



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Media Advisory

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For immediate release

May 31, 2012

Heritage Park stormwater facility groundbreaking set for June 4

Who: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Wheeling Park District and the Village of Wheeling
What: Heritage Park stormwater facility groundbreaking ceremony
When: 11 a.m. on Monday, June 4, 2012
Where: Heritage Park, 333 W. Dundee, Wheeling, IL

A partnership between the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), the Wheeling Park District and the Village of Wheeling will take a step further in providing much needed flood relief for residents of Mount Prospect and Prospect Heights as representatives break ground on the Heritage Park stormwater facility, 333 W. Dundee, Wheeling, at 11 a.m. on Monday, June 4.

The ceremony comes after several years of negotiations and design. The park is located in the Des Plaines River watershed near the intersection of Dundee and Wolf Roads, east of the Metra railroad tracks.

“The MWRD was granted stormwater management authority by the General Assembly in 2004, and we have been working to address regional flooding issues since that time,” said MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore. “The Heritage Park Flood Control Facility is a great example of how we can work together to provide stormwater management facilities along with public recreational amenities. We are happy that construction is finally underway.”

Six stormwater storage areas within the complex will have a total capacity to store more than 49 million gallons of rain water. The construction plans also include new walkways, a pavilion by the lake, a band shell, soccer fields and baseball diamonds.

The complex will provide compensatory floodwater storage upstream of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Levee 37 flood control structure currently being constructed along the Des Plaines River in Mount

Prospect and Prospect Heights. The Levee 37 project and the new Heritage Park stormwater facility together will help alleviate flooding for approximately 600 homes and businesses.

The MWRD Board of Commissioners and representatives from the Wheeling Park District and the Village of Wheeling signed an Intergovernmental Agreement in 2010 for the design, construction, and operation of the stormwater facilities and related additional improvements to Heritage Park. The MWRD Commissioners retained AECOM Technical Services to design the project and awarded a contract to F.H. Paschen/Lake County Grading Joint Venture to construct the facility. Construction is scheduled to start in the coming weeks and will be completed in under two years.

“The Wheeling Park District is thrilled for construction on Heritage Park to begin,” said Keith Pecka, President of the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners. “We are grateful for the partnership of MWRD and the Village of Wheeling. When work is complete, Heritage Park will be a world class parks and recreation area that the community can enjoy for generations.”

“This is great news, both for our residents and for our downstream neighbors,” said Wheeling Village President Judy Abruscato. “The Heritage Park project represents a fine example of intergovernmental cooperation for the betterment of the region, and we salute MWRD and the Wheeling Park District for their vision and initiative.”

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