



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District *of* Greater Chicago

MEDIA ADVISORY

Allison Fore

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6626

allison.fore@mwrdd.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

For immediate release

May 3, 2023

Doors open to MWRD's water reclamation plants; go behind the scenes to view how the MWRD protects the water environment

WHO: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) staff, commissioners, and the Cook County Sheriff's Office.

WHAT: On two consecutive Saturdays in May, the MWRD will open its doors at different water reclamation plants. These open houses will usher in audiences of all ages to give them access to the essential work performed by the MWRD to transform wastewater into clean water and recover critical resources.



WHERE/WHEN: Saturday, May 13, 2023, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

* Egan Water Reclamation Plant, 550 Meacham Rd., Schaumburg

* Hanover Park Water Reclamation Plant, 1220 Sycamore Ave., Hanover Park

Kirie Water Reclamation Plant, 701 W. Oakton St., Des Plaines

* O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant, 3500 Howard St., Skokie

Saturday, May 20, 2023, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

* Calumet Water Reclamation Plant, 400 E. 130th St., Chicago

* Stickney Water Reclamation Plant, 6001 W. Pershing Rd., Cicero

* **The Cook County Sheriff's Office will collect medications and electronics.**

Ever wondered where all the Chicago region's water flows after it leaves houses, businesses and other institutions—and how it is transformed into clean water? For the majority of Cook County, it flows to one of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (MWRD's) seven innovative, reliable water reclamation plants (WRPs). For the first time since the pandemic began, the MWRD will open its doors to the public for tours of these integral facilities along with other activities.

The open houses will take place at the MWRD's Egan WRP, Hanover Park WRP, Kirie WRP and O'Brien WRP on Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., followed by open houses on May 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Calumet and

Stickney WRPs. No reservations required. The events are taking place in association with National Infrastructure Week, May 15-19, highlighting the importance of infrastructure in Americans' daily lives. The United for Infrastructure program is part of Accelerator for America Action, which advocates for investment in infrastructure through a steering committee that includes the Value of Water Campaign and American Society of Civil Engineers.

At the open houses, visitors can take a behind-the-scenes look at how the MWRD cleans wastewater and manages stormwater. Staff from various MWRD departments will also be on hand to answer questions. The MWRD will distribute free oak tree saplings from its "Restore (*continued*)

Doors open to MWRD's water reclamation plants, *cont.*

the Canopy” program and milkweed seeds to assist with stormwater management and the lifecycle of the monarch butterfly. Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart’s office will also be collecting medications and electronics until 1 p.m. at the Egan, Hanover Park, O’Brien, Calumet and Stickney WRPs.

All ages are welcome to attend. Visitors are encouraged to wear closed-toe shoes and suitable attire for an industrial environment. If visitors like what they see on these abbreviated tours, they are welcome to schedule a full in-person tour or join the MWRD for a virtual tour by registering at mwrdd.org/facility-tours.

Created in 1889 as the Sanitary District of Chicago, the MWRD today is an award-winning, special-purpose district responsible for treating wastewater and provid-

ing stormwater management for residents and businesses in an 882.1-square-mile service area that covers Chicago and 128 suburban municipalities. The MWRD strives to protect businesses, homes and neighborhoods from flood damage, clean wastewater entering water reclamation plants and manage water as a vital resource and protect area waterways and the source of drinking water in Lake Michigan.

The MWRD is known famously throughout the world for its work reversing the flow of the Chicago and Calumet River Systems, constructing the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, North Shore Channel, Cal-Sag Channel, the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) and developing groundbreaking technologies to recover and reuse valuable resources to protect the planet.

###

Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois. Learn more at mwrdd.org.