



# Exploring the Urban Watershed

Final Report for Exploring Urban Watersheds to Society of Women Professionals

2013

Exploring the Urban Watershed (EUW) is a watershed education program developed by the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center (FWWIC), the educational arm of the Philadelphia Water Department. This is the second year the FWWIC has implemented the program and the first time the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford (TTF) Watershed Partnership partnered with the program. The mission of this two-week program is to educate middle school aged girls on urban watershed issues, career options and fieldwork – ultimately, aiming to link all work to the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM). It took place August 12<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Monday-Friday from 9:30am to 3pm each day. EUW is based out of the FWWIC at 640 Water Works Drive Philadelphia, PA 19130.



**FAIRMOUNT  
WATER  
WORKS  
INTERPRETIVE  
CENTER**



**Tookany/Tacony-Frankford**  
Watershed Partnership, Inc.

There were twelve field trips during the entire two weeks. The following are the field trip topics and locations:

- Stream Surveying, Sampling and Career Talk at High School Park 7910 High School Road with a Conservation Officer, Erin Czech (Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>)
- Stream Surveying & Sampling at Friends Hospital 4641 Roosevelt Blvd (Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>)
- Training at Ridley Creek State Park (Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>)
- Mussel Surveying at Adams Ave. & Crecentville (Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>)
- Career Day and Tours at Bureau of Laboratory Services 1500 E. Hunting Park Ave. (Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>)
- Stormwater Management and Career Talk at Field Site in N. Philadelphia with Jen Fields, Environmental Program Manager at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>)
- Tour – Belmont Drinking Water Treatment Plant 4300 Ford Road (Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>)
- Tour – Southeast Water Pollution Control Plant 25 E. Pattison Ave. (Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>)
- Invasive Species Workshop at John Heinz Refuge 8601 Lindbergh Blvd. (Aug 21<sup>st</sup>)
- Tour - Fishway (Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>)
- Tour of Green Stormwater Infrastructure Sites - Saylor's Grove in NW Philadelphia & Herron Playground in SE Philadelphia (Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>)
- Delaware River Boat Tour – Culminating Celebration (Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>)



Ten program participants were selected after a rigorous application process and represent a diverse geographical area because the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed extends beyond the City of Philadelphia's boundaries. The eleventh participant was an alum of the EUW 2012.

It is important that pre-high-school girls are shown various successful women in science-focused careers. The FWWIC invited the PWD's Bureau of Laboratory Services to provide laboratory tours and opportunities to speak and connect with women Scientists and Chemists.

EUW is designed to integrate career tracks into in-class activities and fieldwork.





**The FWWIC and the TTF**

Watershed Partnership partnered on engaging program participants in biological, physical and chemical stream fieldwork. Participants learned the importance of teamwork when assisting others in measuring, recording and analyzing data. Program Participants worked both in theory and “hands-on” on a critical current topic – Stormwater. The PWD’s Stormwater Management Plant – “Green Cities, Clean Waters” designed to capture, treat, and infiltrate a portion of stormwater was studied in-depth.

Important skills such critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, teamwork and creativity were woven into many of the activities. We will continue to stay in contact with the girls by mailing them each an 8GB flash drive filled with EUW images, asking them, when appropriate, to participate in student advisory boards and notifying them of volunteer and job opportunities.

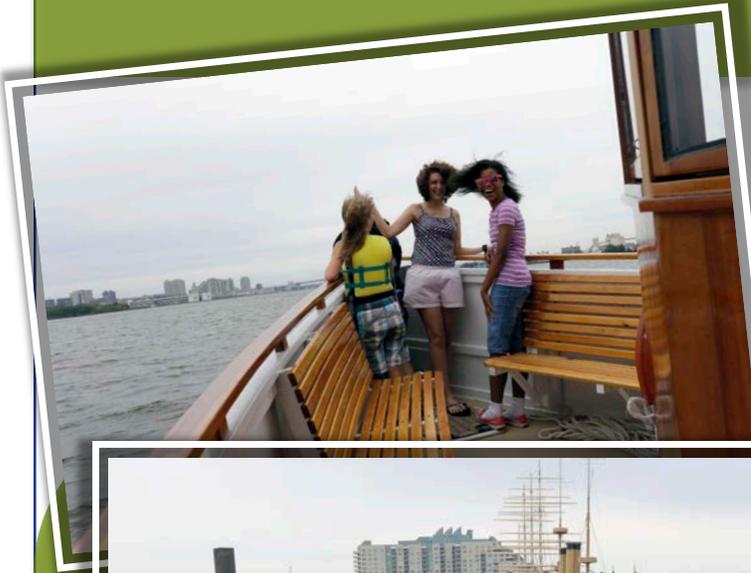


I think that the lacony lake for the kids should be a playground. People know that groups are welcome and a dog park to let people know that they can bring their dog their

Things to use	Which person
• playground	• kids
• picnic tables	• every one
• dog park	• people with dogs
• maps around the park	• everyone

We would like to thank the following for their time and commitment:  
Erin Czech, Waterways Conservation Officer from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission; Jen Fields, Environmental Program Manager at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; Laura Erying, Program Scientist at the Philadelphia Water Department's Bureau of Laboratory Services; Ann Faulds, Associate Director for the Delaware River Program at the Pennsylvania Sea Grant; and Anne Harvey, Water Quality Scientist also from the Bureau of Laboratory Services.

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