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**Fairmount Dam Fishway Facility to Officially Open  
Multi-Agency Effort to Enhance Aquatic Life and Educational Programs**

**PHILADELPHIA** – Mayor Michael Nutter, U.S. Congressman Chaka Fattah, Water Commissioner Bernard Brunwasser, and Lt. Col. Thomas Tickner of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will cut the ribbon at the Fairmount Dam Fishway Facility at Fairmount Dam along Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, on May 18, 2009 at 12:00 p.m.

The Philadelphia Water Department, in partnership with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, have created a state-of-the-art facility that will allow the migratory passage of hundreds of thousands of fish upstream to spawn, as well as serve as an exciting educational tool for area students and adults alike.

“It is a privilege to celebrate the re-opening of this important passageway for aquatic life in the Schuylkill River. This Fishway Facility is another example of the great things that can get accomplished with a clear vision and team effort. Projects like these enhance the quality of life for the citizens of this great City and brings us one step closer to my goal of making Philadelphia the number one green City in the nation,” remarked Mayor Nutter.

The new facility includes an outdoor classroom with amphitheater style seating, a video monitoring system with a live video feed into the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center and the Philadelphia Zoo, and new fencing for enhanced security. The fishway itself was completely renovated with new chambers, entrances and exits and an attraction flow that steers migrating fish towards the fishway.

Lt. Col. Thomas J. Tickner from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers remarked, "It's rewarding enough for us to build projects that directly improve our natural environment. It's even more rewarding when that environment is literally right up the street from where most of us work each day -- and when the finished product is on display in one of Philadelphia's most photographed settings. Special thanks to the Philadelphia Water Department, the Pennsylvania Fish Boat & Fish Commission, ABC Construction Company, and our own Corps team for their top quality work in making this happen."

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The Corps' Philadelphia District plans, designs, constructs and operates water resources projects within the four-state Delaware River Basin and along the Atlantic coastal plain in New Jersey and Delaware. Project purposes include navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, and recreation. The District also manages the construction of military facilities at Dover Air Force Base, Del., Fort Dix, N.J. and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and provides reimbursable technical and management services for the EPA, FEMA and other federal agencies and state and local governments upon request.

The Fairmount Dam Fishway Facility project will be managed by the Philadelphia Water Department, and received generous support from U.S. Senator Arlen Specter, U.S. Congressman Chaka Fattah, U.S. Congressman Robert Brady, U.S. Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission and the Fairmount Park Commission.

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. All programs are free of charge and 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](http://www.fairmountwaterworks.org) or call 215-685-0723.

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