

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Pennsylvania has a coast? Travelers learn about the Delaware Estuary and the region's premiere ecotourism center!

Yes, actually. Southeastern Pennsylvania's Coastal Zone is located in the Delaware Estuary, and travelers passing through the Philadelphia International Airport are introduced to the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center, through a series of dioramas displayed throughout all five terminals as well as baggage claim areas through April.

The dioramas depict scenic views of the wonders and beauty of the Delaware Estuary and the Fairmount Water Works situated along the scenic banks of the Schuylkill River, with messages encouraging visitors to the area to explore the estuary.

The Philadelphia Water Department, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection teamed up to place dioramas throughout the terminals.

For nearly 100 years, the Fairmount Water Works was used as the main pumping station for Philadelphia. Almost from the day the waterwheels began turning, the Fairmount Water Works and its beautiful grounds made the place an international tourist attraction renowned for melding nature and technology. Indeed, no trip to Philadelphia was considered complete until the visitor had seen the Water Works.

Today, the Water Works continues to attract visitors from near and far. It has been given new life as an educational center with lively interactive exhibits that introduce visitors to the region's water resources and their role in protecting those resources. The Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center is the region's premiere ecotourism site and has been recognized by the state as the Delaware River's Watershed Education Center.

The Interpretive Center, operated by the Philadelphia Water Department, is open to the public, free of charge, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information on the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center and about special programs and lectures, visit them on the web at www.fairmountwaterworks.org. For more information about the Delaware Estuary, visit their website at www.delawarestuary.org.

Funding for the dioramas and an accompanying ecotourism brochure, "Exploring Southeastern Pennsylvania's Coastal Zone" was provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Coastal Zone Management Program. To request copies of the brochure, call 800-455-4935.