



# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

## Press Release

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## MWRD presents awards for biosolids use at field day

To promote the beneficial use of organic and nutrient-rich solids which result from the wastewater treatment process known as biosolids, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) recently hosted an annual Biosolids Field Day at the Mid-Iron Golf Club in Lemont.

Biosolids can be used as a fertilizer replacement for parks, recreation areas, feed crops and turf building. The MWRD produces approximately 165 thousand dry tons of nutrient-rich biosolids every year and distributes them at no cost to area farmers, park districts, property developers and landscape professionals.

MWRD Commissioner Frank Avila presented the 2012 Chicago Metro Biosolids User Awards to honor an organization and an individual for their efforts in the beneficial reuse of biosolids. In the organization category, Bob Johnson, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds for the Frankfort Park District, accepted the award on behalf of the Park District.

“The Frankfort Park District has been very active in using biosolids to maintain over 100 acres of parks since 2007, plus they share their results and information with other park districts,” said Commissioner Avila.

“We learned about the benefits of biosolids in 2007,” said Johnson. “After applying one truckload of the material the results spoke for themselves. Biosolids are available at no cost from the District and they tied in very well with the park district’s green program so it is a win-win for us. The Park District uses bio-solids in general park



*MWRD Commissioner Frank Avila, center, presented the 2012 Biosolids Beneficial Reuse Awards to Bob Johnson, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds for the Frankfort Park District, at left, and James Walsh, owner of Sportsfields, Inc. The Frankfort Park District has used biosolids to maintain over 100 acres of parks since 2007. Sportsfields Inc. has used biosolids on field renovation projects since the late 1990’s and is a strong advocate for the program.*

areas, athletic turf such as soccer and baseball fields, as well as our award winning dog park, the Frankfort Bark Park.”

In the individual user category, Commissioner Avila presented the award to Jim Walsh, owner and operator of Sportsfields, Inc. Walsh has used MWRD biosolids since 1990 on behalf of various clients.

“When we use biosolids while seeding or sodding, we have been very successful,” Walsh said. “The customer saves the cost for importing topsoil to the site. What I have noticed over and over, in addition to improving the seeding and sodding results, we get no weeds. All of our projects are athletic

fields and surrounding areas for park districts and school districts throughout the Chicago region.”

“Sportsfields Inc. has been using biosolids on most of its field renovation projects since the late 1990s and has been a continuous advocate and promoter of the biosolids program,” said Commissioner Avila. “Many new users have been introduced to the program through Jim.”

Additional information about the MWRD’s nationally acclaimed biosolids program can be found at [www.mwrld.org](http://www.mwrld.org).

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Take it personally***

*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.*