

*Restore the Canopy*  
PLANT A TREE

# FREE SAPLING PROGRAM



**Metropolitan Water  
Reclamation District  
of Greater Chicago**

# THE MWRD CARES ABOUT TREES

Our **Restore the Canopy** initiative empowers the residents of Cook County with an opportunity to restore our region's depleted tree canopy. The tree population has been decimated by emerald ash borer infestations and extreme weather. Not only do trees provide a beautiful green canopy for our communities, they are a powerful and effective form of green infrastructure. A medium-sized oak tree can help reduce flooding by absorbing 2,800 gallons of rainfall per year.

Trees are vital to our environment for many reasons:

- ✓ Reduce flooding
- ✓ Reduce air pollution
- ✓ Improve health and well being
- ✓ Keep neighborhoods cooler
- ✓ Create a sense of community
- ✓ Lower energy bills
- ✓ Increase property value
- ✓ Provide protection from wind
- ✓ Buffer noise
- ✓ Provide shade
- ✓ Increase habitat for wildlife
- ✓ Absorb carbon dioxide
- ✓ Give oxygen

## HOW COMMUNITY GROUPS AND SCHOOLS CAN PARTICIPATE

Partnering with schools and other community groups within Cook County allows residents to enjoy the benefits of planting oak saplings right in their own communities for decades to come.

Groups will receive bare-root saplings or potted saplings in preparation for planting events within your community. Arrangements can be made for saplings to be picked up at MWRD facilities or delivered to your location.

If you would like more information or would like to order trees:

- ✓ Call MWRD Office of Public Affairs at 312.751.6633
- ✓ Visit our website at [mwrdd.org](http://mwrdd.org)
- ✓ Email [public.affairs@mwrdd.org](mailto:public.affairs@mwrdd.org)

*Restore the Canopy trees are not for resale.*

## WHAT KIND OF TREES?

The MWRD is distributing various kinds of trees, primarily oaks. All are native to the area and are powerful forms of green infrastructure that can help reduce flooding by absorbing stormwater.

**BUR OAK**



**SWAMP  
WHITE OAK**



**PIN OAK**



**BALD  
CYPRESS**



**WHITE  
OAK**

**RED  
OAK**



**PECAN**

**SPECIES WILL VARY FROM YEAR TO YEAR.**

# TREE PICKUP DAYS

Pick up your free trees, April through October, on Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon at the following MWRD water reclamation plants (WRPs):

**Calumet WRP** ■ 400 E 130th St ■ Chicago

**Egan WRP** ■ 550 S Meacham Rd ■ Schaumburg

**Hanover Park WRP** ■ 1220 Sycamore Ave ■ Hanover Park

**Kirie WRP** ■ 701 W Oakton St ■ Des Plaines

**O'Brien WRP** ■ 3500 Howard St ■ Skokie

**Stickney WRP** ■ 6001 W Pershing Rd ■ Cicero

The MWRD also distributes free trees at community outreach events throughout the county.

Follow us on social media to see when we are in your area.

# SPREAD THE WORD

Post a selfie with your tree on social media and tag with #MyMWRDTree. You can also email pictures to [public.affairs@mwrdd.org](mailto:public.affairs@mwrdd.org).



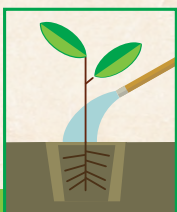
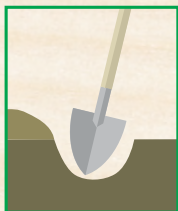
#myMWRDTree



# HOW TO PLANT AND CARE FOR YOUR TREE

Here are a few hints to help you plant and care for your tree.

- ✓ Keep your tree in a cool place and do not take it out of its container until you are able to plant it. If you received a bare-root sapling (not in a container), plant your sapling within two days for best results.
- ✓ Plant your tree where it will receive full to partial sunlight and in a location where it has room to grow; full grown oak trees range from 50 to 80 feet tall. Do not plant under a power line or too close to any structures.
- ✓ Dig a hole wide enough to let the roots spread out completely and deep enough to cover the roots. The topmost roots should be at ground level.
- ✓ Fill the hole with soil, making sure the tree is straight by pressing around the stem. Water the tree after filling the planting hole until water accumulates on the surface.
- ✓ If you use mulch, keep it away from the trunk.
- ✓ Keeping your tree watered is important during its first year. Keep the soil moist but not soggy. In dry weather, you should water every 7–10 days. Avoid watering so much that you see standing water. No need to water once the ground freezes.





# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

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[mwrdd.org](http://mwrdd.org) 312.751.6633



SCAN TO LEARN MORE AT  
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Restore the Canopy is made possible  
*through a partnership with*



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