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Philadelphia Water Department Employee Newsletter • Published by the Public Relations Unit • April 1997

CELEBRATE WATER!

May is going to be an exciting month for the Water Department, as we will be participating in two week-long celebrations, Drinking Water Week, May 4 - 10, and National River Cleanup Week, May 10 - 17. The celebrations are geared to foster a partnership between the Philadelphia Water Department and our customers. By working together to protect and conserve water, the partnership will ensure that the future of drinking water is crystal clear!

DRINKING WATER WEEK, MAY 4-10

The Philadelphia Water Department, along with water purveyors internationally, will be celebrating Drinking Water Week. During this week, water purveyors are sponsoring activities to let customers know how we secure, treat and deliver clean, safe drinking water to them, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It's also a great opportunity for our customers to learn more about their drinking water and what they can do to conserve and protect our most precious natural resource.

To kickoff the week, the Philadelphia Water Department will be conducting walking tours of several natural and urban watersheds, along with several community watershed groups.

As of this printing, we have confirmed separate tours in these watersheds:

Saturday, May 3, 10:00 a.m.

Schuylkill River Direct
Tacony Creek
Wissahickon Creek

Saturday, May 3, 1:00 p.m.

Poquessing Creek
Upper Schuylkill River

If you would like to take a tour of one of these watersheds, call the Water Department's Hotline at 685-6300. **Reservations are required.** We'll need your name, address and phone number to let you know where the starting locations of each tour will begin. Let us know how many guests will be with you. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Remember to wear comfortable shoes and clothes.

The walking tours will begin at a church or community center in each neighborhood and follow a sewer drainage path, focusing on the urban watershed. The tours will end at a local creek or river, focusing on the natural watershed. Tours will last two hours.

**CLEAN WATER BEGINS
AND ENDS WITH YOU!!**

NATIONAL RIVER CLEANUP WEEK, MAY 10-17

For years, rivers and watersheds have been used as dumps for old appliances, shopping carts and other refuse. Litter floats into a waterway from street gutters and builds up along the shoreline and can stay there for years.

While the Clean Water Act and industry efforts have helped remove pollutants from many streams, no one has the sole responsibility to remove years of accumulated trash and refuse from streams. That's where you come in. You can do your part to clean up our waterways. Many local community groups are sponsoring cleanups in Philadelphia on May 17. Get involved and be a part of river cleanups taking place nationally on this day.

Saturday, May 17, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Join the Philadelphia Water Department for a Clean-Up, Green-Up on the Fairmount Water Works' Esplanade with Philadelphia Cares volunteers for "Fairmount Park Day." The Fairmount Water Works Esplanade is located at Aquarium and Kelly Drives, along the banks of the Schuylkill River. To volunteer, call 685-6300.

Saturday, May 17, 1:00 p.m.

View "A Very Great Nuisance (sic)," in the Watering Committee Building at the Fairmount Water Works.

Ed Grusheski, Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center Director, will present this slide lecture on the long and murky history of Philadelphia's sewer system. Ed will bring the city's "hidden rivers" into the light, revealing a subject that is too often ignored.



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DRINKING

WATER WEEK

MAY 4th to MAY 10th 1997

*Help keep the
future of drinking
water crystal clear.*

Learn the source of your drinking water. Find out what activities occur in these areas that may contaminate your drinking water.

Take your motor oil and other toxic automobile fluids to a service station that advertises collection for reprocessing. A single quart of motor oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of water.

Participate in the cleanup of areas surrounding your water source.

Get involved in decisions that affect the management and quality of your drinking water. Attend public meetings where quality and quantity discussions of water take place.

Run your tap until the water is cold before using it for drinking or cooking if you suspect you have lead plumbing or leaded solder in your home.

