

# Shell

Summer, Always On





# Deer Park

## A Letter from an Unofficial Cowboy

To the residents of Deer Park,

Thank you for welcoming me with open arms and freely giving me your thoughts on the nuances of the refineries that coexist with your community. Walking into this project, I was a concerned Texan. And, in its own right, I still am.

However, hearing a common thread between folks in Deer Park of appreciating the jobs that Shell and other refineries provide to the community reminded me of my roots in Kentucky. I was born in a small city in the tri-state area where refineries thrived and provided economic stability to those who lived there, and thus created reliance on these companies. My grandpa was one of those people.

How concerning that refineries have such a presence and hold over the economic well-being of citizens that may not even have the privilege of choice.

But two things can be true at once. Shell can provide jobs that we can all agree are necessary and good, and they can pollute our air, soil, and water. They can contribute to the destruction of our Earth for the sake of profit.

And so then, what is the solution?

The first step is accountability. I hope this project acts as a starting point for that.



## **Gulf Spills, Superfund Contribution, and the Future is not their Problem**

In 2016, Shell's offshore Brutus platform released 2,100 barrels of crude into the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, roughly equivalent to 88,200 gallons. At the time, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) observed dolphins swimming and birds diving in and around the slick. This was not the first time that Shell had contributed to water pollution. Along the Houston ship channel, you can find the Patrick Bayou Superfund site where contaminated runoff containing dioxin and PCB pollution inhabits. While it's most likely from historic industrial activities, Shell was found to be a major contributor. A spokesman for Shell stated, "Our focus is on the safety of our people and the community." However, currently, Shell has sold its Deer Park refinery to PEMEX, which is not surprising since they seem to be "divesting of most of the really energy-intensive emitters," according to their own Steve Leshner. Therefore, whatever happens in Deer Park in the future, it is no longer Shell's responsibility.

*A Superfund site is a location that has been contaminated by hazardous waste and identified by the Environmental Protection Agency as a candidate for cleanup because it poses a risk to human health and/or the environment.*

Sources: EcoWatch, NOAA Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program, New Republic, New York Times, AP News

*"I remember playing football at Deer Park Freshman Campus. You literally saw and smelt (and inhaled) their smokestacks on the other side of 225 from the field."  
-Reddit User bkiantx*





## **Record Profits that make Environmental Fines a Breeze**

Shell reported their highest-ever annual profit at \$40 billion for 2022, more than double their earnings in 2021. Since 2000, Shell has accumulated 288 environmental violations which has resulted in fines totaling \$755,834,078. That is roughly only 1.9% of their 2022 profits.

## **Commitment to Community**

Shell commits to giving back to the communities that provide them with a labor force and land. In 2022, they showed their continued support for the Deer Park community by committing \$2 million for public projects. This amount is equivalent to 0.005% of their 2022 profits and 17% of the \$11.5 million salary of former CEO Ben van Beurden, who retired at the end of the year.”

*Sources: CNBC, The New York Times, Reuters, Good Jobs First Violation*





Deer Park

I wish for more transparency regarding chemical content and exposure levels.

Funding for surrounding communities should be evaluated based on city needs, and raised if plausible.

Shell Chemicals at Deer Park produces many chemicals that can be found listed on their website. High-value chemicals, such as ethylene, benzene, and propylene, are responsible for some of the highest shares of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, right behind ammonia production. These chemicals are key products at the Shell Chemical plant in Deer Park.

## Deer Park

me and my mom have been working here at Subway for a couple years. While being here we are so close to the plants and the smell is really strong of the chemicals. We gotten so use to the smell it would be nice to have more program to help the community



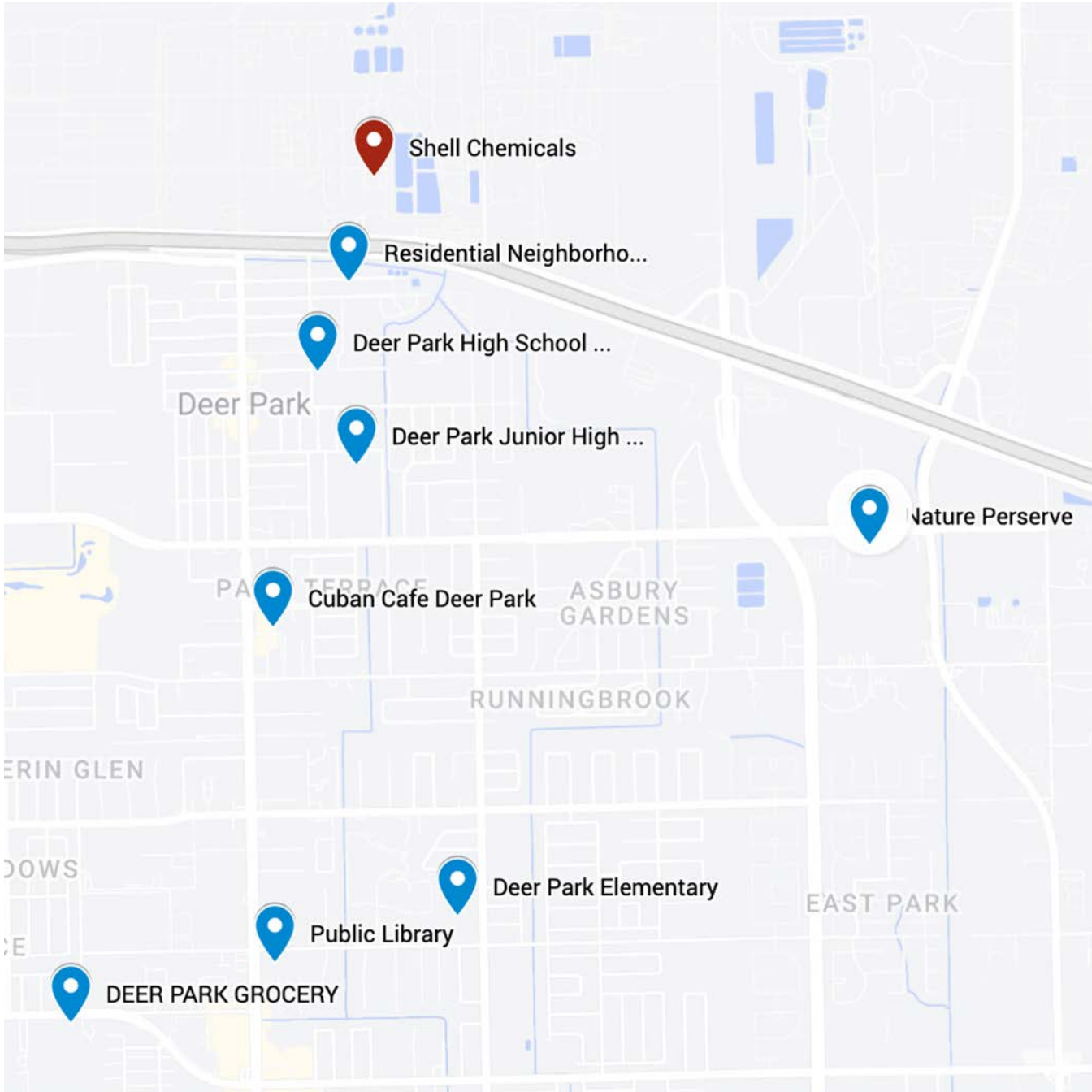
A collection of burning chemicals and harmful pollutants being released into the air can cause a strong smell, one of which is benzene. In 2019, Shell ordered a shelter-in-place due to low levels of benzene being detected. In 2020, it was reported that Shell was operating at 23% above the established threshold over a one-year period.

*"I grew up in Pasadena and Deer Park. The air quality was crap. You could smell the difference. There's also a stark rise in your chances of getting cancer just for living in the area. Occasionally my school had to "Shelter In Place" because a plant exploded, the shockwave of which nearly broke our windows out of their frames."*

*-Reddit User UrbanMinotaur*

**Becoming Net Zero  
by Growing Gas  
Business by 20%**





Shell Chemicals



Residential Neighborho...



Deer Park High School ...



Deer Park

Deer Park Junior High ...



Nature Preserve



PA

Cuban Cafe Deer Park

ASBURY GARDENS

RUNNINGBROOK

ERIN GLEN

DOWNS

E



Deer Park Elementary

EAST PARK



Public Library



DEER PARK GROCERY