

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

## Press Release

Allison Fore Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer 312.751.6626 allison.fore@mwrd.org 100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

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## MWRD seeks applicants for Sustainable Landscaping and Biosolids User awards;

Applications due September 15, 2020



The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is accepting applications from Cook County individuals, organizations and businesses for its 2020 Sustainable Landscaping and Biosolids Beneficial Reuse Awards until September 15.

The awards recognize the activities and innovations from entities, such as park districts, villages, schools, golf courses and athletic clubs in two separate categories: Sustainable Landscaping and Beneficial Use of Exceptional Quality (EQ) Biosolids and Biosolids Compost. Exceptional Quality biosolids and biosolids compost are a product of the MWRD's water treatment process that are used as soil amendments and sustainable alternative to other materials. The beneficial use of EQ biosolids and biosolids compost may be demonstrated through any one or a combination of the following:

- Continuous commitment to maximize the use of EQ biosolids or compost to improve the costeffectiveness of landscape management.
- Promotion such as, but not limited to, referrals and field demonstrations of EQ biosolids or compost.
- Educational efforts on the environmental/ economic benefits of using EQ biosolids or compost.

Qualifications for the Sustainable Landscaping award may be demonstrated through the innovative use of green infrastructure, capital investment, *(continued)* 

## MWRD seeks applicants for awards, cont.

and how an individual or organization promotes green landscaping to educate the community. The goal is to present an award to an individual or community that integrates sustainable practices in the environment that manages stormwater. For the purpose for the award, green infrastructure includes:

- Rainwater Harvesting, i.e. through rain barrels
- Rain Gardens
- Native Landscaping
- Stormwater Trees
- Porous Pavement
- Bioswales
- Green Roofs
- Greenways
- Wetlands
- · Green Alleys, Streets, and Parking Lots

Activities completed after January 1, 2015 are eligible for an award, and an individual or organization is eligible once every five years. Submittals should include figures, illustrations, narrative, and photos to help further explain the efforts. The evaluation process may include a site visit. This year's awards applications will be accepted electronically. They are available now on

www.mwrd.org. If you have difficulties using a form, please email TianG@mwrd.org to request a print version of the application by email.

Submit application packages by September 15, 2020 to TianG@mwrd.org or mail to:

Guanglong Tian Biosolids Utilization and Soil Science Monitoring & Research Department Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago 6001 W. Pershing Road Cicero, IL 60804

Awards will be presented at the MWRD's eighth annual Sustainability Summit later this year. For more information about the biosolids program, awards or Sustainability Summit, contact (312) 751-6633. This year's Sustainability Summit will be held virtually using Microsoft Teams on October 21, 2020. Click <u>here</u> if you would like to register to attend. It is open to the public.

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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 <u>mwrd.org</u>.