



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## MWRD prioritizes green infrastructure projects for 2019



*The parking lot transformation at the Evanston Civic Center is an example of a green infrastructure project which the MWRD helped fund to increase the amount of permeable pavement to absorb more stormwater. The MWRD recently announced an additional 19 green infrastructure projects for 2019 throughout Cook County.*

The prevalence of green infrastructure will be increasing throughout Cook County to help manage stormwater thanks to financial support from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD).

The MWRD has selected 19 green infrastructure (GI) projects to provide funding and other assistance after a call for projects last summer. Local government agencies submitted 48 different GI projects for consideration and after evaluation by the MWRD, projects were selected which will improve quality of life and combat flooding.

“We have seen how the natural long-term benefits of green infrastructure can provide cost-effective solutions to managing the stormwater that confronts our communities,” said MWRD President Kari K. Steele. “Thank you to all of the communities that recognize the value of investing in green infrastructure and for collaborating with us on these important projects.”

GI is designed to capture water and allow it to infiltrate into the ground before it enters the traditional conveyance system. This helps to reduce the amount of runoff that causes flooding when drainage systems are overwhelmed

by increasingly intense rain events. Many of the projects are also located in combined sewer areas and will help to reduce peak flows into area sewers to alleviate combined sewer overflows and basement backups.

MWRD staff reviewed all the GI project submittals, evaluated the proposals and ranked the eligible projects based on various factors. They analyzed the projects for total retention gallons and cost per gallon, number of benefiting structures and cost per structure, project visibility and outreach, flooding prevalence, and separate or combined sewer area. The selected projects range from green alleys and permeable parking lots to schoolyard improvements that promote improved stormwater management.

“We are encouraged to see the large number of applications come through our doors for these projects, reminding us of the power of collaboration and need for green infrastructure to address excess stormwater and flooding in the face of changing weather patterns,” said President Steele. “By leveraging our resources and investing in green infrastructure we can better manage stormwater and protect our water environment.” *(continued)*

## MWRD prioritizes green infrastructure projects for 2019, *cont.*



*Permeable green alleys in Berwyn (left) and rain gardens in Skokie Park District's Devonshire Park (right) are examples of successful green infrastructure solutions the MWRD has developed with local partners.*

Projects selected include:

**Village of Broadview** – constructing green alley improvements to benefit 73 structures (homes, businesses and other facilities).

**City of Calumet City** – constructing green alley improvements to benefit 34 structures.

### Chicago

**Chicago Public Schools** – constructing nature-based outdoor classrooms at Barbara Vick Early Chicago and Family Center, 2554 W. 113th St.

**City of Chicago, 18th Ward** – constructing green alleys behind South Homan Avenue to benefit 21 structures.

**City of Chicago, 28th Ward** – constructing green alleys behind South Laffin Street to benefit 41 structures.

**City of Chicago, 47th Ward** – constructing green alleys between Addison and Eddy streets to benefit 40 structures.

**Town of Cicero** – constructing green alleys to benefit 67 structures.

**Village of Dolton** – installing a green infrastructure project along Cornell Avenue.

**Evanston/Skokie School District 65** – installing green infrastructure at Orrington Elementary School.

**Village of Ford Heights** – constructing a green streets project to benefit 136 structures.

**Village of La Grange** – retrofitting public parking lots with green infrastructure.

**Village of Lansing** – constructing green infrastructure improvements to the Washington Street parking lot to benefit 17 structures.

**Village of Oak Park** – installing green alley improvements and a public works facility rain garden to benefit 102 structures.

**City of Park Ridge** – constructing a green parking lot for the Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave.

**Village of River Grove** – constructing green alley improvements to benefit 100 structures.

**Village of Stickney** – reconstructing a public parking lot with green infrastructure improvements to benefit four structures.

**Village of Summit** – constructing alley improvements to benefit 40 structures.

**Thornton School District 154**, Wolcott School, 200 N. Wolcott St., Thornton – installing green infrastructure elements.

**Village of Tinley Park** – installing permeable pavers along North Street.

After approval of terms of intergovernmental agreements, project partners are expected to follow the MWRD's Affirmative Action requirements and provide long-term operation and maintenance of the installed GI elements. Construction is expected in 2019.

### *Recovering Resources, Transforming Water*

*Established in 1889, the MWRD ([www.mwrld.org](http://www.mwrld.org)) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.*