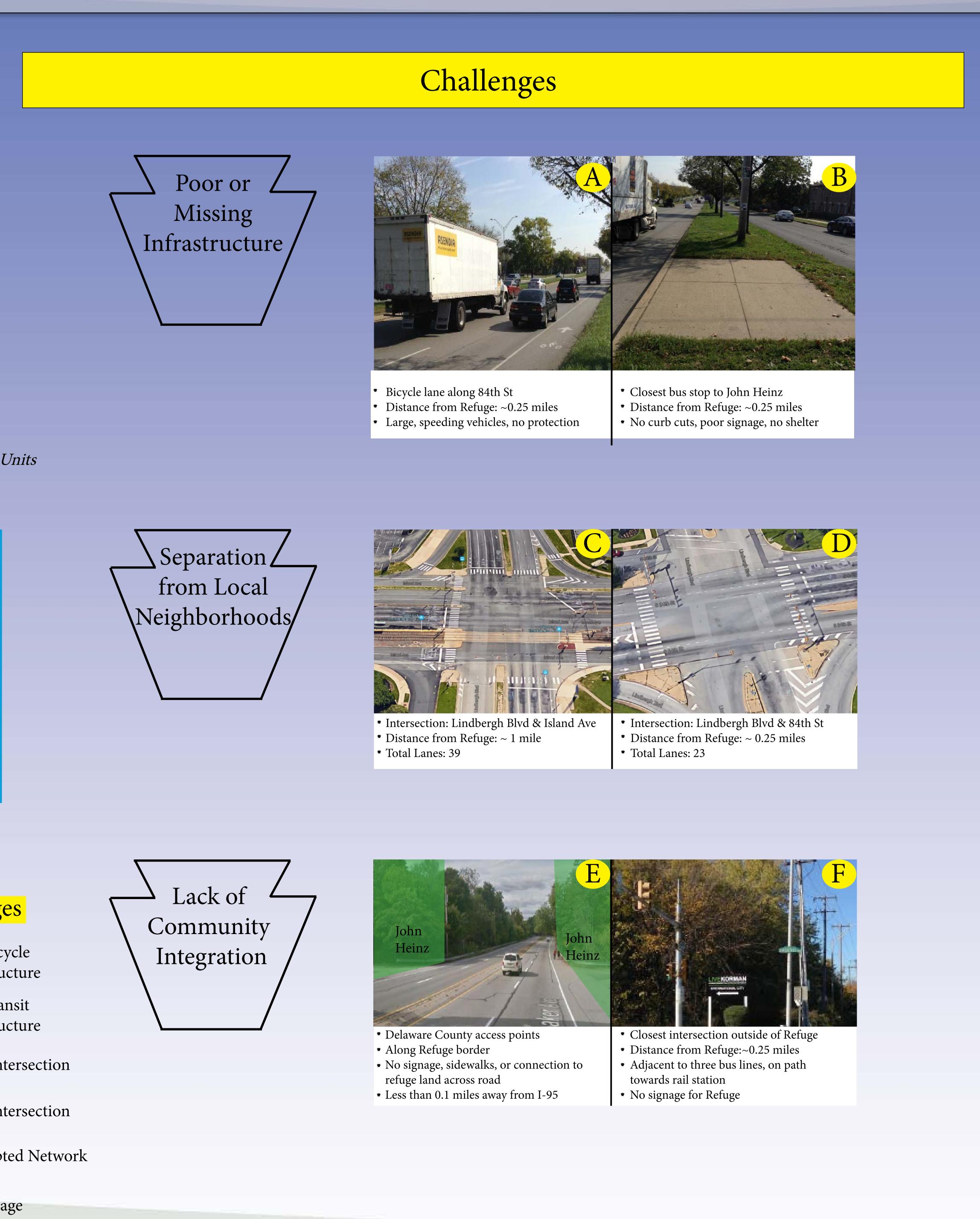


John Heinz Transportation Projects & Challenges

1	Unity Garden	A	Poor Bicy Infrastruc
2	Cecil St. Garden	11	Infrastruc
3	Work with transportation network companies	B	Poor Tran Infrastruc
4	John Heinz Refuge Shuttle		Infrastruc
5	Cobbs Creek Connector Trail	C	Large Inte
6	New pedestrian/cyclist entrance	D	Large Inte
7	Integrate with nearest SEPTA stops		Large me
8	Install accommodating bicycle infrastructure	E	Interrupte
9	Participate in community planning processes		
10	Redesign PA-420 parking lots	F	No Signag
11	Promote new trail during PA-420 bridge redesign		
	= Focus Area		

Author: Dan Brooks **Public Lands Transportation Scholar** Unit: John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum Location: Philadelphia, PA

The Public Lands Transportation Scholars program provides public lands with transportation professionals for six to 12 months who assist in transportation planning and implementation to help public lands reduce traffic, congestion and pollution while improving visitor experiences. These programs are designed to place individuals with substantial knowledge and expertise in transportation planning and related areas. See footer for a list of sponsors.



Sources

Maps: ESRI, PASDA, City of Philadelphia, SEPTA, USFWS, DVRPC

Population: 2015 US Census Quick Facts, except (1): US Fish and Wildlife Service Race/Ethnicity: 2015 Census Quick Facts Percent High School Graduates, 25+: 2014 ACS 5 Year Estimates Median Household Income: 2014 ACS 5 Year Estimates Vehicles per household: 2014 ACS 5 Year Estimates Housing Tenure: 2014 ACS 5 Year Estimates

Google Streetview All Photos: Dan Brooks

Cecil Street Garden design courtesy Philadelphia University

What is the Transportation Scholars Program?

Potential Solutions

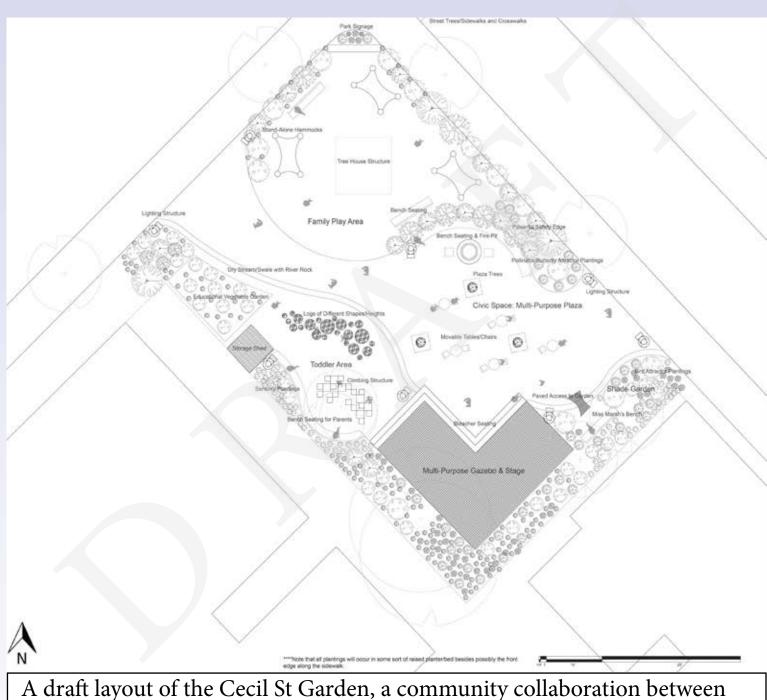
- Creation of the Cobbs Creek Connector Trail, an extension of an existing multiuse pathway from West Philadelphia to John
- Installation of important bicycle facilities at the Refuge, such as bicycle racks.
- Increased pedestrian signage to facilitate pedestrian access from the nearest transit locations.
- Creation of a new entrance path, allowing a separated route for pedestrians and bicyclists to the visitor center and other Refuge amenities.

- Development of a free, community shuttle that connects southwest Philadelphia residents with community resources and local green spaces. The shuttle ran as a pilot program over several weeks in October 2016.
- Create potential partnerships with transportation network companies to increase the use of ridesharing, particularly from neighborhoods further from the Refuge or with fewer transportation options.
- Work with PennDOT and local townships to create a multiuse path for safe pedestrian and cyclist access via Delaware County.
- ♥ Work with SEPTA to better integrate John Heinz with existing transit options.
- Work with the local community to identify issues and projects important to them.
- Increase projects with local partners that share similar missions focusing on open space, conservation and environmental education (e.g. Cecil St. Community Garden).
- Become full participants in local planning initiatives that involve southwest Philadelphia neighborhoods or nearby Delaware County.
- Promote John Heinz and increase outreach through schools and other local community organizations.



Recently installed, US Fish and Wildlife Service-specific, bicycle racks by the Refuge visitor center.





John Heinz and several local partners. Courtesy Philadelphia University



Western





U.S. Departmen⁻ Federal Highway Administration