

Sulzberger Summer Program 2001
Activity Narratives

Activity 1 and 2: Site Work/Urban sites and artifacts. Due to the probable construction schedule for the vacant lot, these two site activities most likely will be combined. Prior to the site clearance scheduled for July 18, students will document the condition of the site, using their journals and a digital camera. Students will also participate in some basic clean up activities, wearing boots and gloves, to remove light debris. This debris will be catalogue by the students, tagged and stored. Based upon their experiences, students will propose the probably origin of the debris and talk about how it found its way to the site.

Activity 3: Watershed walk. Students will trace the path of the Mill Creek sewer using maps which show the sewer and the path of the old Mill Creek from approximately 9 a.m. till 11 a.m. Students will walk along the following route: Begin at 47th & Aspen, turning left at Brown to 50th Street, to the 5000 block of Funston Street, to 50th and Fairmount Avenue to 47th & Fairmount. At 11 a.m., a representative from PWD's Industrial Waste Unit will meet students at a manhole at 47th & Meredith Street to sample the sewer water and discuss its components and pollutants. If time permits (we have till 11:30 a.m.) students will proceed to 47th & Mellon and view the slightly rolling hills of this green space. During the walk, students will be armed with clipboards and a checklist which asks students to mark off indications of an underground sewer and household plumbing (manholes, storm drains, rain leaders, fresh air vents, sidewalk depressions), indications of the old Mill Creek and its floodplains (topography, depressions in street, ponding, vacant land, green space) and pollutants. Student observations will be used in the development of phase I of the virtual Mill Creek Sewershed tour.

Activity 4: What's Under the ground? Students will have two sets of maps – a map showing the path of the old Mill Creek, and a map showing the sewer. Students will trace the sewer over the old creek path and talk about the similarities and the differences between the two routes.

Activity 5: Stenciling Project. Students will stencil the storm drains along the path of the Mill Creek sewer walk using “Yo! No Dumping! Drains to River” decals. Students will assist in preparing the storm drain for adhering the decal by cleaning up trash and debris in the area of the storm drain and by using a whisk broom to clear the surface of the storm drain to ensure that the decal will stick to the storm drain. Students will also distribute Tip Cards to homes on the stenciling blocks that instruct residents on the proper use of storm drains and their important function.

Activity 6: Macroinvertebrates and Water Quality. Students will take a mini-bus to Cobbs Creek by the Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center to participate in a kicknetting exercise to count the diversity of the insects and other small invertebrates that live in the creek. Students will learn about stream habitat and how biological assessments are a good indication of stream water quality. Mini-bus will leave school at 9

a.m. to arrive at Cobbs Creek by 9:30 a.m. Students will depart from Cobbs Creek at 11 a.m. to return to school by 11:30 a.m.

Activity 7: Landscape Design. Students will view the vacant lot at Haverford and Fairmount Avenues, measure the site, look at its existing grade, and design a new site layout that will assist with handling stormwater and that will be a community amenity.

Activity 8: Mural Design. Students will visit existing murals in the neighborhood and begin designing the watershed mural for 712 N. 48th Street. Students may also learn the basics about mural painting by participating in scheduled mural projects at the school and the Mill Creek playground.

Activity 9: Aspen Farm Visit. A representative of the community garden and a representative of Phila. Green will provide students a tour of Aspen Farms to discuss the environmental and community value of such a garden. PWD staff will assist with the tour and lesson in the absence of a Phila. Green representative.

Activity 11: Visit to Belmont Water Treatment plant. Students will take a school bus to the Belmont Water Treatment Plant, located at 4900 Ford Road, and tour the facility, learning about the numerous processes used to produce safe and healthy drinking water. The bus will depart at 9 a.m. to arrive at the plant by 9:30 a.m. The bus will leave the plant at 11 a.m. to return to the school by 11:30 a.m.

Activity 12: Visit to the Southeast Water Pollution Control Plant. Students will take a school bus to the Southeast Water Pollution Control Plant, located at 25 Pattison Avenue, and tour the facility, learning about the numerous processes used to produce safe and clean wastewater. The bus will depart at 9 a.m. to arrive at the plant by 9:30 a.m. The bus will leave the plant at 11 a.m. to return to the school by 11:30 a.m.

Activity 18: Visit to Existing Community Flower/Rock Gardens. Students will visit gardens in the neighborhood provided by the Mill Creek Coalition and talk to the garden owners if they are available about the designs. These gardens are private gardens.