



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Media Advisory

Allison Fore
Public Affairs Specialist
312.751.6633
publicaffairsinfo@mwrdd.org
100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

For immediate release August 7, 2012

Special Olympics Illinois & the MWRD prepare for annual rubber ducky derby

- Who:** Special Olympics Illinois and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
- What:** Annual Windy City Rubber Ducky Derby
- When:** 1 p.m., Thursday, August 9
- Where:** Along the Chicago River beginning at the Columbus Ave. bridge and finishing at the Michigan Ave. bridge

Thousands of spectators will cheer on 35,000 yellow rubber ducks as the ducks splash along the Chicago River race course during the annual Windy City Rubber Ducky Derby to benefit Special Olympics Illinois. The race kicks off at 1p.m. on Thursday, August 9 at the Columbus Ave. bridge and will finish at the Michigan Ave. bridge.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) pollution control boats will escort the ducks along the route, guiding them toward the finish line by using bursts of water from the front-mounted water cannon.

"Thousands of youngsters benefit from the Special Olympics so we are happy to help support this endeavor," said Commissioner and Board President Terrence J. O'Brien.

Family entertainment will include face painting, games, free food and appearances by several sports mascots. Donated prizes will be provided to the adoptive parents of the winning ducks.

Ducks are available for a \$5 adoption fee, and all proceeds benefit Special Olympics Illinois programs which supports over 32,000 athletes across Illinois. For more information, visit www.duckrace.com/chicago.

Our water environment... Take it personally

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.



MWRD staff and volunteers work to corral thousands of rubber duckies during the 2011 Special Olympics Rubber Ducky Derby in the Chicago River. Each year more than 35,000 rubber ducks are "adopted" in support of the Special Olympics program and athletes.