

FAIRMOUNT WATER WORKS

DISCOVER ♦ CONNECT ♦ ACT

Hours of Operation:
Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Connect with us online:



@FairmountWW

640 Water Works Drive
Philadelphia, PA 19130
Phone: 215.685.0723
Fax: 215.685.0718
E-mail: info@fairmountwaterworks.org

Tour Information:
tours@fairmountwaterworks.org

Education Inquiries:
education@fairmountwaterworks.org

Facility Rental:
events@fairmountwaterworks.org

Volunteer Opportunities:
volunteer@fairmountwaterworks.org

Fairmount Water Works



The nation's first public water supply system & one of Philadelphia's first global tourist attractions, dedicated exciting and showing people how to better stewards of our precious water resources.

Tel: 215.685.0723

Discover. Connect. Act.

About Fairmount Water Works

Excitement about the Fairmount Water Works is everywhere—in the galleries, the theater, special exhibits, and by the river's edge. People of all ages are invited to join us in discovering the wonders of water in our world.

Housed in one of Philadelphia's most recognizable landmarks, Fairmount Water Works (FWW) is dedicated to fostering stewardship of shared water resources by encouraging informed decisions about land and water use. What makes FWW unique among environmental centers is its location at the river's edge and in the center of the fifth largest city in the nation.

Fairmount Water Works is the nation's first urban water supply system. It served as a pumping station from 1815-1909, providing water to Philadelphia residents and businesses.

Since opening its doors in 2003 as an environmental education center, FWW has served as a destination for more than 500,000 visitors.

Partnerships

Partnerships are critical to our success. Funds are raised through the Fund for the Water Works, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that received private donations. Our generous supporters include:

Philadelphia Water Department

Delaware River Port Authority

PA Coastal Zone Management Program

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area

Environmental Protection Agency

William Penn Foundation

Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation

Faculty at the Villanova Center for the Advancement of Sustainability in Engineering



Wonder of the World

Fairmount Water Works was one of the wonders of the world when it opened almost two hundred years ago, and it still is! Charles Dickens and Mark Twain are among those who have been amazed by this engineering marvel.

“Philadelphia is most bountifully provided with fresh water, which is showered and jerked about and turned on and poured off everywhere. The Water-Works, which are on a height near the city, are no less ornamental than useful, being tastefully laid out as a public garden, and kept in the best and neatest order”

**Charles Dickens,
American Notes, 1842**



Watersheds, Rain Drops & Rubber Ducks

Did you know that you drink the same water that the dinosaurs drank? You can learn lots of amazing things about water when you visit Fairmount Water Works. Exciting interactive exhibits will enable you to:

- See fish and animals swim through our fishway
- Make it rain
- Follow your flush through the city
- Send a friend an electronic postcard
- Peek inside a 4-foot water main

Education Programs

Tens of thousands of teachers and students have visited and participated in our unique programs created to meld the science, technology, engineering, art & architecture and math (STEAM) behind providing drinking water, protecting our source water and within a regional urban watershed. Our programs are suitable for all grades and meet both PA and NJ educational standards. Our programs are interdisciplinary and include:

- Water in Our World (K-12)
- Green City, Clean Waters: Following Nature’s Lead (K-12)
- Land and Water: A Delicate Balance (3-6)
- Streams to Sewers: Building a City Infrastructure (6-8)
- Seeing is Believing: A Drop in the Bucket(6-12)
- Environmental Justice: A Historical Perspective (7-12)
- Global Water Action: 21st Century Solution (1-12)

Lessons are two hours long and have a hands-on component; each lesson can be adapted to any age. Sign up for one lesson or for a series. Free to students in the City of Philadelphia. Suggested donation between \$8 and \$10 per student outside the city limits.

Professional development workshops for environmental educators and online classroom activities are offered throughout the year. Our newest curriculum, “Understanding the Urban Watershed”, provides students with the broadest view of the development of urban water delivery systems and help them become active participants in 21st-century solutions to urban water issues.

Programs for Adults

We also offer guided tours of the landmark and its surroundings that explore its past, present, and future impact. We encourage you to visit our online events calendar for the latest special events, tours, and speakers’ series.

Scheduling

To schedule a school or adult program, please call 215-685-0723. Tours of our treatment facilities can also be scheduled.



Volunteer Opportunities

From the wide array of water-themed educational programs and hands-on activities, indoor and outdoor tours, day-to-day visitor services, and even occasional grounds clean-up and gardening assistance, volunteers are critical to the advancement of our work.



Facility Rental

Our indoor space offers a truly unique way to host your next event. While our facility does not lend itself to events with a dance floor or sit-down dining (e.g., weddings), we can accommodate networking/social receptions, lectures, seminars, exhibits, fundraisers – even photo shoots.

