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Philadelphia Seeks Input on Citywide Water Station Network

Following the successful spring 2016 introduction of four new Schuylkill River Trail water stations, the City of Philadelphia’s public water utility, the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD), is seeking information from organizations interested in expanding access to public drinking water.

PWD envisions a citywide network of modern water fountains that help promote top-quality drinking water across our communities while curbing waste from single-use bottles and increasing citizen stewardship of Philadelphia’s water sources, the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers.

An official Request for Information (RFI) was released July 27, 2016, and the **deadline for responses has been extended to Monday, October 3, 2016**. Interested organizations should provide information related to managing a program to procure, maintain and financially support a system of public drinking water stations. The City hopes to use this information to develop a future contract opportunity that would select an organization to furnish the water stations and maintain the network.

Qualified organizations should detail proposals for:

- Offering a public drinking water kiosk program
- Proactively maintaining the infrastructure for such a program
- Financing the program in a way that benefits the City, PWD customers, and the organization providing the service

Responses to the RFI may help shape a future contract, but are not required to be considered for any contract opportunity that may emerge from this process. Details about the RFI, including instructions for submitting information, are outlined at [www.Phila.gov/RFP](http://www.phila.gov/RFP). You can view the RFI directly here: http://www.phila.gov/rfp/Documents/Drinking%20Water%20Kiosk%20RFI_82516.pdf

Background: The existing stations, located along one of the region’s most popular recreation routes, feature a traditional drinking fountain, a bottle-filling apparatus and a ground-level bowl for pet access. Locations were selected based on the availability of existing water infrastructure along the trail. PWD personnel make weekly site visits, which include treating the drinking water apparatus with an antibacterial cleaner. Staff also inspect for graffiti and remove as needed.

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About the Philadelphia Water Department: *The Philadelphia Water Department serves the Greater Philadelphia region by providing integrated water, wastewater, and stormwater services. The utility plans for, operates, and maintains both the infrastructure and the organization necessary to purvey high-quality drinking water to provide an adequate and reliable water supply for all household, commercial, and community needs, and to sustain and enhance the region’s watersheds and quality of life by managing wastewater and stormwater effectively. www.phila.gov/water*