



*The ARAMARK Tower
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Philadelphia Will Convene City's First Summit On the Urban Environment
September 17**

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 09 — Philadelphia will hold its first annual Urban Environmental Summit Wednesday, Sept. 17 at the Fairmount Water Works. More than 100 policymakers, environmental professionals and activists will explore the latest thinking about issues related to the urban environment during the day-long meeting.

The summit is co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Water Department, The Fairmount Park Commission and State Representative Michael McGeehan.

"Our urban environments don't get enough attention," said Howard Neukrug, director of the Water Department's Office of Watersheds.

"In fact the urban environment is every bit as dynamic and complex as other eco-systems," he added.

The summit will begin with panels devoted to water- and land-related issues in the urban environment. Question-and-answer opportunities will follow each panel. In the afternoon participants will take an Urban Restoration and Stormwater Best Management Practices Tour with stops in various parts of the city:

After the tour, summit participants will get a preview of the new Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center, which will open Sept. 19 as Philadelphia's premier eco-tourism attraction.

"Each part of the summit focuses on watersheds because watersheds are where nature and civilization meet. Watershed management will help us attack the last large cause of contamination —non-point source pollution," Neukrug said.

Besides Neukrug, speakers addressing water-related issues will include Carol Collier, Delaware River Basin Commission; Elizabeth Kitchel, The Conservation Fund; Stanley Laskowski, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III; and Dr. Ruth Patrick, Academy of Natural Sciences.

Speakers on the land-issues panel will be Charles Day, Pennsylvania Environmental Council; Mark Focht, Fairmount Park Commission; Dr. Robert Giegengack, University of Pennsylvania; Carol Williams Green, Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center; and Dr. Robert Traver, Villanova University

On the tour, participants will see demonstrations or projects at the Penn Alexander School; the Sulzberger Outdoor Classroom; the Reno Street Community Park; Centennial Lakes; Goose Meadow; and Fairmount Park.

Further information and media credentials are available from Joanne Dahme at 215-685-4944.

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