

2025 - CALENDAR



**Metropolitan Water
Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago**

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is an award-winning, independent government agency responsible for protecting the region's water environment. The MWRD accomplishes this by protecting area waterways and the source of drinking water (Lake Michigan), managing stormwater for residents and businesses across Cook County and transforming and reclaiming wastewater in its service area, which encompasses 93.3 percent of the land area of Cook County. As an innovative utility of the future, the MWRD strives to develop groundbreaking technologies to recover and reuse valuable resources that improve water quality and protect the planet.

Established by the Illinois General Assembly in 1889 as the Sanitary District of Chicago, the MWRD's name, roles, jurisdiction and authority have changed over more than 135 years. The enabling act in 1889 was in direct response to a long-standing problem with contamination of the water supply and nuisance conditions of the rivers. The MWRD reversed the flow of the Chicago and Calumet River systems to stop the discharge of sewage to Lake Michigan and instead discharge it to the Des Plaines River, where it could be diluted as it flowed into the Illinois River and eventually the Mississippi River. Prior to the MWRD's construction of a 61.3-mile system of canals and waterway improvements, the Chicago and Calumet River systems were tributaries to Lake Michigan. These river systems are now tributaries to the Illinois River system. The MWRD constructed seven modern water reclamation plants over the 20th century, releasing clean water into the environment.

From 1955 through 1988, the MWRD was called the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago. To provide a more accurate perception of the MWRD's current functions and responsibilities, the name was changed effective Jan. 1, 1989, to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

Mission and Responsibilities

The mission of the MWRD is to protect the health and safety of the public in its service area, protect the quality of the water supply source, improve

the quality of water in watercourses in its service area, protect businesses and homes from flood damages, and manage water as a vital resource for its service area. The MWRD collects wastewater from municipalities in its service area, conveys it to water reclamation plants, provides full secondary treatment, and provides tertiary treatment when appropriate. The MWRD is also responsible for stormwater management for all of Cook County. The MWRD does not treat and transport drinking water to homes and businesses; for information regarding drinking water in your neighborhood, contact your local municipality.

Services

The MWRD's seven modern water reclamation plants meet stringent permits in treating residential and industrial wastewater. A pretreatment program guards against hazardous substances and toxic chemicals.

Water reclamation plants are strictly regulated pursuant to federal and state requirements. The MWRD routinely monitors industries and nonresidential sources to assure that wastes are disposed of in an environmentally responsible and lawful manner.

Treated water, along with runoff from rainfall, enters local canals, rivers, and streams that serve as headwaters of the Illinois River system. The MWRD manages stormwater in the separate sewer area through a variety of measures to mitigate flooding. This includes 33 stormwater detention reservoirs that the MWRD owns and operates and hundreds of collaborations with local partners to fund stormwater management projects. In the combined sewer area, the MWRD's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) has significantly reduced basement backups and overflows to local waterways.

Flow within the MWRD's waterway system and the Lake Michigan discretionary diversion flow are controlled by three inlet structures on Lake Michigan: the Wilmette Pumping Station, the Chicago River Controlling Works, and the O'Brien Lock and Dam. The single outlet control structure is the Lockport Lock and Powerhouse.

While exercising no direct control over water collection systems owned and maintained by cities, villages, sewer districts, and utilities, the MWRD does regulate municipal sewer construction through our permitting process outside the City of Chicago. The MWRD also owns a network of intercepting sewers to convey wastewater from the local collection systems to the water reclamation plants.

Facilities

The MWRD serves 5.19 million residents in a 882.1 square mile area, which includes the City of Chicago and 128 surrounding suburban communities.

The MWRD's 560 miles of intercepting sewers and force mains range in size from 6 inches to 27 feet in diameter, and these are fed by approximately 10,000 local sewer system connections.

TARP is one of the country's largest public works projects for pollution and flood control. Four tunnel systems total 110 miles of tunnels, 8 to 33 feet in diameter and 150 to 300 feet underground.

The tunnels are designed to empty into three large reservoirs to provide storage for the polluted water captured by TARP.

The MWRD owns and operates the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant, considered one of the world's largest water reclamation plants, in addition to six other plants and 23 pumping stations.

The MWRD treats an average of 1.2 billion gallons of water each day but has the capacity to treat over 2 billion gallons in a day.

The MWRD controls 76.1 miles of navigable waterways, which are part of the inland waterway system connecting the Great Lakes with the Gulf of Mexico.

In 2025, the MWRD will enter the fifth year of a five-year Strategic Plan. This important roadmap outlines the MWRD's mission, vision, and goals toward operational strengths, financial sustainability and resiliency while addressing climate change and regional water resource protection with special focus on engagement, collaboration, innovation, equity, diversity and environmental justice.

GOVERNANCE



Kari K. Steele	President
Patricia Theresa Flynn	Vice President
Marcelino Garcia	Chairman of Finance
Precious Brady-Davis	Commissioner
Yumeka Brown	Commissioner
Cameron Davis	Commissioner
Beth McElroy Kirkwood	Commissioner
Eira L. Corral Sepúlveda	Commissioner
Sharon Waller	Commissioner

The MWRD is governed by a nine-member Board of Commissioners. Commissioners are elected at large and serve on a salaried basis. Three Commissioners are elected every two years for six-year terms. Biannually, the Board elects from its membership a President, Vice President, and Chairman of the Committee on Finance.



Scan the QR code to learn more about the Board of Commissioners or visit mwrld.org

WATER RECLAMATION PLANTS





- 1 Calumet Water Reclamation Plant
- 2 Egan Water Reclamation Plant
- 3 Hanover Park Water Reclamation Plant
- 4 Kirie Water Reclamation Plant
- 5 Lemont Water Reclamation Plant
- 6 O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant
- 7 Stickney Water Reclamation Plant



Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
 <p>Go Easy on the Salt Too much road salt can harm our environment. Learn how you can help at mwrld.org or scan the QR code.</p>			<p>1939 MWRD installs locks at lakefront intakes. New Year's Day</p>	<p>1900 Chicago River reversed; Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal completed.</p>		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				<p>MWRD Board Meeting</p>		<p>2018 McCook Reservoir first fill.</p>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	<p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p>			<p>MWRD Board Meeting</p>		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
			<p>Chinese New Year</p>			


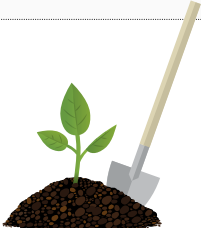
▲ The winter morning sun rises over Lake Michigan and a lakefront path off Solidarity Drive by the Adler Planetarium.



Photo by Justin Brown/MWRD

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH • AMERICAN HEART MONTH

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
			<i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>		<i>Valentine's Day</i>	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK				
	<i>Presidents' Day</i>	1971 Fulton County Prairie Plan begins.		MWRD Board Meeting		
23	24	25	26	27	28	
					Ramadan Begins at Sunset	


▲ Clouds cast shadows on Lake Michigan on a crisp winter day.



Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Casimir Pulaski Day			MWRD Board Meeting		International Women's Day
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Daylight Saving Time Begins					Holi	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	St. Patrick's Day			MWRD Board Meeting		World Water Day
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
2016 UV disinfection begins at O'Brien WRP.						
Eid ul-Fitr Begins Ramadan Ends 30		Eid ul-Fitr Ends 31				


▲ A monarch butterfly visits the flowers along the edge of Bubbly Creek on the South Branch of the Chicago River at Canal Origins Park.



Photo by Justin Brown/MWRD

EARTH MONTH

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
					MWRD Board Meeting	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
						Passover Begins at Sundown
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Palm Sunday				MWRD Board Meeting	Good Friday	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Easter Orthodox Easter Passover Ends		Earth Day	Administrative Professionals Day		Arbor Day	
27	28	29	30			

Restore the Canopy, Plant a Tree.
 Help replenish the Cook County canopy and prevent flooding.
 Visit mwrdd.org to learn how or scan the QR code.





▲ Canoers paddle up the North Shore Channel, just north of River Park, in Chicago.



Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH • NATIONAL BIKE MONTH

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>Capture and reuse rainwater. Cook County residents can order rain barrels from the MWRD. To order, visit mwrdd.org or scan the QR code.</p> 			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
CHICAGO WATER WEEK						
	Cinco De Mayo					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Mother's Day	1980 Kirie WRP commences operations.			MWRD Board Meeting	1963 Hanover Park WRP completed.	National Bike to Work Day Armed Forces Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
					1939 Southwest plant (Stickney WRP) commences operations.	1985 Mainstream Tunnel TARP system begins operating.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
2016 Stickney WRP nutrient recovery facility unveiled.	Memorial Day			1889 Sanitary District of Chicago established.		

▲ A patch of flowers welcomes canoers from the banks of the North Branch of the Chicago River near Argyle Street in Chicago.

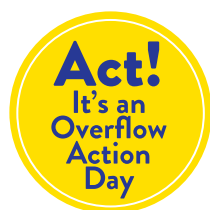


Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH • NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	1930 West Side plant (Stickney) commences operations.			MWRD Board Meeting	Eid al-Adha Begins	Eid al-Adha Ends
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
						Flag Day
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1989 Nicholas J. Melas Centennial Fountain comes online to commemorate MWRD's 100th Anniversary. Father's Day				Juneteenth		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				MWRD Board Meeting		
29	30					



Conserve water.

Reduce your water use before, during and after rainstorms. Sign up for overflow action alerts by scanning the QR code.

[Learn why this is important at mwrdd.org](http://mwrdd.org)





▲ Sand and water align at Montrose Beach in Chicago.



Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
Stormwater Management Learn how the MWRD works with local governments to solve stormwater challenges in Cook County. Visit mwrdd.org or scan the QR code.					Independence Day	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
				2015 Disinfection facility at Calumet WRP completed. MWRD Board Meeting		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
				National Intern Day		

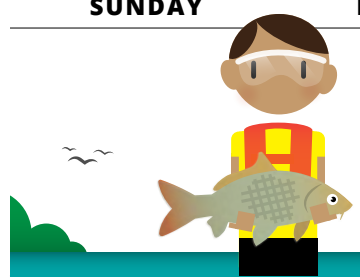
▲ Pools of water cascade over the MWRD's Nicholas J. Melas Centennial Fountain before spraying an arc across the main stem of the Chicago River.



Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31					



Let's Learn!
 Visit mwrld.org or scan the QR code for educational resources and to request a speaker.



MWRD Board Meeting

1907 Chicago River Main Channel and Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal extension completed.
1922 Cal-Sag Channel becomes operational. Lockport Powerhouse and Lock goes online.


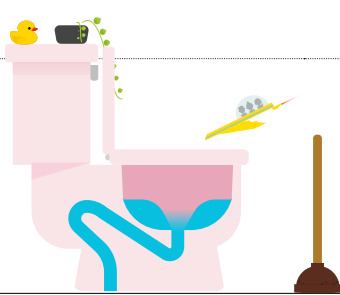
▲ The South Branch of the Chicago River offers a stunning view of Chicago north from Ping Tom Memorial Park in Chinatown.



Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15 • NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 2015 Thornton TARP Reservoir completed. Labor Day	2 1892 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal construction begins.	3	4 MWRD Board Meeting	5	6
7 1938 Chicago River Controlling Works opens.	8	9	10	11 1922 Calumet WRP completed. Patriot Day	12 1907 North Shore Channel construction begins.	13
14	15	16	17	18 1969 Sewage and Waste Control Ordinance adopted. MWRD Board Meeting	19	20
21	22 National Hispanic Heritage Month Begins	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Rosh Hashanah Begins	30	Rosh Hashanah Ends		Where Does IT Go? Watch the animation and download the book at mwrdd.org or scan the QR code.	

WEFTEC
TO OCT 1
WEFTEC.COM


▲ Rowers slice through the still water of the North Shore Channel in Skokie.



Photo by Justin Brown/MWRD

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Save the Monarch

Milkweed, a native plant to the Chicago region, provides food and shelter for Monarchs.

Visit mwrdd.org or scan the QR code

Yom Kippur Begins

Yom Kippur Ends
MWRD Board Meeting

1928 North Side Sewage Treatment Works (later renamed O'Brien) WRP completed.

Indigenous Peoples' Day
Columbus Day

National Hispanic Heritage Month Ends
MWRD Board Meeting

Diwali

1955 ASCE names Chicago Sewage Disposal System one of seven engineering wonders of U.S.

1972 Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) adopted.

1990 Majewski Reservoir construction begins.
Halloween





▲ Fall colors bloom at sunset over the MWRD's Sidestream Elevated Pool Aeration (SEPA) Station #3 on the Cal Sag Channel in Blue Island.



Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

NOVEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
		<p>Go behind the scenes. Take a live virtual or in-person tour or watch it on demand. Visit mwrdd.org or scan the QR code.</p>				
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Daylight Saving Time Ends		Election Day		MWRD Board Meeting		National STEM/STEAM Day
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Veterans Day				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1961 Lemont WRP commences operations.		2004 Illinois legislature names MWRD stormwater authority for Cook County.		MWRD Board Meeting		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30		1907 Lockport Powerhouse delivers first electric current to Chicago. 2015 Thornton TARP Reservoir first fill.		Thanksgiving Day		1910 First water flows into North Shore Channel.

▲ The sun rises over the Calumet River near the MWRD's Sidestream Elevated Pool Aeration (SEPA) station #1 with the Torrence Avenue bridge in the background.



Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

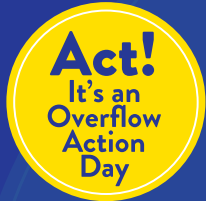
DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		MWRD Annual Board Meeting		2017 Stage I of McCook Reservoir unveiled. MWRD Board Meeting		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Chanukkah Begins		1975 Egan WRP completed.		MWRD Board Meeting		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Chanukkah Ends		Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Kwanzaa Begins	
28	29	30	31			
			New Year's Eve	<p>The Environment is Our Office. Learn about working at the MWRD, and explore our online employment center at mwrdd.org or scan the QR code. Join Our Team!</p>		

▲ The Lakefront Trail along the shore of Lake Michigan in Chicago attracts visitors in all weather, even on extremely cold and snowy days.

WATCH FOR THIS BADGE

OVERFLOW ACTION DAY alerts remind you to reduce water use before, during and after rainstorms.



THEN TAKE ACTION!

Delay showers and baths

Wait to run the dishwasher or washing machine

Turn water off while brushing



To sign up to receive email or text alerts, scan this QR code or visit mwrdd.org.

REPORT AN ISSUE

Help protect our waterways and sewer system.



You can report:

- Waterway blockages
- Suspicious dumping
- Odors



Use the trilingual MWRD Citizen Incident Reporting (CIR) form by scanning the QR code.

KEEP DRUGS OUT OF OUR WATER SYSTEMS.

Never flush medications down the toilet or a drain. Instead, use one of our safe collection sites. Collection boxes are located near the main gate at three water reclamation plants (WRP) and in the lobby of the Main Office Building in Chicago.

Main Office Building

100 E. Erie St., Chicago
Open Monday - Friday
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

O'Brien WRP

3500 Howard St., Skokie
Open seven days a week
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Calumet WRP

400 E. 130th St., Chicago
Open seven days a week
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Stickney WRP

6001 W. Pershing Rd., Cicero
Open seven days a week
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information and a listing of medication collection sites located throughout Cook County, scan the QR code.



On the cover: A water taxi heads east on the main stem of the Chicago River near Dearborn Street and the Chicago Riverwalk. Each month of the MWRD's 2025 calendar features a photo depicting our most precious resource, water.

For additional copies of this calendar, email the Office of Public Affairs at public.affairs@mwrdd.org

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