

# pipe time

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*East Park Reservoir Committee Members met on a regular basis, during the reconstruction of the northeast basin, ensuring that it was back in service in time for this past summer's peak water demand needs. Committee Members shown are (left to right) Kamlesh Patel, Ernie Ferrero, Jim Brady, Bill Hatcher, Jerry Kuziw, Gerson Kornreger, Bill Wankoff, Joe Schultz, Joanne Anovick, Cliff Lahann and Jung Choi.*

## and PWD said... "LET THERE BE WATER"

The northeast basin of the East Park Reservoir, which has been out of service for more than 10 years, is back in operation. The Water Department removed the northeast basin from service in November 1985, after a breach in the north dike on the basin. The dike walls are now stabilized and PWD employees disinfected the basin and reactivated it on May 15, 1996. Because it is back in service,

the Water Department took the south basin out-of-service on May 23. The improvement of one basin and the shut down of another will contribute to improved water quality in the City.

The northeast basin is now a covered basin. The cover protects the treated water. It's a barrier preventing airborne and wind-blown materials and debris from contaminating the water. This cover will greatly enhance the quality of drinking water stored in the basin. East Park Reservoir's northeast basin stores treated drinking water from both the Baxter and the Queen Lane Water Treatment Plants.

The water quality in the basin also received a boost because of the installation of a thick, synthetic rubber liner along the sides and bottom of the basin. The liner acts as a barrier from contamination from groundwater and soil and it also makes the walls more stable.

The basin also has a new pipe system. These pipes allow for better water flow, ensuring our customers always get fresh water. The basin holds more than 210 million gallons of water and serves sections of Fairmount, North Philadelphia, Center City, and South Philadelphia.

Congratulations to the successful team in charge of this monumental project!

Visit the Esplanade at the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center. Thanks to Ed Grusheski, Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center Director, and a wonderful volunteer staff, the center has a new look. Ed and the volunteers have worked many hours to add new exhibits and landscaping to the beautiful path that runs along the Schuylkill River. The Esplanade is home to ten industrial plaques and a part of the cast-iron bevel gear from an 1870 turbine.

The exhibits along the Esplanade invite visitors to explore man's changing relationship with the Schuylkill River from the time of the Lenape Indians to the present. The Pennsylvania

Department of Environmental Resources Coastal Zone Management Program and the Philadelphia Flower Show, Inc. have provided partial funding for landscaping along the bank of the river and for some exhibits.

You can begin your stroll along the exhibits with the Lenape Indian fishing artifacts, cast in bronze, representing man's earliest activities along the river. Continuing along the path, you come upon a ferryboat landing that represents the early use of the river. Many people used the Schuylkill River to transport raw and furnished goods into and out of Philadelphia. Further along the path, you'll discover a clue to a "secret truth" about the history and significance of the river and the Water Works. At the end of the path you can join the life-size cast metal Fisherman perched atop a rock as he waits for his prize catch.

The exhibits enhance the Esplanade's beauty. They invite the visitor to discovery instead of calling



attention to themselves. The Esplanade arouses curiosity about the soon-to-be developed Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center and the indoor exhibits that PWD will display there.

A reception was held at the Esplanade on October 11, 1996, for Fairmount Water Works volunteers. Ed Grusheski has done an excellent job developing the Esplanade. His work continues through the school year as he gives tours and lessons to students.

The Esplanade is open year round, so stop on down and stroll along the Esplanade. The Fairmount Water Works and Esplanade are located along the Schuylkill River on Aquarium Drive just off Kelly Drive and below the Philadelphia Museum of Art.



## TAKE A STROLL

# who says THREE'S a CROWD

Three's never a crowd when it comes to awards. Congratulations to the employees of our three water pollution control plants. All three plants won awards from the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA). They met all National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements and effluent standards. Effluent is the water that is returned to the river after wastewater is treated and pollutants are removed. PWD removes more than 92% of pollutants from wastewater.

Topping the list of winners is Southwest, which won a Gold Award. This was the first time Southwest was eligible to receive an AMSA Award now that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency accepted their certificate of compliance. Keep up the good work!

Southeast also ranks at the top. Employees at Southeast are rejoicing over their Gold Award. They will add the Gold Award to their previous awards. Southeast received Silver Awards in 1992, 1993, and 1994 and a Gold Award in 1990. Both PWD employees and our customers appreciate your dedication to wastewater treatment.

Northeast Plant employees are happy to receive a Silver Award for 1995. They are adding the Silver Award to their previous collection of Gold Awards received in both 1991 and 1994. Congratulations to the Northeast employees for receiving an award two years in a row! Go for the Gold next year.

AMSA gives out awards yearly. Plants that have zero effluent violations for the calendar year receive Gold Awards. Plants that have fewer than five effluent



NE Plant employees won a Silver Award! This is their second award in two years.



Employees of the SE Plant hold their heads high. They won a Gold Award!

violations receive Silver Awards. Returning clean water to the Delaware River has led to the revitalization of the river and the growth of businesses along its bank.

Be sure to congratulate employees at all three plants for a job well done. Their hard work won them these renowned awards and boosts the Philadelphia Water Department as one of the most dedicated water utilities in the region.

"THE ITSY  
BITSY SPIDER  
WENT UP THE  
WATER SPOUT."

OK, you got me. This article is not about water spouts, but rather watersheds.

What is a watershed? We normally think of a watershed as the parks or land near a creek or river. However, rainwater that drains from all surrounding land (fields, parks, playgrounds, streets, lawns, parking lots, farms, shopping malls, homes, and athletic fields) to a river or creek is what makes up a watershed. This water may drain over land, under ground, by pipes, streams or creeks, to a river or creek that provides water for your daily needs.

It takes everyone's help to keep our water supply clean. Most of what goes down the drain goes into our streams and rivers. Our drinking water comes from these streams and rivers. Philadelphia is located within the Delaware River Watershed. There are seven other major watersheds within Philadelphia also: Cobbs Creek, Frankford Creek,

Pennypack Creek, Poquessing Creek, Schuylkill River, Tacony Creek, and Wissahickon Creek.

Any of us who allow contaminants to enter stormwater drains are the biggest cause of dirty water in our watershed. Rainwater takes many things, including motor oil, fertilizers, cigarette butts, dog droppings, and trash, through the stormwater drains. These contaminants eventually find their way into our local streams and rivers, the same bodies of water where we get our drinking water. It takes more chemicals, time, and money to clean dirty water. Please do your part and help PWD keep contaminants from entering our storm drains. Your help will keep the quality of our water at its best while keeping costs at a minimum.

PWD is doing all it can to help keep our watersheds clean. We are taking steps to reduce the number of Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's), sewers that accept both rainwater from storm drains and wastewater from homes and businesses. If full, these CSO's drain into our streams and contaminate the water. PWD continuously improves how sewage is collected and treated. Also, we are starting public education campaigns

to encourage a partnership with customers to help with our efforts. This includes mailing watershed information with water and sewer bills and the publication of a watershed newsletter for customers in Philadelphia's watersheds. Customers are already receiving these newsletters. In addition, groups and organizations may request a PWD employee to speak at their meetings.

Literature is available to anyone who would like more information about the importance of not littering and allowing contaminants into watersheds, making it easier for the Water Department to produce cleaner drinking water.

Help keep our water clean now and for generations to come:

- Don't sweep or wash litter into stormwater drains.
- Don't pour motor oil or any other chemicals into stormwater drains.
- Do "scoop up" after pets.
- Do use as little detergent as necessary when washing your car.
- Do keep lawn and garden fertilizers off paved areas.

Remember —What goes down the drain shows up in our watersheds. With your help we can keep our watersheds, and our drinking water, as clean as possible.