

Visitor Guide

Hours / Admission

Tuesday – Saturday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Sunday: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Closed on Mondays & Holidays.

Admission is free. Donations are appreciated.

ADA Accessible.

TEL. (215) 685-0723

www.FairmountWaterWorks.org

PHILADELPHIA
WATER
— DEPARTMENT —

FAIRMOUNT
WATER
WORKS



A detailed black and white engraving of the Fairmount Water Works in Philadelphia. The main building is a long, classical-style structure with a central portico supported by columns. Behind it, a hillside is covered with trees and a winding path leads up to a smaller building with a dome. In the foreground, a large body of water reflects the sky and the building. A small figure is visible in the water. A large teal circle is overlaid on the top right of the image, containing the title text.

A BRIEF HISTORY

For more than 200 years, the Fairmount Water Works (FWW) has been a leading symbol of technological innovation, and a cultural destination. It operated as a pumping station from 1815-1909, an aquarium from 1911 to 1962, and as the Kelly Natatorium (pool) until 1972. Today, FWW is an award-winning leader in urban environmental education, and serves as Philadelphia Water's public education destination. The Fairmount Water Works has continually found ways of telling the story of our connection with water through: interactive, user-friendly exhibits and programs about water in our world; out-of-school time programs for all ages; weekend hands-on science programs for families; and guided tours of the landmark and its surroundings that explore its past, present, and future impact.

Historic engraving of the Fairmount Water Works

GUIDED TOURS



We offer guided tours that explore the past, present, and future impact of this national historic landmark and its surroundings. Here are just a few tours that reinforce Philadelphia's story of ingenuity and beauty.

- **River Reimagined:** After a brief tour of the Fairmount Water Works, stroll through the beautifully landscaped South Garden, and along the Schuylkill Banks for a 1.5 mile walk to the Walnut Street dock to board a boat for a one-hour narrated cruise.
- **Hills of the Wissahickon:** T romp the wooded valley of the Wissahickon and Monoshone Creeks, and learn the history, engineering, and ecology of several special sites. Your guide will put all these sites into a context of the larger Schuylkill River watershed and the urban water use cycle.
- **Falling Waters of the Schuylkill:** Choose from one of four fascinating Schuylkill River natural and historic sites and we will customize a walking tour for your group of 6 - 15 people. Learn about the connection of the original Schuylkill Navigation dams with the urban water cycle locally, and with the City of Philadelphia's landmark water system.



Guided tour of the Water Works.

What is a Watershed?

A watershed describes an area of land that contains a common set of streams and rivers that all drain into a single larger body of water, such as a larger river, a lake or an ocean.



Go to www.fairmountwaterworks.org to find out what watershed you live in!



Students learn the importance of clean water.

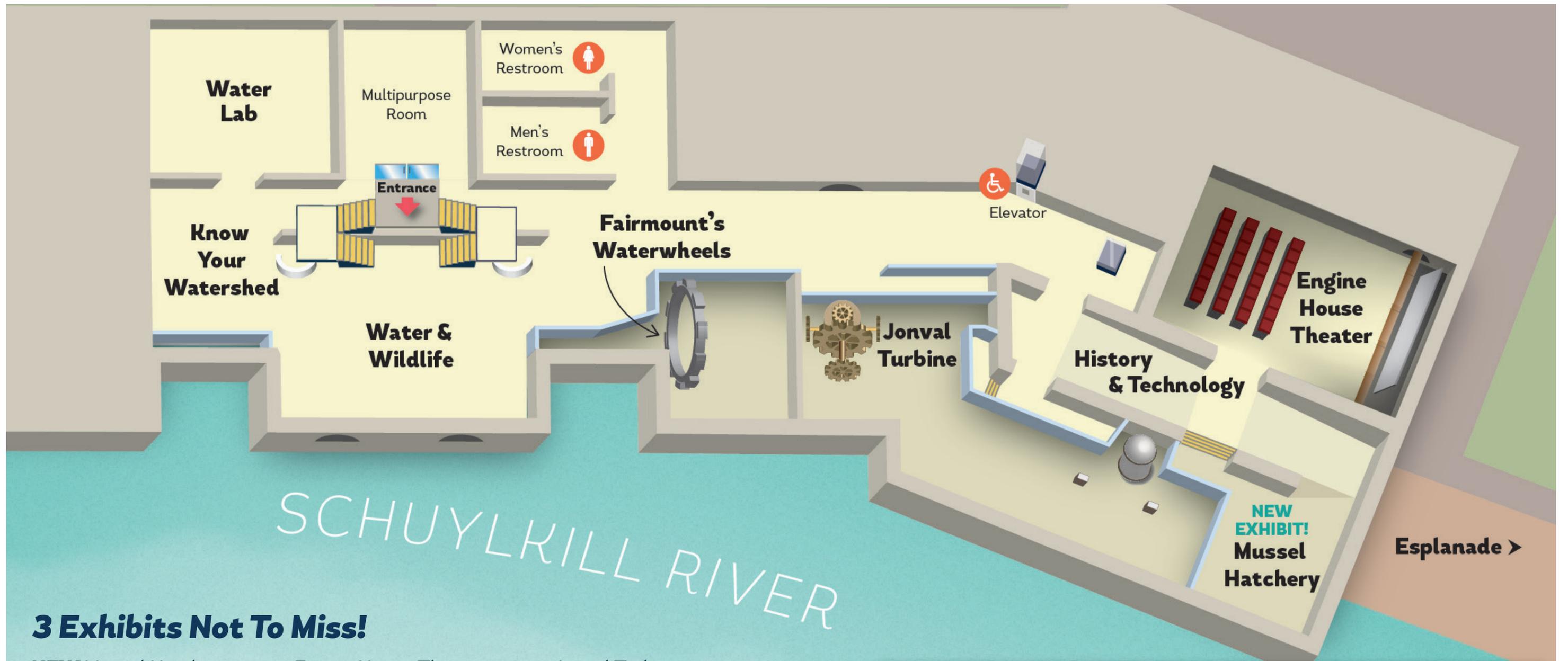


Science Saturdays Activity

SCIENCE SATURDAYS

Drop in every Saturday between 2–4 PM, and together, we'll explore different aspects of our environment during fun and interactive sessions in our water lab. Visit our website for monthly Science Saturday themes!





3 Exhibits Not To Miss!

NEW Mussel Hatchery

Celebrate our latest inspiration, freshwater mussels!



Engine House Theater

Watch a movie about the history of Philadelphia and the role that the Water Works played.



Jonval Turbine

The Jonval Turbine offered improved power and efficiency at the Water Works. Parts of the original 1851 turbine, nine feet in diameter, survive in this room.



Water Works Campus Map

