National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits Consent Decree

2025

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Introduction

Permeable pavers line Willow Boulevard and Market Street in Willow Springs, Ill., as part of the MWRD's Green Infrastructure Partnership Program. Completed in 2025, the MWRD partnered with Willow Springs to install a series of green infrastructure upgrades, including 62,760 square feet of permeable pavers, that provides the village with more than 1 million gallons of stormwater storage capacity.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (District) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits Consent Decree (Civil Action No. 11 C 8859)—2025 Annual Report

This report is being submitted to comply with the District's Consent Decree entered on January 6, 2014. Per the Consent Decree, this required Annual Report is for calendar year 2025 and is due March 31, 2026.

COVER: In 2025, the MWRD delivered 7,632 rain barrels to Cook County residents. Each rain barrel holds up to 55 gallons of water. Between 2014 and 2025, the MWRD distributed 169,721 rain barrels.

Per Section XII.44.a of the District's Consent Decree, this pre-TARP completion annual report transmits the following information:

1. Status of Design and Construction Activities (Consent Decree Section V) and Reservoir Mining Progress for Thornton Composite and McCook Reservoirs.
2. Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Quarterly Discharge Reports submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for calendar year 2025.
3. 2025 Water Quality Data for Waterway Systems within the District's Jurisdiction.
4. Record of Floatable Control Activities (Consent Decree Paragraph 18 and Appendix B).
5. Green Infrastructure (GI) Activities (Consent Decree Section V of Appendix E).

This Annual Report for calendar year 2025 demonstrates satisfactory compliance with the Annual Reporting obligation of the District per the Consent Decree.

In addition to the above, the District notes that it is in compliance with Section II, Paragraph 5 of the Consent Decree, which requires the District to transmit copies of the Consent Decree to its officers, employees, and agents, as well as to CSO municipalities and its contractors. Letters were transmitted to all of the parties and a copy of the Consent Decree has been posted on the District's website. Language regarding the Consent Decree continues to be included in all contracts where the required work may impact the ability of the District to comply with the terms and conditions of the Consent Decree.

Also as required in Section V of the Consent Decree, the District remitted the civil penalty to both the IEPA and USEPA within 30 days from the date the Court entered the Consent Decree.

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McCook and Thornton Composite Reservoir
2025 Progress Report

Located in Bedford Park between the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and Des Plaines River, excavation continues at McCook Reservoir Stage 2. When complete, the reservoir will provide an additional 6.5 billion gallons of combined sewer overflow capacity for a total capacity of 10 billion gallons.

This report provides an **update on the progress of the McCook and Thornton Composite Reservoirs** as required in the Consent Decree paragraphs 21 and 44.

McCook Reservoir

The District owns the land for the McCook Reservoir, which is being built within the Lawndale Avenue Solids Management Area (LASMA). A Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to construct, operate, and maintain the reservoir was signed on May 10, 1999. Under the PCA, the Corps was responsible for designing and constructing the reservoir features, and the District was responsible for providing lands, easements, right-of-way, and relocations, including providing the storage capacity for the reservoir through excavation of overburden and rock mining. The reservoir is being completed in two stages. A major milestone was reached at the end of 2017 when the first stage was placed in service providing 3.5 billion gallons of storage for CSOs. The second stage is currently under construction and will expand the total capacity to 10 billion gallons of storage. The District and the Corps executed a new Project Participating Agreement (PPA) under which the Corps transferred the remaining federal funds for Stage 2 to the District, and the District will complete the remaining design and construction.

District Work

In order to accomplish its responsibilities, the District initiated numerous projects which are described below, along with their status.

DECOMMISSIONING OF LOW SOLIDS LAGOONS: : Seventeen of the District's biosolids stabilization and drying lagoons were decommissioned to provide the land necessary for constructing the reservoir.

WILLOW SPRINGS BERM (96-149-2P): Approximately 300,000 cubic yards of the reservoir overburden was hauled off-site in a test project and placed as a berm along the canal.

SITE PREPARATION (73-161-BH): Sludge lines that cut through the reservoir footprint were relocated, and earthwork was performed to drain the reservoir footprint to facilitate future work. This work commenced in July 1999 and was the start of construction work for the McCook Reservoir.

73RD STREET TUNNEL RELOCATION (97-156-2H): The existing 73rd Street TARP Tunnel cut through the future reservoir footprint and was relocated to go around the reservoir.

CONVEYANCE TUNNEL (73-161-AH): This tunnel was constructed to connect LASMA to Vulcan's McCook Quarry and is used to transport the crushed rock to the Vulcan processing plant.

STAGES 1 AND 2 OVERBURDEN REMOVAL (73-161-CH): Approximately 7.3 million cubic yards of overburden was removed from the footprint of the original Stage 1 and 2 McCook Reservoir sites to expose the top of rock for mining.

MISCELLANEOUS OVERBURDEN REMOVAL (73-161-JH): An additional 450,000 cubic yards of overburden was removed from the site under this contract.

EXPANDED STAGE 2 OVERBURDEN REMOVAL (73-161-DH): The remaining 1.8 million cubic yards of overburden overlying the rock in the expanded Stage 2 portion of the reservoir was removed in 2015, fulfilling the District's obligations from Paragraph 17.d. of the Consent Decree ahead of schedule.

VULCAN CONVEYANCE SYSTEM AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES (73-161-FH): Mining facilities were constructed to crush and transport the rock from the reservoir site to the existing Vulcan Quarry. The contract included construction of the conveyance system, the office and maintenance buildings, installation of a rock crusher, relocation of the LASMA access road and sludge lines, and miscellaneous site work (access ramp, parking area, site lighting). The crusher was purchased separately in advance due to the long lead time.

VULCAN MINING EQUIPMENT (73-161-GH AND 73-161-HH): A fleet of mining trucks and other mining equipment were procured to facilitate mining of the reservoir.

MINING (73-161-EH): The District entered into an agreement with Vulcan on October 1, 2003, to mine the rock to create the storage capacity required for the original two-stage reservoir. Terms of the Agreement require Vulcan to mine at the same production rates they would have achieved at the existing quarry to meet the market demand.

Mining for Stage 1 commenced in 2008 and was essentially completed in 2016, fulfilling the District's obligations from Paragraph 17.a. of the Consent Decree, which required that the Stage 1 mining be completed by December 31, 2016.

A mining ramp into Stage 2 was initiated in 2013 and production mining began in 2014, concurrent with Stage 1 mining. Approximately 75 percent of the stone from Stage 2 had been mined by the end of 2025. Paragraph 17.e. of the Consent Decree requires that the Stage 2 mining be completed by December 31, 2028. On July 28, 2023 and September 29, 2023, the MWRD notified the USEPA that Vulcan's projected mining plan showed mining anticipated to be delayed resulting solely from market conditions that preclude the sale in the ordinary course of commerce by Vulcan of a quantity of mined rock sufficient to satisfy the schedule. On June 13, 2025, the MWRD notified USEPA of Vulcan's updated projected mining plan showing mining anticipated to be completed in 2031. The MWRD will continue to coordinate with Vulcan's ongoing mining operations in order to construct the final Stage 2 Miscellaneous Floor Features contract (17-132-4F) as soon as mining concludes, with this contract work taking approximately one year, after completion of which the reservoir is projected to be in service. Based on Vulcan's mining plan, the MWRD cannot work concurrently in Stage 2 with ongoing mining operations.

Vulcan's annual mining progress report for 2025 was transmitted to the IEPA and USEPA within 30 days of receipt (per paragraph 21 of the Consent Decree).

DES PLAINES INFLOW TUNNEL (13-106-4F): The Corps' original plan to use the existing dewatering tunnels and distribution tunnels to convey water from the Des Plaines Tunnel to the reservoir was modelled and it was determined that a new direct connection to the reservoir would provide greater flood relief benefits to the Des Plaines Tunnel's service area. Construction of a new 20-foot diameter tunnel and associated gate shaft to convey and control flow from the Des Plaines Tunnel System to the McCook Reservoir began in 2016 and was placed in operation in 2022.

EXPANDED STAGE 2 SLOPE STABILIZATION AND RETAINING WALLS (16-125-4F): The District has committed to expanding the Corps-authorized 7 billion gallon reservoir to hold a total volume of 10 billion gallons. The District constructed retaining walls and stabilized the overburden slopes for the expanded portion of the reservoir. This work was completed in 2018.

STAGE 2 ROCK WALL STABILIZATION (17-131-4FR):): As the final vertical rock faces of Stage 2 of the reservoir are exposed, scaling, rock bolting, and other ground support will need to be installed to make the permanent walls stable. This work was completed in 2025.

STAGE 2 MISCELLANEOUS FLOOR FEATURES (17-132-4F): Drainage improvements to the reservoir floor and reservoir aeration equipment will be provided after mining is completed. Two tunnels will be constructed through the weir to allow water to pass between Stages 1 and 2.

Corps Work

The following projects have been completed by the Corps for the Stage 1 McCook Reservoir:

TEST GROUT CURTAIN: A test grout curtain was constructed along 400 linear feet of the reservoir perimeter to test the effectiveness of a grout curtain to prevent polluted water in the reservoir from migrating into the groundwater aquifer.

STAGE 1 GROUT CURTAIN: Based on the performance of the test grout curtain, a grout curtain was constructed around the north and west sides of the reservoir perimeter to create a full hydraulic barrier between the reservoir rock walls and surrounding groundwater.

STAGE 1 GROUNDWATER CUT-OFF WALL: A bentonite slurry wall was constructed through the overburden, around the perimeter of Stage 1 of the reservoir, to prevent migration of groundwater into the reservoir.

ADDITION OF PUMPS AND MOTORS: Two additional 330 cubic feet per second pumps were installed at the Mainstream Pumping Station to provide adequate pumping capacity to dewater the reservoir to the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant.

DISTRIBUTION TUNNEL SYSTEM: Tunnels and an underground control chamber were installed to connect the future reservoir to the Mainstream Pumping Station.

DISTRIBUTION TUNNELS EMERGENCY WORK: Due to excessive infiltration in the new distribution chamber from the distribution tunnels, emergency leakage investigation and repair work was completed.

DISTRIBUTION TUNNEL SYSTEM – ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SYSTEM AND MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS: Corroded equipment in the distribution chamber needed to be replaced and new communication for fire and gas alarms installed. This work was completed in 2017.

STAGE 1A AND 1B ROCKWALL STABILITY CONTRACTS: As the final vertical rock faces of the reservoir are exposed, scaling, rock bolting, and other ground support is installed as required to make the permanent walls stable. This work was completed under two separate contracts for Stage 1 of the reservoir.

STAGE 1 OVERBURDEN RETAINING WALLS: Retaining walls were constructed in several areas of Stage 1 where the top of the rock is lower than expected, in order to allow the footprint of the reservoir to be mined; due to time constraints, the District did part of this work. This work was completed.

MAIN TUNNELS AND GATES: The Mainstream Tunnel was connected to the reservoir by a new set of tunnels and control gates. This work was split among three contracts: one to fabricate the gates, another to excavate the main shaft, and the third to complete the tunnels and install the gates in the shaft. This work was completed in 2017.

FINAL RESERVOIR PREP: Final connections to the reservoir were made, including completion of the distribution tunnel and outlet structure. Floor drainage, reservoir aeration, ramps, roads, and other miscellaneous items were also installed under this contract which was completed in 2017.

INSTRUMENTATION AND GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELLS: Groundwater monitoring wells, piezometers, inclinometers, and other instrumentation were provided to monitor the reservoir under several different contracts. The groundwater monitoring wells and instrumentation for Stage 1 have been installed and are now functioning.

The McCook Reservoir is part of the MWRD's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP), also called the "Deep Tunnel." The reservoir captures combined stormwater and sewage that previously would have overflowed into waterways or flooded communities without the TARP system in place. The background of the photograph is McCook Reservoir Stage 1 and the foreground is Stage 2.

The following projects have been completed by the Corps for the Stage 2 McCook Reservoir:

STAGE 2 GROUT CURTAIN: Based on the performance of the test grout curtain contract, a grout curtain was constructed around the south and east sides of the reservoir perimeter to create a full hydraulic barrier between the reservoir rock walls and surrounding groundwater.

STAGE 2 GROUNDWATER CUT-OFF WALL: A bentonite slurry wall was constructed through the overburden, around the perimeter of Stage 2 of the reservoir, to prevent migration of groundwater into the reservoir.

STAGE 2 OVERBURDEN RETAINING WALL: A retaining wall was constructed in several areas to hold back the overburden and allow the footprint of the reservoir to be mined.

Stage 1 of the McCook Reservoir became operational in December 2017 and took water for the first time on January 22, 2018. Since that time and through the end of 2025, the reservoir captured a total of 140 BG of combined sewage, preventing it from polluting waterways and flooding homes. A table showing the dates and respective volumes captured by the McCook Reservoir is linked here. Overall, more than 262 BG of combined sewer overflows were captured by the Mainstream/Des Plaines TARP System including the reservoir capture since Stage 1 of McCook became operational. Stage 2 of the McCook Reservoir will help capture additional CSO volume from within this service area when it is completed.

Thornton Composite Reservoir

The Thornton Composite Reservoir currently provides 7.9 billion gallons of storage for combined sewage from the Calumet TARP Service Area and flood waters from Thorn Creek. Design and construction of the Thornton Composite Reservoir was planned as a joint venture between the Corps and the District. However, due to uncertainties in federal funding that threatened to deprive the Corps of appropriations sufficient to work on both the McCook and Thornton projects simultaneously, the District committed to proceed with the Corps work on the Thornton Composite Reservoir using the District's own resources in 2004 at a total cost of approximately $450 million. The following projects were completed as part of construction of Thornton Composite Reservoir:

VINCENNES AVENUE RELOCATION (77-235-AF): Approximately 2,500 feet of roadway that cut through the footprint of the reservoir was relocated in order to provide the required storage volume.

THORNTON TRANSITIONAL RESERVOIR (77-235-BF): This temporary reservoir was constructed to provide floodwater storage for Thorn Creek while the Thornton Composite Reservoir was being constructed. As of September 2022, the Thorn Creek flood water was rerouted to the composite reservoir and the transitional reservoir was decommissioned and turned back over to the quarry. The final Thornton Composite Reservoir volume allocated for capturing CSOs is 4.8 billion gallons while the remaining 3.1 billion gallons is allocated for floodwater storage from Thorn Creek. Many of the facilities constructed for the transitional reservoir will be reused at the composite reservoir.

MINING (77-235-2F): The District entered into an agreement with Material Service Corporation (MSC) to purchase a portion of its existing rock quarry to be used for the reservoir. Under the agreement, MSC expanded their existing quarry to neighboring lands purchased by the District in order to achieve the required storage volume. Mining for the Thornton Composite Reservoir was completed in 2013, in fulfillment of the requirements outlined in Paragraph 16.a. of the Consent Decree.

TOLLWAY DAM, GROUT CURTAIN AND QUARRY PLUGS (04-201-4F): The south side of the reservoir is a rock dam that separates the reservoir from the rest of the quarry and carries the I-80/294 Tollway. A large opening and two haul tunnels in this wall were plugged to hydraulically isolate the reservoir from the quarry. Also, as part of this contract, a grout curtain was constructed around the entire reservoir perimeter, creating a hydraulic barrier and providing stability to the rock dam. This contract was completed in 2015 as required in Paragraph 16.b. of the Consent Decree.

CONNECTING TUNNELS AND GATES (04-202-4F): The existing TARP tunnels were extended to connect to the reservoir. A large gate chamber was constructed to allow for isolation of the tunnels from the reservoir. This contract work was completed in 2015 as required in Paragraph 16.c. of the Consent Decree.

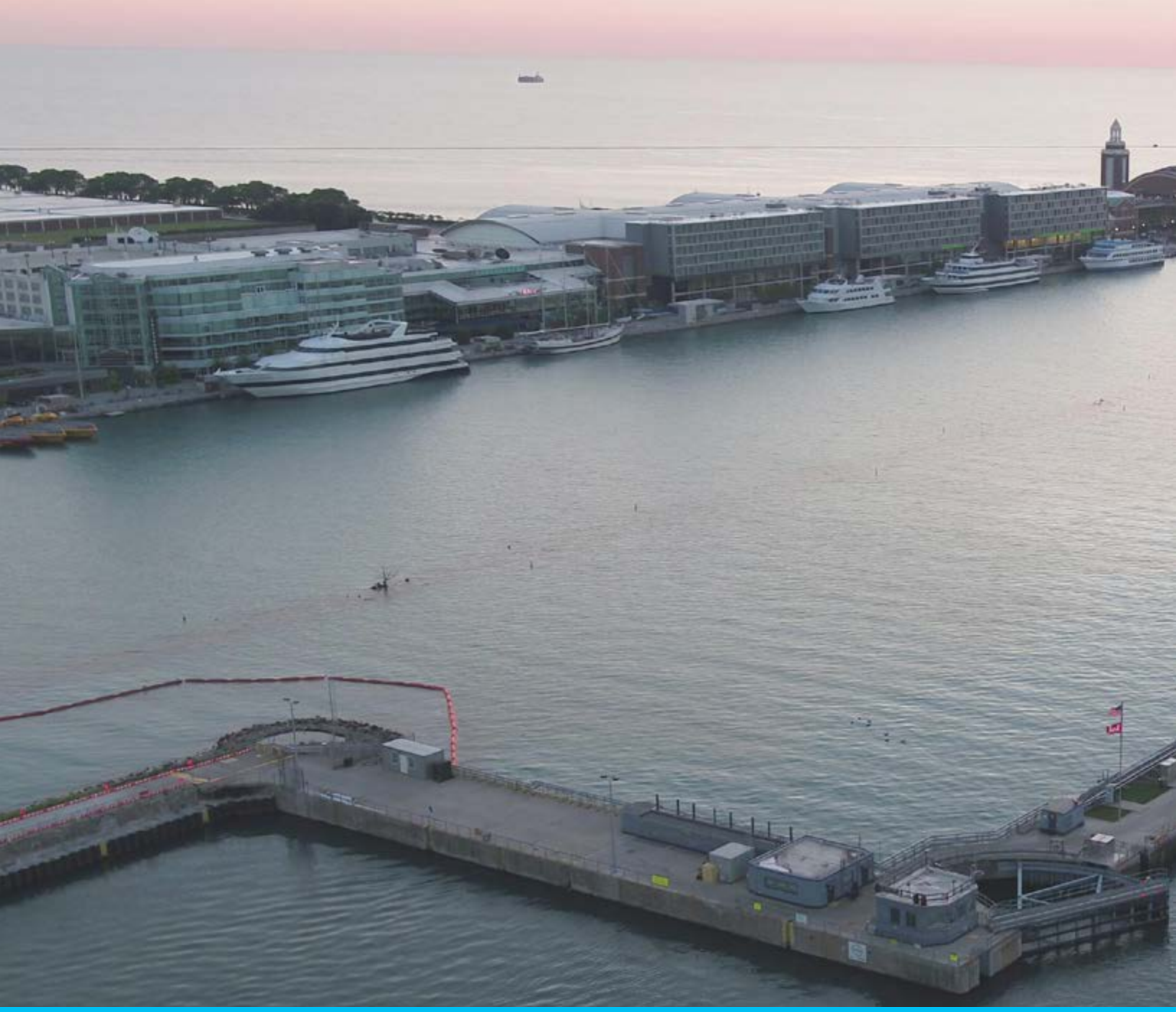
SURFACE AERATION (04-203-AF): Floating solar aerators were installed in the reservoir to mitigate odors that may come from the reservoir. This contract was completed in 2015. An additional thirteen floating solar aerators were installed in the reservoir in March 2017.

FINAL RESERVOIR PREPARATION (04-203-4F): All remaining items required for operation of the Thornton Composite Reservoir were completed under this contract in 2015, and the reservoir was placed in operation as required in Paragraph 16.d. of the Consent Decree.

The Thornton Composite Reservoir became operational when it took water for the first time on November 26 and 27, 2015. Since that time and through the end of 2025, the reservoir captured a total of 65 BG of combined sewage during 193 storm events. A table showing the dates and respective volumes captured by the Thornton Composite Reservoir is linked here. Since the Thornton Composite Reservoir became operational, there have been very few CSO discharge events within the Calumet TARP service area. Overall, more than 99.9 percent of combined sewer overflows have been captured by the Calumet TARP System since Thornton became operational. The few discharges to the waterways that have occurred were the result of local conditions which prevented conveyance of storm flows into the TARP dropshafts. A contract to make some structural adjustments at these locations was completed in 2020 to prevent recurrence.

On November 4, 2021, Contract 15-266-4H5 was awarded to connect the Thorn Creek tunnel to the Thornton Composite Reservoir and abandon the Thornton Transitional Reservoir (TTR), so that the TTR can be returned to a rock quarry by its owner upon termination of the District's lease at the end of 2022. The TTR was decommissioned on September 22, 2022.

The MWRD's Thornton Reservoir is the largest combined sewer reservoir in the world, designed to provide up to 7.9 billion gallons of storage to protect the quality of the Calumet River area waterways and mitigate flooding by reducing basement backups and addressing overbank flooding from nearby Thorn Creek. The Thornton Reservoir benefits 556,000 people living on the Far South Side of Chicago and 13 surrounding suburbs.



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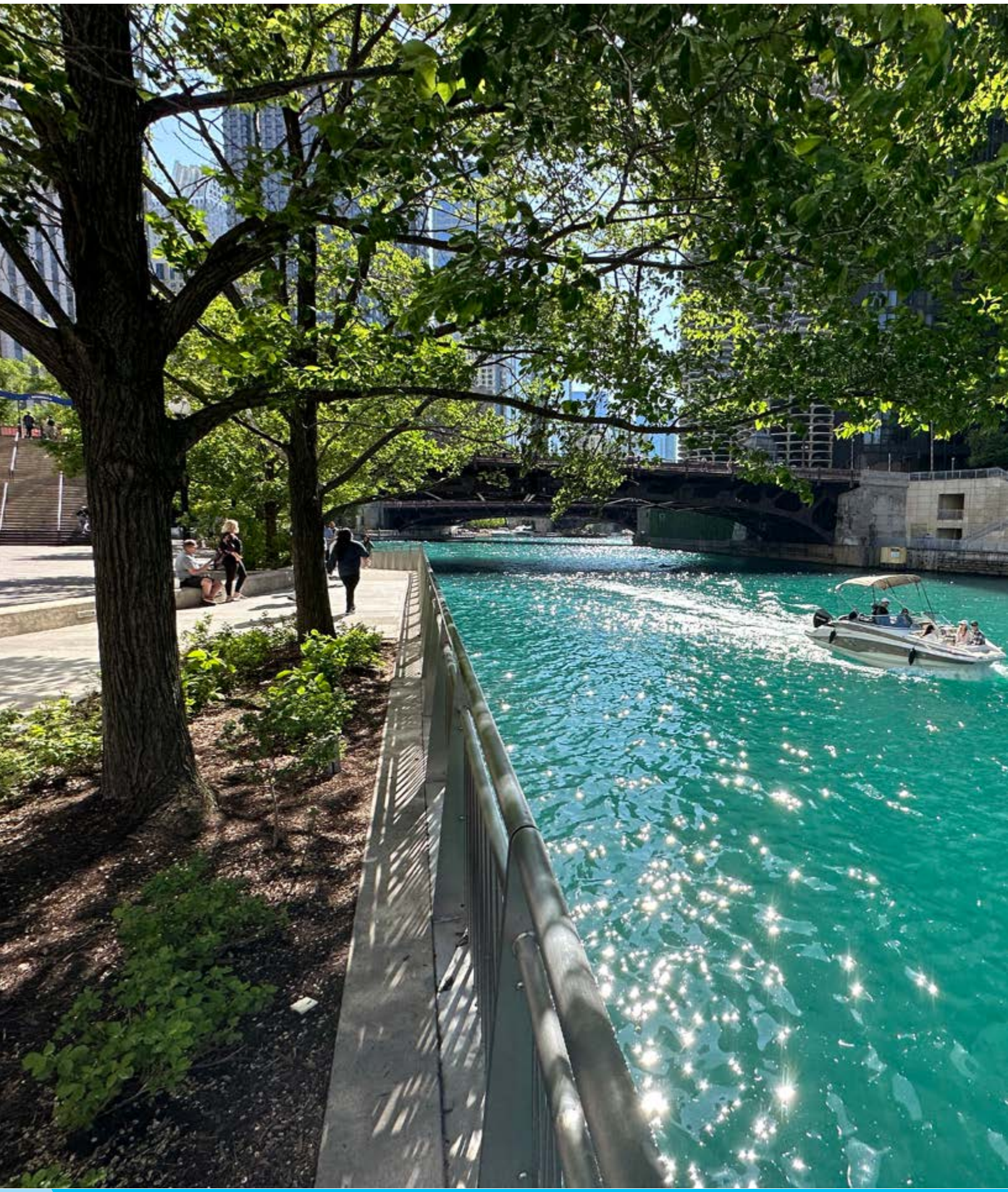
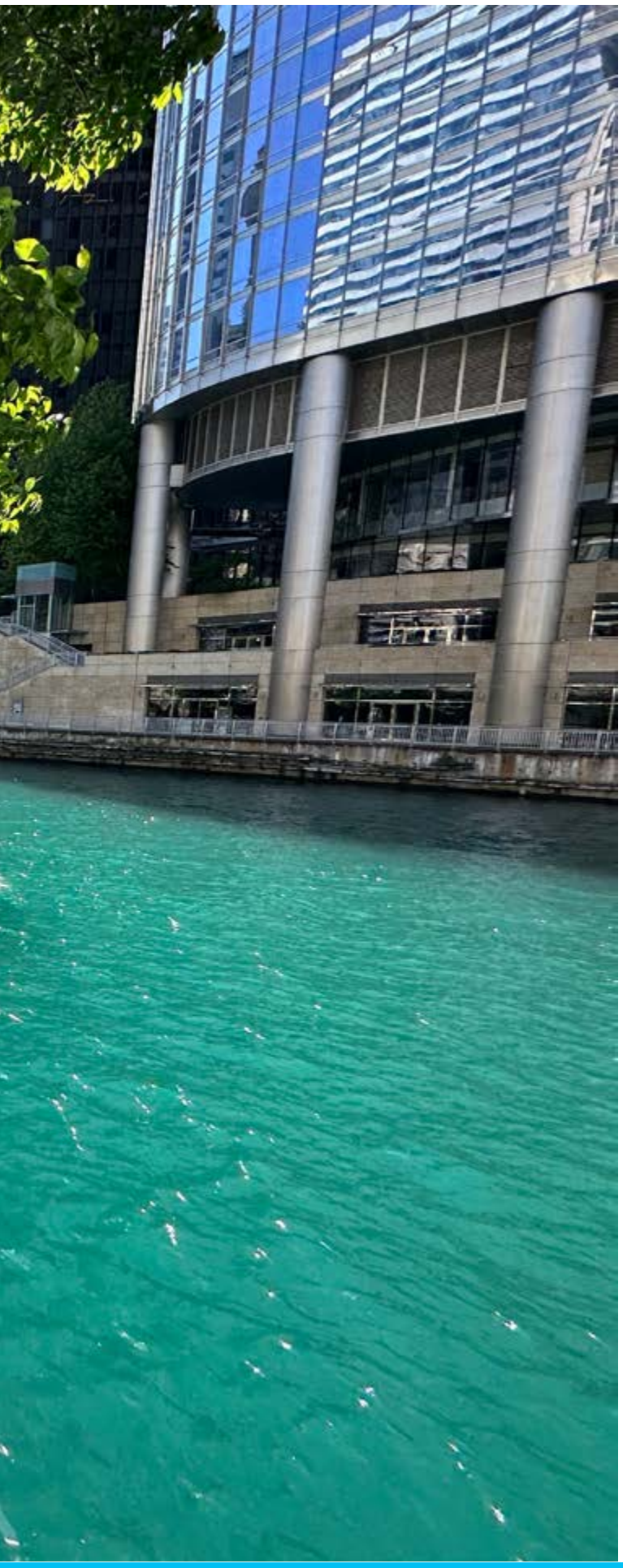
Combined Sewer Overflow Quarterly Discharge Reports submitted to the IEPA for Calendar Year 2025

In 2025, there were zero reversals to Lake Michigan at the Chicago River Controlling Works (CRCW). CRCW, located at the mouth of the Chicago River, controls the flow between Lake Michigan and the river, utilizing locks for navigation and sluice gates to manage water levels. CRCW is part of the MWRD's Chicago Area Waterway System, a 76.1-mile network of canals that reverses the river's flow away from Lake Michigan.





"CSO monitoring reports and other CSO-related reports submitted to Illinois EPA including, but not limited to, all documentation of water quality data for the waterway systems within MWRD's jurisdiction, as required by the Calumet, North Side, and Stickney NPDES Permits." (44(a)(iii))

CSO Monitoring

The District utilizes its approved CSO Representative Monitoring and Reporting Plans for the North, Central, and South Areas to track the frequency, duration, and volume of individual CSOs within the Des Plaines River and Chicago Area Waterway System (Plans are linked here).

In summary, the District monitors 219 (28 permitted to the District; 191 permitted to the City of Chicago and Suburbs) of the 393 (38 permitted to the District; 355 permitted to the City of Chicago and Suburbs) total outfalls within its service area. Most of the monitored outfalls have tide gates with telemetry; however, there are six monitored outfall locations permitted to the District that are pump stations. Unmonitored outfalls are assumed to discharge when select monitored ones discharge because of similar invert elevations. Signals are transmitted to the Stickney and Calumet Water Reclamation Plants (WRPs) when the outfall tide gate is open and assumed to be discharging. Plant staff are notified when the pumps are activated at the six pump stations. Volume estimates at six pump station locations are based on pump ratings and run times while volume estimates at the other outfall locations are performed via a conservative method that assumes that all rain that falls during the period that a tide gate is open is being discharged to the waterway. These discharge volumes are then compared to two boundary conditions: (1) total area rainfall volume and (2) outfall pipe capacity. The minimum of these three values are used as the final discharge volumes.

CSO Quarterly Discharge Reports submitted to the IEPA for calendar year 2025 are linked here.

Boaters, residents and tourists enjoy the Chicago River main stem as one of the many amenities along the CAWS - 76.1 miles of navigable waterways connecting the Great Lakes with the Gulf of Mexico. Water quality in the Chicago River and elsewhere have improved with the significant reduction of combined sewer overflows through the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan and advanced treatment technologies at MWRD water reclamation plants.

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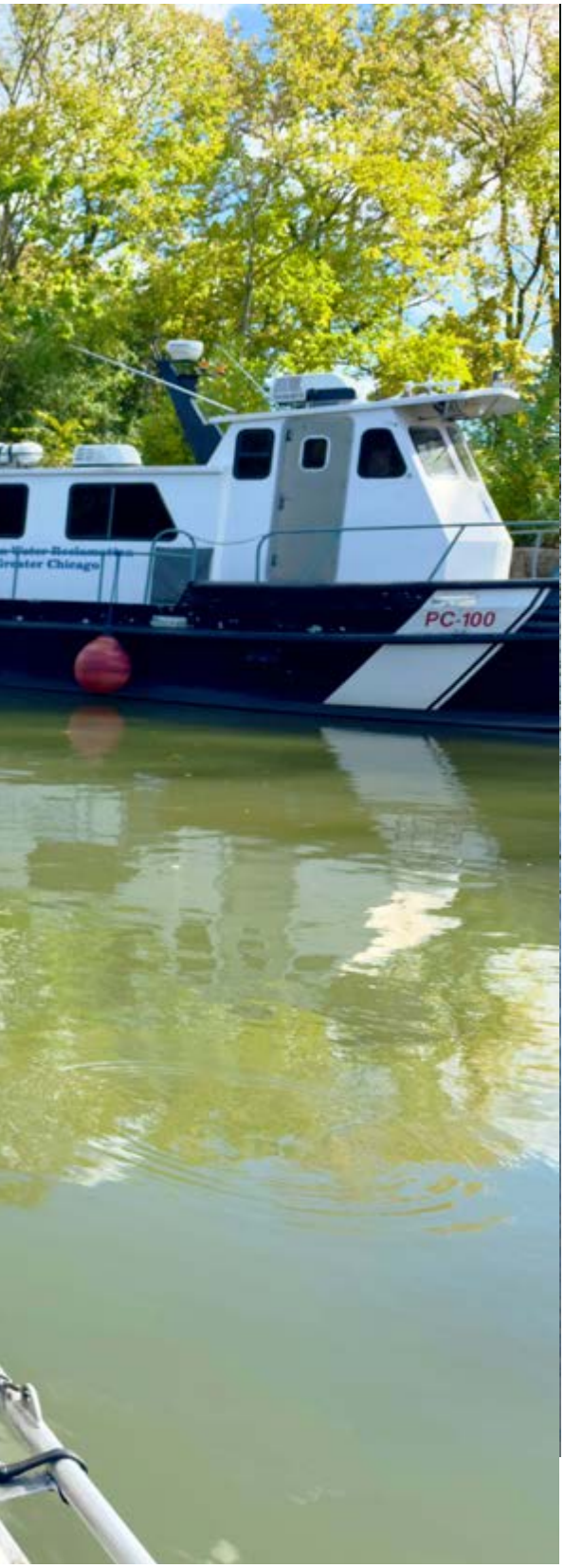
2025 Water Quality Data for Waterway Systems within the District's Jurisdiction

Underneath the road next to Wilmette Harbor is the MWRD's Wilmette Pumping Station. The station sits at the confluence of the North Shore Channel and Lake Michigan. With its eleven gates and two pumps, the station is part of the CAWS infrastructure that can reverse the flow of water from the channel to the lake under high flow storm conditions or divert water from Lake Michigan to the North Shore Channel during warm months to improve the channel's water quality.

MWRD Environmental Research Technicians display a 3.9-pound smallmouth bass they caught in October 2025 during an electrofishing survey to document fish species on the Cal-Sag Channel near Blue Island. From June to October 2025, the MWRD conducted 22 fish surveys across area waterways, collecting, identifying, weighing, and measuring over 8,000 fish, nearly all of which were released back into their habitats.



"CSO monitoring reports and other CSO-related reports submitted to Illinois EPA including, but not limited to, **all documentation of water quality data for the waterway systems within the MWRD's jurisdiction,** as required by the Calumet, North Side, and Stickney NPDES Permits." (44(a)(iii))

The District conducts Ambient Water Quality Monitoring (AWQM) and Continuous Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring (CDOM) on the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS).

In 2025, AWQM was conducted at sixteen locations (monthly at fifteen locations and weekly at Lockport) on the CAWS in accordance with the attached Quality Assurance Project Plan (Appendix A). A spreadsheet containing the water quality data generated from this monitoring is submitted as Attachment 1.

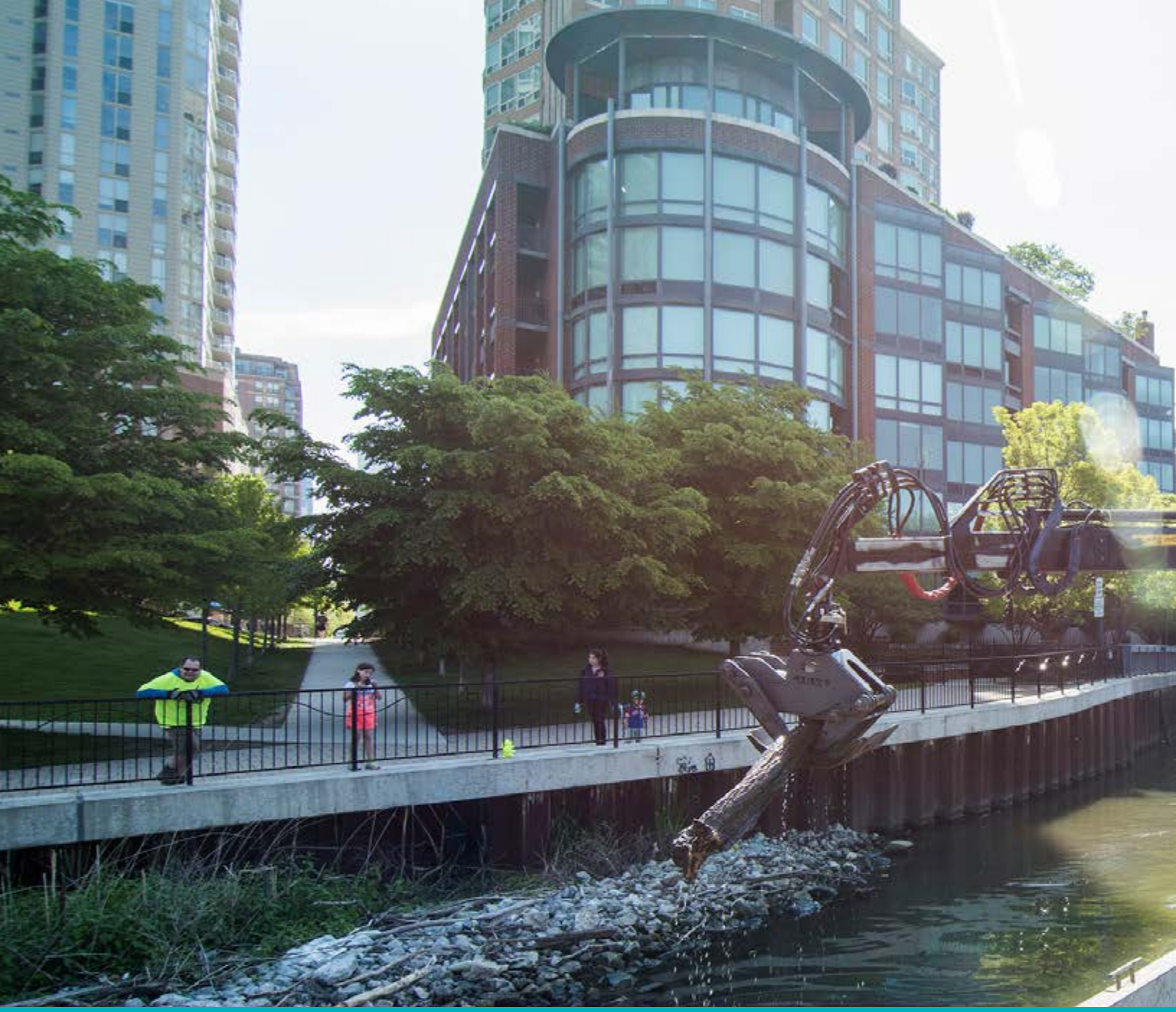
The CAWS Use Attainability Analysis (IPCB Rulemaking R08-009) resulted in more stringent water quality standards for the CAWS, effective July 1, 2015, based on new CAWS A and CAWS B Aquatic Life Use designations. Analysis of the District's AWQM data shows that the CAWS typically exhibits high compliance with the new water quality standards, pH, low level mercury and chloride were exceeded on three or fewer occasions at all the stations combined, and dissolved oxygen was exceeded on five separate occasions at three of the monitoring locations. Fecal coliform results exceeding 200 cfu/100ml for primary contact waters were observed more than once respectively, at five locations during the 2025 recreational season.

In 2025, CDOM was conducted at fifteen locations on the CAWS in accordance with the attached Quality Assurance Project Plan (Appendix B). A spreadsheet containing the hourly dissolved oxygen data generated from this monitoring is submitted as Attachment 2. A report entitled "Continuous Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring in the Service Area of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago During 2024" was released in 2025 and is included as Appendix C.

The District submitted a petition for variance related to the more stringent DO water quality standards for the CAWS, resulting in a stay of the DO standards that would otherwise have been effective July 1, 2015. As such, most CAWS waterways including Bubbly Creek were subject to the Secondary Contact and Indigenous Aquatic Life Use DO water quality standard of 4.0 mg/L, with the exception of the Cal-Sag Channel, which had a DO standard of 3.0 mg/L, anytime, and the Chicago River, which was subject to General Use Standards. In 2025, the DO concentration was greater than the more stringent water quality standards over 97 percent of the time for all of the hourly DO measurements taken at the fifteen stations on the CAWS (compliance estimates include some provisional data).

A draft of the Calumet TARP System Post Construction Monitoring Plan was submitted to the required agencies on Nov. 7, 2014, in accordance with Section IX, paragraph 35a of the Consent Decree. Discussions regarding the plan continued in 2016 and a revised plan was submitted to the required agencies on Sept. 30, 2016. This plan was approved by the USEPA in a letter dated Oct. 7, 2016 (copy linked here). The sampling and monitoring required in this plan occurred during 2017 and 2018, and the required report was submitted on June 27, 2019. A report entitled "Post-Construction Monitoring Report for the Calumet Tunnel and Reservoir Plan System" is included as Appendix D. This report was approved by the USEPA in a letter dated Aug. 16, 2023 (copy linked here).

A revised Mainstream/Lower Des Plaines TARP System Post Construction Monitoring Plan was approved by the USEPA on May 11, 2021 in accordance with Section IX, Paragraph 35b of the Consent Decree (copy linked here). The sampling and monitoring required in this plan will begin after full operation of the reservoir.



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Record of Floatable Control Activities

The MWRD operates two skimmer boats that patrol the Chicago River to remove trash and floating material and a larger debris boat that removes tree boughs and large, heavy objects, which could slow the flow of the river or cause a navigation hazard, throughout the Chicago Area Waterways.

The MWRD skimmer and debris boats routinely operate on the waterways and respond to combined sewer overflow events throughout the year. Shown above is a debris basket being offloaded near Taylor Street and the South Branch of the Chicago River.

The following is a record of floatable control activities undertaken pursuant to the Consent Decree Paragraph 18 and Appendix B:

Dates of purchase and commencement of operations of each skimmer boat:

- ✓ The two skimmer boats were procured under Contract 13-611-21, "Furnish and Deliver Trash Collection Boats to the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant." The boats were delivered on January 2, 2015, and commenced operations on April 6, 2015. These boats continued operations during 2025.

The dates on which each skimmer boat, pontoon boat, or other piece of equipment was operated:

- ✓ A spreadsheet linked here, entitled *Summary of 2025 Floatable Control Activities*, is a summary of data collected for debris, skimmer and pontoon boat operations.
- ✓ Additionally, logs for each day a boat was in operation are also linked here. *(2025 Floatable Control Logs.pdf)*

Status of Combined Sewer Overflow Floatables Control in Addison Creek:

The floatables control boom was installed during the summer of 2017 and continued operation in 2025. All necessary permits and easements were obtained before the installation of the boom. A summary of floatables collected is also linked here. *(Summary of 2025 Floatable Control Activities)* The following is the summary of activities:

- ✓ In late September 2014, the District spoke to the Village of Broadview and the two private property owners regarding the proposed installation of the debris boom.
- ✓ On November 14, 2014, the District received a *Letter of No Objection* (LONO) from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) linked here.
- ✓ On January 8, 2015, the District Board of Commissioners adopted an ordinance establishing the right-of way in the installation, operation, and maintenance of the containment boom.
- ✓ On July 7, 2015, the District received *Permit No. NE2015032 from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)* linked here authorizing the project.
- ✓ On February 19, 2016, the District obtained an executed easement agreement linked here from the first private property owner, Real Group, LLC. The District's Board of Commissioners approved payment of the easement on April 7, 2016.
- ✓ In February 2016, the District purchased the floatables control boom.
- ✓ On March 31, 2017, the District obtained an executed easement agreement linked here from the second private property owner, 2920 South 19th Avenue, LLC. The District's Board of Commissioners approved payment of the easement on March 3, 2017.
- ✓ On April 17, 2017, the District obtained an executed agreement linked here from the third private property owner, the Village of Broadview.
- ✓ On July 31, 2017, the floatables control boom was installed linked here.

This green roof at the Blue Island Public Library captures and holds rainwater that would otherwise flow into the city of Blue Island's sewer system. This project was one of 12 applications selected by the MWRD to participate in the MWRD's Green Infrastructure Partnership Program. It was completed in 2025.

5

Green Infrastructure Activities

The following is a report on Green Infrastructure activities undertaken pursuant to Consent Decree Section V of Appendix E:

Introduction

The Consent Decree required the District to submit a Green Infrastructure Program Plan (GIPP) to the EPA and IEPA for approval within one year of the effective date. A draft of the District's GIPP was submitted to the EPA and IEPA on December 23, 2014, and ultimately approved on October 7, 2015. (See *Green Infrastructure Program Plan* linked here).

Going forward, the Consent Decree (Appendix E, Section V) requires the District to include Green Infrastructure reporting in its Annual Report.

The GIPP outlines the District's strategy to gain the public's acceptance and understanding of how GI can be beneficial to alleviate flooding issues and Combined Sewer Overflows in addition to describing how the District will satisfy the Consent Decree's GI Design Retention Capacity (DRC) requirements. The District is required to provide a minimum of 2 million gallons of DRC within five years and 10 million gallons of DRC within 15 years of the approval date of the Consent Decree. The District accomplished the DRC requirements in 2020.

2025 Rain Barrel Program Annual Report (Appendix E.II.A)

Rain Barrel Program

In May 2015, the District revised and expanded the rain barrel distribution program that offered free rain barrels to Cook County residents and organizations to increase the number of barrels disseminated. The District delivered free rain barrels through three distribution networks: municipalities; campus-type facilities; and non-government organizations, planning groups, or community groups. This free program ended on December 31, 2016. To participate in this free program, municipalities were required to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the District, and non-governmental organizations, planning groups, or community groups throughout Cook County were required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding. During the free program, a total of 88 municipalities and 23 organizations were enrolled as partners. When the free program concluded, the District reinstituted sales of rain barrels to Cook County residents at cost via mwrd.org. The fee includes tax and delivery. A full price barrel cost residents $43.00; for a limited time, prices were discounted to $21.50 and $10.75 for senior citizens.

Marketing Activities

The District marketed rain barrels through multiple channels in 2025. Our marketing materials educated the public about the value of rain barrels in preventing flooding and improving water quality while countering barriers to their acceptance. To address concerns about the difficulty of installation, simple instructions were included in every barrel, and a link to an installation video developed by the District in partnership with Openlands (a not-for-profit organization that unites people and resources around the goal of land and water protection) was available. Concerns that rain barrels would have a negative impact on the appearance of a property were countered by using photography of rain barrels installed in beautifully landscaped yards.

PUBLICATIONS: The District created a rain barrel brochure that was distributed at all community outreach events in 2025. The brochure is posted online and provides specific details for ordering (See *MWRD Rain Barrel Brochure* linked here). The District continued to provide an installation guide for rain barrels which were distributed with each rain barrel. The use and maintenance instructional guide is available at mwrd.org (See *MWRD Rain Barrel Instructions* linked here. The creation of a storybook "Where Does IT GO?" in 2021 features a rain barrel on page 12. Rain barrels are also described in the District's "Green Neighbor Guide" which is linked here.

SOCIAL MEDIA: The District promoted rain barrels on social media by posting photos to demonstrate the productive uses of rain barrels and reminders to winterize the barrels and other green infrastructure tools via Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Instagram, BlueSky and Threads. Postings included general educational information regarding the environmental and monetary value of utilizing rain barrels, while other postings detailed specific events where rain barrels would be or were distributed to the public.

WEBSITE: Rain barrels were prominently advertised with a large graphic on the District's website, mwrd.org. The rain barrel content is refreshed as changes to the program are incorporated.

OUTREACH EVENTS AND RAIN BARREL DRAWINGS: The District continued to promote rain barrels at public outreach events throughout the year. Attendees were asked to complete a "Water Environment Pledge" detailing water conservation actions. One of the pledges was selected at each event, and the individual was given a free rain barrel. These outreach efforts are designed to educate the public on the value of rain barrels and other green infrastructure in the District's pursuit of water quality improvements and flooding solutions. Rain barrels were also mentioned during other virtual and in-person presentations to schools and community groups.

WATER ENVIRONMENT PLEDGE MAILING LIST: The District maintains an email list of those who have signed the Water Environment Pledge. The email addresses in this database may receive additional educational materials and program updates.

Number of Barrels Distributed

The District distributed 162,089 barrels between 2014 and 2024, and 7,632 barrels were distributed in 2025 for a total of 169,721 rain barrels. The cost to the District to provide the rain barrels was $7,183,184.91.

Technical Assistance

The District continued to provide instructions on how to install a rain barrel with each order. The District worked with Openlands to create a YouTube video that demonstrates how to install a rain barrel. (See *storyboards* linked here.)

Potential Volume

With proper utilization, if all rain barrels distributed and sold through December 31, 2025, were properly utilized during the entire year, the volume of rainwater kept out of the sewer system in 2025 is 373,386,200 gallons.

The Consent Decree also required the District to implement one or more GI projects and dedicate a minimum of $325,000 towards such projects prior to January 6, 2015, within one year of the effective date of the Consent Decree or prior to approval of the GI Plan, whichever was later. As further described below, the District satisfied this requirement in 2014 through collaboration with the Chicago Public Schools (CPS), the City of Chicago Department of Water Management (DWM), Openlands, and Healthy Schools Campaign in the Space to Grow Program (Phase I Space to Grow) and continued to participate in this program in 2016 (Phase II Space to Grow). The District and the DWM each invested approximately $2 million towards the construction of GI at four CPS schools in 2014. The District's nearly $2 million investment was used solely for GI improvements at the selected CPS schools, thereby far exceeding the minimum $325,000 requirement of the Consent Decree.

Green Infrastructure Program (Appendix E)

Phase I Space to Grow Program – Financial Partnership between the District, CPS and DWM

Space to Grow is an innovative public-private partnership with a mission of transforming Chicago schoolyards into vibrant green spaces for physical activity, outdoor learning and play. As centers of school and community life, Space to Grow projects promote active and healthy lifestyles and connect people with nature in their daily lives. The schoolyards are also designed to prevent flooding and water pollution via rainfall-capturing green infrastructure features such as permeable surfaces, native plants and rain gardens.

The program is co-managed by the Healthy Schools Campaign and Openlands with capital funding, leadership and expertise from the District, CPS and the DWM. The District also provides technical support for green infrastructure elements to ensure that the new schoolyards provide optimal stormwater capture benefits.

Each Space to Grow schoolyard is unique, and the architectural landscape designs incorporate input from neighborhood residents, students, families, staff and faculty. Prior to renovations, many of the schoolyards were little more than asphalt parking lots with aging, or in many cases a lack of, playground equipment. In contrast, the new schoolyards typically feature expanded and safer playground equipment, track and field areas, multi-purpose courts on permeable asphalt, turf fields, outdoor classrooms, rain gardens and vegetable gardens. Also, on average, each Space to Grow schoolyard has the capacity to capture hundreds of thousands of gallons of rainwater that would otherwise have drained into local sewers.

The four elementary schools that were selected for Phase I Space to Grow are in low income areas throughout the City. These schools were prioritized for implementation by CPS, DWM, and the District based on flood risk, site suitability, and socioeconomic factors. Numerous community meetings were held to describe project details and benefits. The District and CPS executed an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) to facilitate this project whereby long-term maintenance responsibilities are assigned to CPS. The District has perpetual rights to inspect the GI to ensure it is being properly maintained in accordance with the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Manual developed for each school.

The District reviewed and provided comments on the construction drawings and specifications at various intervals during the course of design. During the course of construction, the District frequently visited the sites to gain knowledge on the installation of GI. The four sites provide an estimated combined Design Retention Capacity (DRC) of 731,004 gallons per rain event. Educational signage has been placed at the sites to inform students and the surrounding community of the benefits of GI. Neighborhood residents were involved in the installation of GI plantings at some of the schools.

Groundbreaking and ribbon cutting ceremonies were held at each of the schools and were attended by students, parents, school staff, local residents, and elected officials, including the District's Commissioners. The four projects have positively impacted thousands of local residents by providing a safe place for their children to play, educating all to the benefits of GI, and providing much needed relief from localized flooding. CPS has indicated that the new playgrounds are being utilized by students at a far greater rate than before, as well as reducing gang activity within close proximity to the schools.

The District is proud to be a part of the Space to Grow program as it successfully brings communities together, enhances the educational experience for children throughout Chicago, connects people to nature and encourages physical activity while reducing the risk of flooding and water pollution.

Phase II Space to Grow Program – Partnership between the District, CPS and DWM

Given the success of the Phase I Space to Grow Program, the District's Board of Commissioners authorized expansion of the program to fund GI at up to thirty schools, which started in 2015, and continued through 2022, with a total investment by the District of over $15.8 million. These projects not only address localized flooding but also serve to educate students, parents, and school staff about the benefits of GI. The District also invested nearly $967,000 to fund project design at ten schools.

Between 2015 and 2022, the District contributed funding and technical support towards the installation of green infrastructure at 30 CPS schools, providing over 6.5 million gallons of DRC as detailed in the following tables.

Phase III Space to Grow Program – Partnership between the District, CPS and DWM

A new IGA was executed in 2024 to facilitate another three years of schools within the program. The first seven schools under this agreement were completed in 2024 and 2025, providing an additional 2,177,643 gallons at $7,744,041 of District funding.

The new IGA and amendments between the District and CPS will facilitate the Space to Grow projects through 2026. Under the agreement, long term maintenance responsibilities are assigned to CPS. The District has perpetual rights to inspect the GI to ensure it is being properly maintained in accordance with the O&M Manual developed for each school. The District reviews and provides comments on the construction drawings and GI storage calculations at various intervals during design. During construction, the District frequently visits the sites to gain knowledge on the installation of GI, while monitoring progress.

Space to Grow Awards

The Space to Grow program continues to be recognized by numerous awards, including:

- ✓ The 2014 Silver Ribbon Award, Friends of the Chicago River;
- ✓ The 2015 Active Design Excellence Award, Honorable Mention: This was the only submission from Chicago to be recognized this year. Fellow award recipients span the globe;

- ✓ The 2015 Emerald Award from the Illinois Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council, Mission category;
- ✓ The 2015 New Champions Award from the National Physical Activity Plan Alliance (NPAPA);
- ✓ The 2015 Sustainability Award from the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (IAFSM), which recognizes excellence in stormwater management across the state of Illinois;
- ✓ Top 100 Finalist for the 2015 Chicago Innovation Awards;
- ✓ Best of Green Schools 2016 – Collaborator, Green Schools National Network;
- ✓ First Place - Large Population Green Infrastructure, 2016, National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA);
- ✓ The 2016 Special Achievement Award to Primera Engineers, Ltd. for Morrill Elementary - American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Illinois;
- ✓ The 2017 MWRD Sustainable Landscaping Award;
- ✓ The 2017 Stormwater Solutions Magazine Top Project;
- ✓ The 2018 Local Initiatives Support Corporation Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards – Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois Healthy Community Award;
- ✓ The 2018 Metropolitan Planning Council Burnham Award for Excellence in Planning;
- ✓ The 2020 SHIFT Award for Land Management Innovation;
- ✓ The 2020 Water Environment Federation Public Communication and Outreach Program Award.

Additional GI Partnerships

In 2025, the District constructed additional GI projects that conform to the criteria established in the GIPP. The District worked with several partners listed below to develop GI projects consisting of permeable pavement parking, green roofs, and green alleys. The District committed $4,114,469 to these projects which provided a combined DRC of 2,496,593 gallons. The District entered into IGAs with these entities whereby maintenance responsibilities lie with the local municipality and the District retains perpetual rights to inspect the facilities to ensure they are being maintained as required by the O&M Manuals of the respective projects. A list of 2025 GI projects is shown below and a table showing all GI Retention Capacity Accomplishments through 2025 is linked here.

Blue Island Library

In 2025, Blue Island constructed a project consisting of a green roof at the Public Library. The District funded $265,839 of the total $319,856 construction cost. This project retains 2,762 gallons per rain event.

Broadview

In 2025, Broadview constructed a project consisting of one permeable paver parking lot. The District funded $320,168 of the total $450,710 construction cost. This project retains 233,113 gallons per rain event.

Brookfield

In 2025, Brookfield constructed a project consisting of a green permeable paver parking lot. The District funded $183,638 of the total $351,430 construction cost. This project retains 40,422 gallons per rain event.

Forest Park

In 2025, Forest Park constructed a project consisting of reconstructing an impervious alley with permeable pavers. The District funded $303,000 of the total $587,765 construction cost. This project retains 64,056 gallons per rain event.

Hoffman Estates

In 2025, Hoffman Estates constructed a project consisting of a green permeable paver parking lot at the Village Hall. The District funded $438,594 of the total $2,524,716 construction cost. This project retains 177,082 gallons per rain event.

Markham

In 2025, Markham constructed a project consisting of reconstructing impervious alleys with permeable pavers at three locations. The District funded $460,800 of the total $588,802 construction cost. This project retains 95,761 gallons per rain event.

North Riverside

In 2025, North Riverside constructed a project consisting of reconstructing impervious alleys with permeable pavers at three locations. The District funded $643,402 of the total $1,060,375 construction cost. This project retains 557,921 gallons per rain event.

Students at Myra Bradwell School in Chicago's South Shore neighborhood enjoy the benefits of having a new Space to Grow playground. Bradwell was one of five schoolyards completed in 2025.

Northlake Library

In 2025, Northlake Library constructed a project consisting of a green permeable paver parking lot at the Public Library. The District funded $360,635 of the total $1,005,596 construction cost. This project retains 126,882 gallons per rain event.

Palos Heights

In 2025, Palos Heights constructed a project consisting of a permeable paver commuter parking lot at Lake Katherine. The District funded $184,000 of the total $909,340 construction cost. This project retains 124,353 gallons per rain event.

Willow Springs

In 2025, Willow Springs constructed a project consisting of permeable pavement using inlets throughout the roadway that drain to underground storage. The District funded $954,394 of the total $2,169,403 construction cost. This project retains 1,074,241 gallons per rain event.

Flood-Prone Property Acquisition Program

The District initiated a buyout program for properties in chronic flood-prone areas in 2015. Properties that qualify will be purchased, buildings demolished, and restored to pervious space, thereby increasing stormwater retention and detention. Since the program was initiated, the District has partnered with several Cook County communities to acquire 126 homes thus far. The properties were subsequently restored to open space and provide approximately 910,000 gallons of stormwater retention. The District will continue to pursue additional flood-prone property acquisition projects that will exceed the goals required by the Consent Decree.

Chicago-Calumet Rivers Fund

A team of private and public organizations, including the District, established and funded the Chicago-Calumet (Chi-Cal) Rivers Fund (Fund), administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The Fund's main goals include reducing damages caused by flooding, improving water quality, and restoring habitat and safe public access on the local waterways. One method to achieve these goals is through green infrastructure such as rain gardens, green roofs, pervious surfaces, bioswales, and cisterns.

In 2014 and 2015, the District contributed to the Chi-Cal Fund for green infrastructure projects throughout the region. However, in 2016 the District decided to no longer contribute to the Fund in order to have more flexibility to fund projects with high DRCs in flood prone areas throughout its jurisdiction. However, the District has continued to work with the Chi-Cal team in evaluating projects that will reduce flooding, improve water quality and reduce loads to the local sewer systems.

Students from the Irvin C. Mollison Elementary School in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood enjoy new playground equipment during a Space to Grow ribbon cutting ceremony, on Nov. 7, 2025. In addition to providing healthier, safer and more inspiring outdoor spaces for students, Space to Grow projects help manage stormwater in neighborhoods that face frequent flooding.

Watershed Management Ordinance

The District began requiring stormwater detention in 1972 under the Sewer Permit Ordinance (SPO) for development projects greater than five acres. In 2007, the District began work on a new stormwater management regulatory ordinance, known as the Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO). Numerous public hearings were held on the WMO in order to receive public input. The District's Board of Commissioners subsequently approved the WMO, which became effective on May 1, 2014. The WMO is a comprehensive regulatory ordinance drafted with the assistance of an Advisory Committee consisting of regulatory agencies, municipalities, and non-governmental organizations.

The WMO aims to protect public health, safety, and welfare, and Cook County homes and businesses from flood damage by managing and mitigating the effects of development and redevelopment on stormwater drainage. It provides uniform minimum stormwater management regulations for Cook County that are consistent with the region. The WMO replaces the District's Sewer Permit Ordinance (SPO) with WMO permit requirements more comprehensive than those of the SPO. The District has included a GI component in its WMO, which requires the capture of 1-inch of runoff from impervious surfaces for parcels greater than ½ acre in size when a WMO permit is required.

In 2025, 178 permits were issued that required a total of 20,303,548 gallons of GI retention volume. An additional 174,903,072 gallons of retention volume has been permitted since 2014 bringing the total GI retention volume required under the WMO to 195,206,620 gallons. The District anticipates that more GI retention volume will be approved in 2026 and beyond. See Green Infrastructure Project Log below.

The District's WMO requires GI for new development and redevelopment projects. As can be seen in the table at the top of page 29, the WMO's GI requirements will lead to the eventual installation of over 195 million gallons of GI retention volume over 2,009 projects throughout Cook County. This number will continue to grow significantly in future years. The District's permit review engineers provide input to design consultants on GI at the onset and during the permitting process.

Watershed Management Ordinance Permits requiring Green Infrastructure

	2014-2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
WMO GI Permits Issued	306	200	203	199	168	174	191	200	190	178
Permitted GI DRC (Gallons) Installed*	22,911,710	15,034,733	15,404,075	13,468,588	21,038,185	14,499,001	17,032,525	11,427,826	7,875,200	1,414,193
Permitted GI DRC (Gallons) Under Construction	12,056	57,676	66,637	2,504,882	353,250	2,300,378	4,444,933	5,810,217	6,995,956	11,232,736
Permitted GI DRC (Gallons) to be Constructed*	39,102	18,248	0	0	0	22,484	45,945	4,271,255	9,268,213	7,656,619
Total DRC (Gallons) Permitted	**22,962,868**	**15,110,657**	**15,470,712**	**15,973,470**	**21,391,435**	**16,821,863**	**21,523,403**	**21,509,298**	**24,139,369**	**20,303,548**
Cumulative Total	**195,206,623**									
***Values reflect status of permits issued in each respective year and excludes cancelled or expired permits**										

Potential Future GI Projects

In order to assist communities in addressing urban flooding issues and promote the use of GI in the region, the District has implemented a Green Infrastructure Partnership Program where governmental organizations (i.e. municipalities, townships, and various agencies) within its corporate boundaries can apply for funding assistance on GI projects.

In 2017, the District received 47 project submittals and selected 19 partnerships to help fund GI installations. Due to the positive response to the program, the District continued to solicit project submittals on an annual basis through the Green Infrastructure Partnership Program. For the years 2018 through 2025 the District received 209 applications and selected 101 project partnerships. The total DRC for these projects that have completed construction since the beginning of the Green Infrastructure Partnership Program is over 15 million gallons.

In 2025, the District reviewed the full applications from the 2024 pre-application solicitation and selected 13 project partnerships. All of these projects will be constructed in 2026. Additionally, the Green Infrastructure Partnership Program released a new pre-application and received 22 responses. The District is providing feedback to all of the pre-application applicants and will invite all those that met the program's requirements to submit a full application in 2026. Those that apply will be considered for funding assistance to construct their projects in 2027.

Green Infrastructure Comprehensive Land Use Policy (Appendix E.II.C)

As part of the GI Plan, the District has also developed a Comprehensive Land Use Policy.

The District's Comprehensive Land Use Policy was approved by the District's Board of Commissioners on August 6, 2015 and approved by the USEPA on October 7, 2015 (see *Appendix B of the GIPP* linked here). The Comprehensive Land Use Policy requires public entities leasing District property at a nominal fee to pay for and install GI based on the size of the leasehold and the desired use. Private entities leasing District land are provided incentives to voluntarily implement and maintain GI for development projects based on the size and type of use of the property. Private entities installing GI will receive a credit equal to $0.50 on the $1.00 up to 10% of the leasehold cost, capped at 10 years, for GI improvements in excess of WMO requirements. The District will seek credit towards the DRC requirements outlined in Section III of this plan for any GI installed by leaseholders of District property resulting from the requirements of the Comprehensive Land Use Policy.

In 2025, the District authorized or commenced two lease transactions with public entities requiring the installation of GI as a condition of the lease. This leases isas follows:

- ✓ City of Evanston – Consolidation and extension of four existing public recreational leases totaling approximately 121.05± acres of District real estate into two recreational leases along the North Shore Channel in Evanston, Illinois; North Shore Channel Parcels 1.11, 2.05, 2.06, 2.07, 2.08, 2.09, 2.10, 2.11, 2.12, 2.13, 3.01, 3.02, 3.03, 3.04, and 4.01. The consolidation of the leases was approved by the Board of Commissioners on October 2, 2025.

Green Infrastructure Project Log (Appendix E.III)

Watershed Management Ordinance Permits

2,009 WMO Permits issued requiring Green Infrastructure

Construction Status	Capacity
GI Permitted Yet to Begin Construction	21,321,866 gallons
GI Permitted Under Construction	33,778,721 gallons
GI Permitted Construction Complete	140,106,036 gallons
Total WMO GI Permitted	**195,206,623 gallons**

GI Installed Through 2025

CPS SCHOOL RETENTION* + DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS** = **24,211,355 GALLONS**

* Forty-one schools completed through 2025
**Ninety-six projects completed through 2025

Summary of Green Infrastructure Capture Volume

2014–2025

Installed Design Retention Capacity (Gallons)	2014-2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Totals
CPS Design Retention	1,484,156	0	1,287,651	881,416	827,003	1,079,595	976,749	0	494,118	1,683,525	8,714,213
District Partnership Projects	1,875,577	1,093,788	205,453	1,297,697	1,523,563	552,358	2,457,918	1,676,926	2,521,876	2,496,593	15,701,749
WMO Projects (Installed)	22,911,710	15,034,733	15,404,075	13,468,588	21,038,185	14,499,001	17,032,525	11,427,826	7,875,200	1,414,193	140,106,036
Total DRC Installed	**26,271,443**	**16,128,521**	**16,897,179**	**15,647,701**	**23,388,751**	**16,130,954**	**20,467,192**	**13,104,752**	**10,891,194**	**5,594,311**	**164,521,998**

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits Consent Decree

2025 Annual Report Referenced Resources

Attachments Table of Contents

Attachments for Item 1 – TARP Reservoirs

1. Total McCook Reservoir CSO Capture Volume 2018-2025.pdf
2. Total Thornton Composite Reservoir CSO Capture Volume- 2016-2025.pdf

Attachments for Item 2 - CSOs

3. CSO Representative Monitoring and Reporting Plans.pdf
4. IEPA Quarterly Reports 2025.pdf

Attachments for Item 3 - Water Quality

5. Appendix_A_AWQM QAPP.pdf
6. Attachment 1_CAWS_AWQM_ 2025.xlsx
7. Appendix_B_CDOM QAPP.pdf
8. Attachment 2_CAWS_CDOM_2025.xlsx
9. Appendix C CDOM 2024.pdf
10. USEPA Approval PCMP Calumet TARP System October 7, 2016.pdf
11. Appendix D Post Construction Monitoring Report Calumet TARP.pdf
12. USEPA Approval PCM Calumet TARP System August 16, 2023.pdf
13. USEPA PCMP Mainstream Des Plaines TARP System.pdf

Attachments for Item 4 - Floatables

14. Summary of 2025 Floatable Control Activities.pdf
15. 2025 Floatable Control Logs.pdf
16. USACE Letter of No Objection – Debris Boom.pdf
17. IDNR Approval Letter - Debris Boom.pdf
18. Executed Easement Agreement No. 1.pdf
19. Executed Easement Agreement No. 2.pdf
20. Executed Easement Agreement No. 3.pdf
21. Addison Creek Debris Boom Photo

Attachments for Item 5 - Green Infrastructure

22. Green Infrastructure Program Plan.pdf
23. MWRD Rain Barrel Brochure.pdf
24. MWRD Rain Barrel Instructions.pdf
25. Green Neighbor Guide.pdf
26. Rain Barrel Install Storyboard.pdf
27. GI Design Retention Capacity Accomplishments through 2025.pdf

Space to Grow® Schools

Year Completed	Name of School	Address	Design Retention Capacity (Gallons)
2014	Virgil I. Grissom Elementary School	12810 S. Escanaba Ave.	253,902
2014	George Leland Elementary School	512 S. Lavergne Ave.	128,197
2014	Morrill Elementary School of Math & Science	6011 S. Rockwell St.	118,098
2014	Theophilus Schmid Elementary School	9755 S. Greenwood Ave.	230,807
2015	Willa Cather Elementary School	2908 W. Washington Blvd.	56,152
2015	Orozco Fine Arts & Science Elementary School	1940 W. 18th St.	308,352
2016	Daniel J. Corkery Elementary School	2510 S. Kildare Ave.	102,738
2016	Frank W. Gunsaulus Elementary Scholastic Academy	4420 S. Sacramento Ave.	152,517
2016	James Wadsworth Elementary School	6650 S. Ellis Ave.	133,393
2018	John W. Cook Elementary School	8150 S. Bishop St.	217,978
2018	Nathan S. Davis Elementary School	3014 W. 39th Pl.	197,422
2018	Fernwood Elementary School	10041 S. Union Ave.	138,222
2018	Eugene Field Elementary School	7019 N. Ashland Ave.	422,169
2018	Morton School of Excellence	431 N. Troy St.	155,783
2018	James B. Farnsworth Elementary School	5414 N. Linder Ave.	156,077
2019	Arthur R. Ashe Elementary School	8505 S. Ingleside Ave.	244,771
2019	Ninos Heroes Elementary Academic Center	8344 S. Commercial Ave.	179,432
2019	Henry H. Nash Elementary School	4837 W. Erie St.	152,841
2019	Daniel Webster Elementary School	4055 W. Arthington St.	151,742
2019	Oliver S. Wescott Elementary School	409 W. 80th St.	152,630
2020	John Barry Elementary School	2828 N. Kilbourn Ave.	151,367
2020	Daniel Boone Elementary School	6710 N. Washtenaw Ave.	186,241
2020	Genevieve Melody Elementary School	3937 W. Wilcox St.	154,000
2020	Jesse Sherwood Elementary School	245 W. 57th St.	184,454
2020	Harold Washington Elementary School	9130 S. University Ave.	150,941
2021	Horace Mann Elementary School	8050 S. Chappel Ave.	271,203
2021	Arnold Mireles Elementary School	9000 S. Exchange Ave.	208,117
2021	Isabelle C. O'Keeffe Elementary School	6940 S. Merrill Ave.	250,064
2021	Daniel S. Wentworth Elementary School	1340 W. 71st Street	196,358
2021	John Whistler Elementary School	11533 S. Ada Street	153,853
2022	Robert A. Black Magnet Elementary School	9101 S Euclid Ave.	94,743
2022	Edward Coles Language Academy	8441 S Yates Blvd.	568,534
2022	Benjamin E. Mays Elementary Academy	6656 S Normal Blvd.	158,271
2022	Brian Piccolo Elementary School	1040 N Keeler Ave.	155,201
2024	Ronald H. Brown Community Academy	12607 S. Union Ave.	303,246
2024	Spencer Elementary Technology Academy	214 N. Lavergne Av	190,872
2025	Bradwell Comm Arts & Science Elementary School	7736 S. Burnham Ave.	446,913
2025	James Farmer, Jr. Elementary School	4214 S St. Lawrence Ave.	225,828
2025	Mollison Elementary School	4415 S. King Dr.	225,524
2025	Ryder Elementary Math & Science Specialty School	8716 S. Wallace St.	260,838
2025	Till Elementary Math & Science Academy	6543 S. Champlain Ave.	319,914
		Total	**8,509,705**

Back Cover: One indicator of improving water quality within the Chicago Area Waterways is the resurgence of apex predators along the waterways. This bald eagle was spotted near the confluence of the Des Plaines River and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal in Lockport, Ill.

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

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
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