



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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MWRD update on rainfall

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is working around the clock to provide protection for Cook County during these recent storm events. Since Saturday morning, approximately 3.83 inches of rain has fallen on average across Cook County. Nearly 2 inches of rainfall has occurred in the past 30 hours.

The MWRD's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) consists of 109 miles of tunnels and three reservoirs and is at near capacity. The McCook system, which serves central Chicago and 36 suburban communities, is at full capacity, storing approximately 5.1 billion gallons. The Kirie TARP system in the center of northern Cook County is storing nearly 300 million gallons. The Calumet system serves the far South Side of Chicago and 13 south suburban municipalities and is storing 3.5 billion gallons. All of this water will be pumped back to MWRD water reclamation plants for treatment when conditions permit.

The MWRD encourages the public to minimize their use of water before and during storm events to reduce the amount of water flowing into the sewer system. In coordination with our partners at the Friends of the Chicago River, the MWRD promotes Overflow Action Days to educate area residents on the power of conserving and protecting clean, fresh water and reducing pollution to the river. Despite the massive improvements to water quality due to TARP, new wastewater treatment technologies, and the increasing use of green infrastructure, the Chicago River is still subject to combined sewer overflows and stormwater runoff. This pollution can be minimized when local homeowners reduce the amount of water that funnels down sewer pipes and stormwater is captured where it falls.

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrdd.org) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.