



**The ARAMARK Tower
1101 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2994**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

How can you protect your watershed? Free Exhibit Tells How

EPA Region III Regional Administrator Donald Welsh and Philadelphia Water Commissioner Kumar Kishinchand will formally open the exhibit, "Philadelphia Water Department Celebrates 201 Years of Watershed Protection," on Thursday, March 7 at 9:00 a.m. at the EPA regional headquarters located at 1650 Arch Street. Students from the J. Cook Middle School will also tour and participate in the exhibit's interactive features at the opening ceremony. The public is invited to attend the opening celebration.

The exhibit highlights the history of watershed protection in Philadelphia and takes a glance back to the building of Philadelphia's first water pumping station at Centre Square, the current site of City Hall. It also features the establishment of Fairmount Park as a natural buffer to protect the city's rivers and streams from industrial pollution.

The Water Department's present day programs designed to protect and improve the water quality in our region are also outlined. One program includes improvements to the city's 3,000-mile sewer collection system. Another features regional watershed partnerships that address land use issues in relation to the chemical, biological and physical quality of our rivers and streams. The exhibit also includes demonstration projects on watershed redevelopment through the creation of wetlands and the implementation of stormwater management practices on vacant land.

Public information campaigns and projects which alert and educate citizens of their unique roles in improving and protecting their place in the city's watersheds are a key component to the exhibit.

The free exhibit is open to the public and runs from March 1 to April 30.

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