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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service at the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center

PHILADELPHIA – Join the Philadelphia Water Department for a day of service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, January 21, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center, located at 640 Water Works Drive (behind the Art Museum). The event planned for the day of service is aimed at protecting our water resources from stormwater runoff pollution by marking the storm drains around Boathouse Row and the Historic Fairmount Water Works, and handing out dog waster collection bags.

Volunteers will meet at the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center at 9:30 AM and will mark storm drains in front of the center, the Italian Fountain, Water Works Drive, and along Boathouse Row. Eighty percent of stormwater runoff pollution comes from non-point sources, meaning litter, oil, dog waste and debris that is discarded on the land. Getting the public involved in protecting our watersheds is essential to reduce the amount of pollution that gets carried away by storm water runoff. The goal of marking storm drains is to educate the public and increase awareness that everything that goes into a storm drain can create water pollution and threatens the quality of our rivers, streams, creeks and ultimately our drinking water supply.

In additions to marking the storm drains, volunteers will also hand out dog waste collection bags to encourage people to clean up after their pets. When left on the land, pet waste also contributes to the pollution of our waterways when rain and melting snow carries it into the storm drains, and eventually to the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers. Our actions on land affect the quality of our waterways.

The national Martin Luther King Day of Service was created by former Pennsylvania U.S. Senator Harris Wofford and Atlanta Congressman John Lewis. Together they co-authored the King Holiday and Service Act. The federal legislation challenges Americans to transform Martin Luther King Jr. Day into a day of citizen action through volunteering in honor of Dr. King. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service was signed into law by President Clinton on August 23, 1994. Since 1996, the annual Greater Philadelphia King Day of Service has been the largest event in the nation honoring Dr. King.

The Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center, located at 640 Water Works Drive, is operated by the Philadelphia Water Department and open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Center is closed on Mondays and City holidays. Admission is free and our programs are suitable for people of all ages and interests. The Center is fully ADA accessible. For more information about the Interpretive Center programs, visit www.fairmountwaterworks.org or call 215-685-0723.

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