

Visitor Guide

Hours / Admission

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

Closed on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, & Holidays.

Admission is free. Donations are appreciated.

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 buildings. 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, **Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center (FWWIC)** is an award-winning leader in urban environmental education, and serves as Philadelphia Water's public education destination. The FWWIC 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/HANDS-ON PROGRAMS

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.

- **Exploring & Kayaking in Our Urban Watershed:** After exploring the Schuylkill River at Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center, stroll through the beautifully landscaped South Garden, and along the Schuylkill Banks for a 1.5 mile walk to the Walnut Street dock to get in kayaks and travel to FWW and back on the river!
- **Fairmount Water Works & Boathouse Row:** Tour Fairmount Water Works to learn how the innovation and technology of Philadelphia's water supply system was responsible for the growth of rowing as an important form of recreation in Philadelphia and how this led to the development of the iconic Boathouse Row..
- **Other tours:** Check out our website with the QR code on the next page or follow us on social media to stay abreast of our offerings. Historic Preservation Tours, tours celebrating a special moment in FWW history, Venice Island tours in Manayunk and tours connected to curated Art Shows are examples of tours offered throughout the year.



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.



Find out what watershed you live in!
Visit <https://water.phila.gov/watersheds/map/>



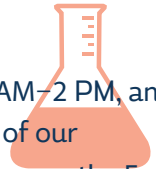
Students learn the importance of clean water.

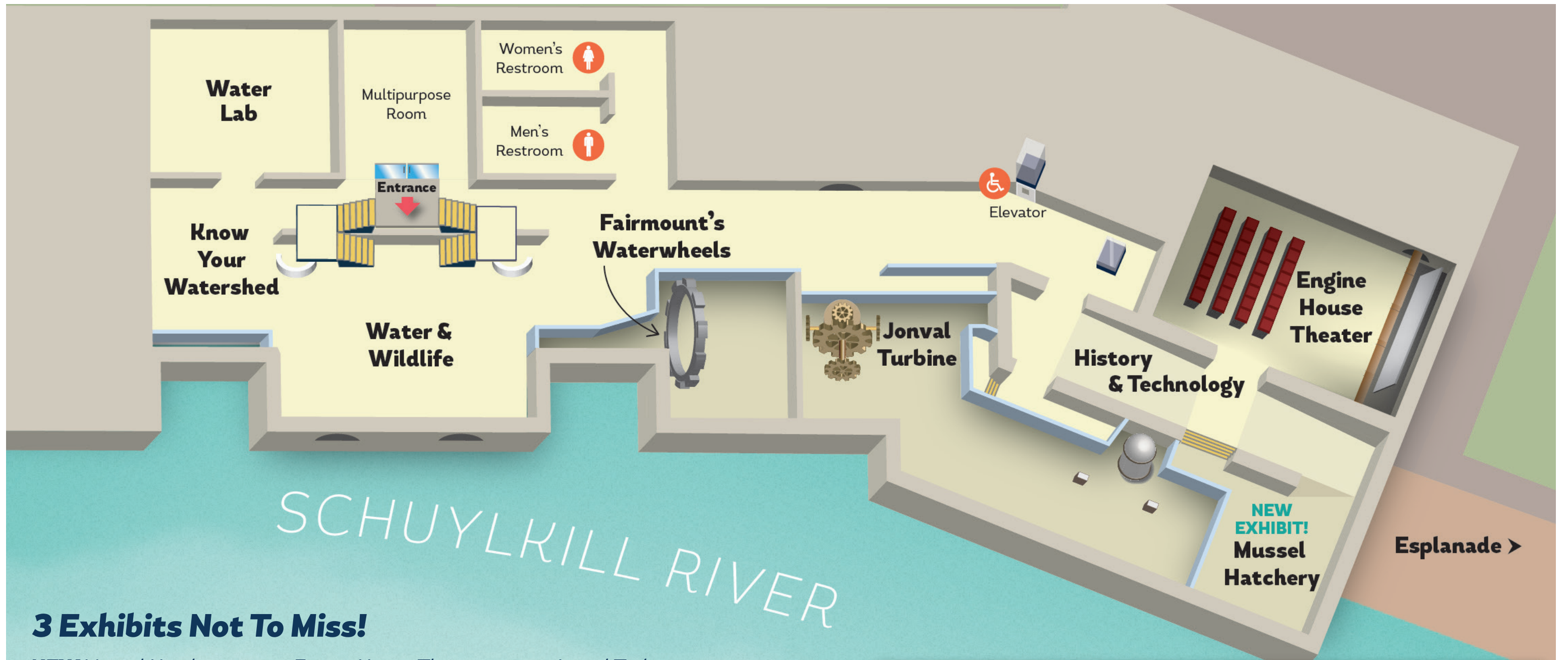


Pop-up Activity

Pop-up Activities

Drop in on select Saturdays between 11AM–2 PM, and together we'll explore different aspects of our environment. Use the QR code below to access the Event Calendar on our website or follow us on social media!





SCHUYLKILL RIVER

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

