



**Metropolitan Water
Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago**

2025

Budget in Brief



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The diversion channel for the Midlothian Creek Flood Control Project in Robbins that the District helped fund is an example of a stormwater partnership project directly supporting municipalities in Cook County to address localized flooding and drainage concerns.

2025 Budget in Brief

This 2025 Budget in Brief provides an overview of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (District) formal budget book and provides an overview of the organization's core mission, operations, and budget appropriations. The annual budget is the principal planning device for carrying out the mission of the District and accomplishing our operational goals. As a key communication tool, the budget shows how resources are acquired and allocated for current operations, long-range planning, and financing.

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January 2, 2025

To the Residents of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago:

I am pleased to present the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's 2025 Budget, a \$1.7 billion fiscally responsible spending plan that invests in public infrastructure and considers the long-term environmental and financial implications of permit compliance. The District continues to maintain an aggressive Capital Improvement Program that addresses infrastructure needs and optimizes the life cycle of critical assets. Additionally, the District remains committed to providing advance funding to the MWRD Retirement Fund. The 2025 Budget includes an anticipated \$21.6 million transfer of budgetary reserves and \$8.4 million from the 2023 Property Tax Levy Adjustment to maintain the Retirement Fund's funded ratio. The District's funding policies for both its Retirement Fund and Other Postemployment Benefits Fund demonstrate a commitment to long-term fiscal management.

The District serves 129 communities covering nearly all of Cook County, treating an average of 1.2 billion gallons of water each day, with a total treatment capacity of 2.0 billion gallons per day at seven water reclamation plants (WRPs). The District controls 76.1 miles of navigable waterways and owns and operates 34 stormwater detention reservoirs to provide regional flood protection. The District continues the decades long tradition of outstanding permit compliance as recognized by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. The goal remains 100 percent permit compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits at all seven WRPs. Additionally, the District is an industry and community leader, benefiting residents through innovative and future-focused programs.

The 2025 Corporate Fund Budget is \$523.7 million, an increase of \$26.4 million, from the 2024 Adjusted Budget. Year-over-year increases to the Corporate Fund Budget are attributable primarily to increases in labor costs, processing chemicals, biosolids disposal, insurance premiums, and a one-time Tunnel and Reservoir Plan maintenance cost. Looking ahead to 2025, as economic conditions stabilize, the District will continue to take a measured approach to managing the District's financial obligations.

Climate change and changing weather patterns with intense bursts of precipitation can quickly overwhelm systems throughout the region. The District has been proactive in addressing climate changes and on May 4, 2023, adopted a Climate Action Plan to outline a path forward for the agency to contribute toward reducing its carbon footprint and adapt to climate change-related impacts.

The District continues to be a world-leading wastewater and stormwater management utility focused on flooding mitigation, resource recovery, sustainability, resilience, and innovation. The 2025 Budget was prepared within the framework of the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan which concluded its third year in June 2024 and will allow the District to remain true to our mission of protecting our water environment and the health of the residents of Cook County. For the complete budget document, please visit mwrdr.org/budget.

Respectfully submitted,



Kari K. Steele
President of the Board of Commissioners

2021-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2021-2025 Strategic Plan concluded its third year in June 2024 and is approximately 60 percent complete. The District's mission, vision, and values serve as a high-level framework for the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. By comparison, the specific goals, strategies, and success measures included in the Strategic Plan provide a detailed roadmap for the MWRD moving forward.

Mission: The MWRD will protect the health and safety of the public in its service area, protect the quality of the water supply source (Lake Michigan), 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.

Vision: We will continue to be a world-leading wastewater and stormwater management utility focused on flooding mitigation, resource recovery, sustainability, resilience, and innovation.

Values: Excellence, Respect, Innovation, Safety, Equity and Diversity, and Accountability

2021 - 2025 Strategic Goals



STRATEGIC GOAL #1
Resource Management

Maintain a high level of performance on the core mission of protecting the public health and area waterways while pursuing opportunities to recover, reuse, and monetize resources.



STRATEGIC GOAL #2
Stormwater Management

Continue to mitigate flooding across Cook County through a proactive, equitable stormwater management program, including implementation of gray and green infrastructure, enforcement of the Watershed Management Ordinance, and acquisition of flood-prone property.



STRATEGIC GOAL #3
Workforce Excellence

Invest in the future by investing in employees; continue to recruit, develop, and retain best-in-class employees as the foundation of the District's ongoing success.



STRATEGIC GOAL #4
Community Engagement

Engage with community stakeholders to position the District as a critical community asset and to ensure that the District is a responsive neighbor and inclusive business partner.



STRATEGIC GOAL #5
Enterprise Resilience

Ensure ongoing services that are reliable, equitable and cost-effective; achieve climate change and environmental justice protections; prepare for other manmade and natural events; strengthen the District's operations and financial positions.

A review of the Strategic Plan is required on an annual basis and was performed in light of trends and changes that occurred during the past year. No changes to the five main Strategic Plan Goals were required, but updates to the Strategies, Success Measures, and associated Targets were incorporated into the Strategic Plan.

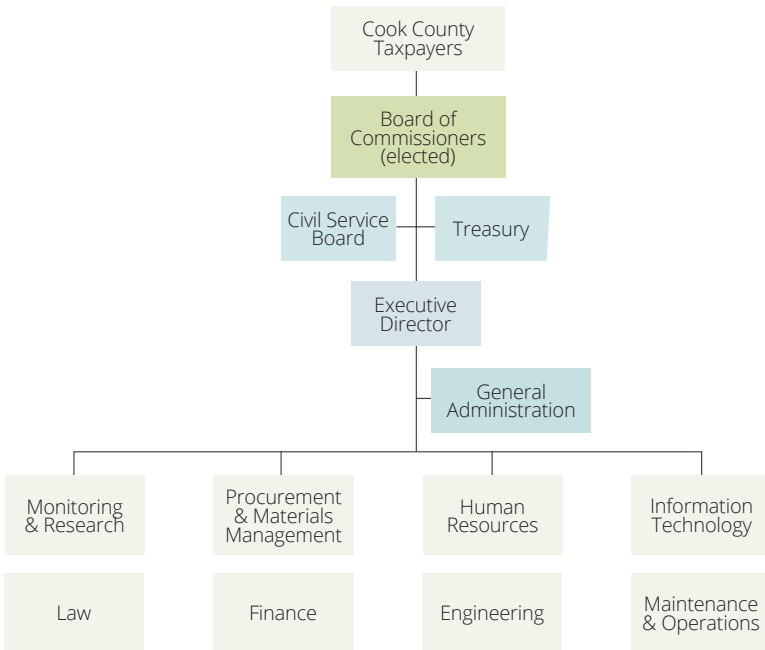
The updated Strategic Plan can be found in the Strategic Plan Dashboard at mwrdd.org/strategic-plan.

MISSION & GOVERNANCE

The District is an independent government and taxing body operating primarily within the boundaries of Cook County, Illinois. The agency serves an area of 882.1 square miles, including the City of Chicago and 128 surrounding communities. Wastewater is collected from municipalities by the District and conveyed to one of seven water reclamation plants for full treatment. Clean water is then discharged to local waterways. The District is also responsible for Stormwater Management, which includes administering its Watershed Management Ordinance and implementing capital improvement projects with communities to address regional and local flooding issues. The mission of the District is to protect the health and safety of the public in its service area, protect the quality of the water supply source (Lake Michigan), 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 District is governed by a nine-member Board of Commissioners (Board). Each commissioner is elected at large and serves on a salaried basis. Three Commissioners are elected every two years for six-year terms. The Board biannually elects from its membership a President, Vice President, and Chairman of the Committee on Finance.

Organization Structure

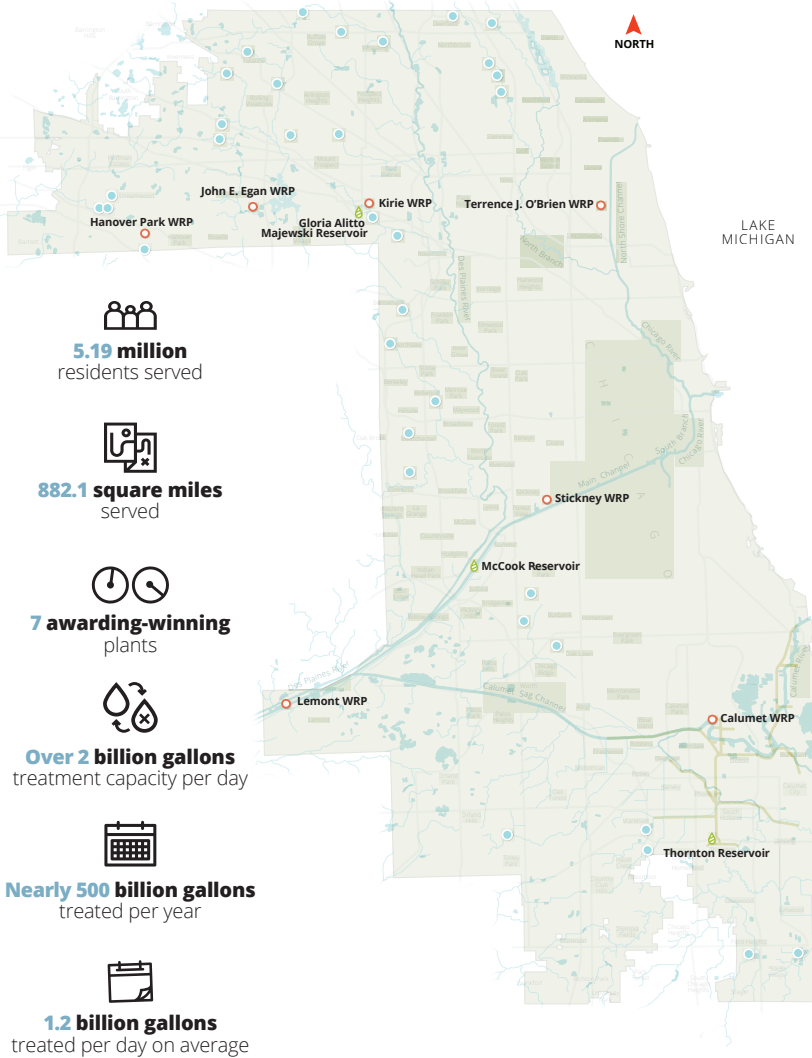


The Executive Director, who reports directly to the Board, manages the District's day-to-day operations. Eight appointed department heads report to the Executive Director. The Treasurer of the District, its chief financial officer, is appointed by and reports directly to the Board. General Administration, which includes the Administrative Services Division, Environmental Justice, Diversity, & Contract Compliance Section, and Public Affairs Section are direct staff and support units, reporting to the Executive Director.

SERVICE AREA - DISTRICT MAP

The District owns and operates seven water reclamation plants (WRPs), 560 miles of intercepting sewers and force mains, 34 stormwater detention reservoirs, 23 pumping stations, and the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP). Unmatched in size, TARP's 110 miles of tunnels and three cavernous reservoirs mitigate flooding and protect waterways from pollution by holding water until it can be cleaned at the WRPs. The District has the capacity to treat over 2.0 billion gallons per day.

Summary of Wastewater Treatment Services



LEGEND

🌊 = TARP Reservoir

🔴 = MWRD Water Reclamation Plants

🔵 = Flood Control Reservoir

— = MWRD Boundary

— = TARP Deep Tunnel Line

DISTRICT FAST FACTS



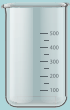
Communities Served:

- 129 communities
- 5.19 million individuals
- A commercial and industrial equivalent of 5.3 million people
- A combined sewer overflow equivalent of 2.2 million people



Wastewater Treatment:

- An average of 1.2 billion gallons treated per day
- Treatment capacity of over 2.0 billion gallons



Laboratory Analyses:

- 467,850 analyses per year



The James C. Kirie Water Reclamation Plant in Des Plaines treats an average of 52 million gallons of wastewater per day.



MWRD STRATEGIC PLAN

2021-2025

In 2025, \$16,872,300 is allocated to new projects that support one of the five Strategic Plan Goals:

Stormwater Management	\$ 11,000,100
Resource Management	\$ 4,127,200
Enterprise Resilience	\$ 885,000
Community Engagement	\$ 800,000
Workforce Excellence	\$ 60,000

Infrastructure:

- Seven water reclamation plants
- 560 miles of intercepting sewers and force mains
- 23 pumping stations
- 34 stormwater detention reservoirs
- Three Tunnel and Reservoir Plan reservoirs
- Controls 76.1 miles of navigable waterways

2025 Tax Rate

33.85 cents per \$100 of assessed property value, a 0.32 cent decrease from the 2024 Adjusted Tax Rate.

2025 Tax Levy

\$709.7 million, a 2.6% increase as compared to the 2024 Adjusted Tax Levy of \$691.7 million.

2025 Estimated District Tax

\$104.97 for a \$100,000 home



DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS

The District uses the following funds to control its financial activities:

Corporate Fund: Accounts for property tax levies and other revenues used for the operations and payments of general expenditures of the District not specifically chargeable to other funds.

Capital Improvements Bond Fund: Accounts for bond sale proceeds authorized by the Illinois General Assembly, government grants, and other revenues used for improvements, replacements, and additions to the District's facilities.

Construction Fund: Accounts for a specific property tax levy and other revenues used as a pay-as-you-go capital fund for the acquisition of infrastructure assets or the rehabilitation of existing structures, increasing the efficiency, or extending the useful life of the structure.

Stormwater Management Fund: Accounts for property tax levies and other revenues, such as interest on investments and permit fees, used for pay-as-you-go capital projects and for planning, implementing, and financing stormwater management activities throughout all of Cook County, including stream maintenance in areas that currently lie outside the District's boundaries.

Retirement Fund: Accounts for a specific property tax levy to fund pension costs in accordance with statutory provisions. The taxes are collected by the District and paid to the MWRD Retirement Fund, a pension trust fund.

Bond Redemption & Interest Fund: Accounts for property tax levies and interest on investments for the payment of principal and interest of general obligation bond issues. A subfund is created for each bond issue.

Reserve Claim Fund: Accounts for a specific property tax levy and other revenues and pays for claims, awards, losses, judgements, or liabilities that might be imposed against the District and for the emergency replacement or repair of damaged property. The accounts of the Reserve Claim Fund are included in the General Corporate Fund for financial reporting purposes.

Revenues

Property Taxes	User Charges	Grants and Government Funding	Bond Sales	Investment Income	Other
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Funds

Each individual fund has designated sources of revenues and specifications for allocated uses to ensure public money is spent appropriately.



Allocations

General Operating Expenditures	Capital Expenditures	Principal and Interest on Bond Issues	Payment of Claims and Damages	Pension Fund	Stormwater Management Expenditures
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SOURCES OF REVENUE

Tax Sources

All District funds, with the exception of the Capital Improvements Bond Fund, derive their revenues primarily from property taxes. Approximately 58.9 percent of the 2025 appropriation is supported by property taxes. Taxes levied in one year are collected in the next year. Working Cash Funds for the Corporate, Construction, and Stormwater Management Funds provide temporary financing while awaiting property tax receipts.

A personal property replacement tax provides tax revenue from corporations, partnerships, and the invested capital of public utilities to replace the personal property taxes that were once received from these sources. These revenues, received directly from the State of Illinois, ended the year at \$70.7 million and are estimated at \$66.6 million for 2025, a decrease of \$24.4 million from the 2024 Original Budget. After three years of strong results, PPRT will decrease due to adjustments made by the Illinois Department of Revenue to more accurately estimate future allocations.

Bonds, Grants, & Loans

The District's Capital Improvement Program is financed through a combination of funding methods, including general property tax revenues, State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans, federal grants and reimbursements, and general obligation or alternative revenue bond sale proceeds. State law provides authority to issue debt, but also limits the amount that the District can borrow.

Currently, the District's statutory debt limit is estimated at \$11.3 billion. Actual net outstanding debt applicable to the debt limit totals \$2.4 billion. The debt margin, the difference between issued debt applicable to the debt limit and the statutory limit, is \$8.9 billion, or 79.1 percent of the limit. In 2022, the District prepaid \$43.0 million in State Revolving Fund loans at a taxpayer savings of \$12.7 million over 15 years. In 2025, the District anticipates receiving \$50.0 million in low-interest SRF loans based on the current capital project schedule and will also seek other low cost financing options, including Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loans for future project funding needs.

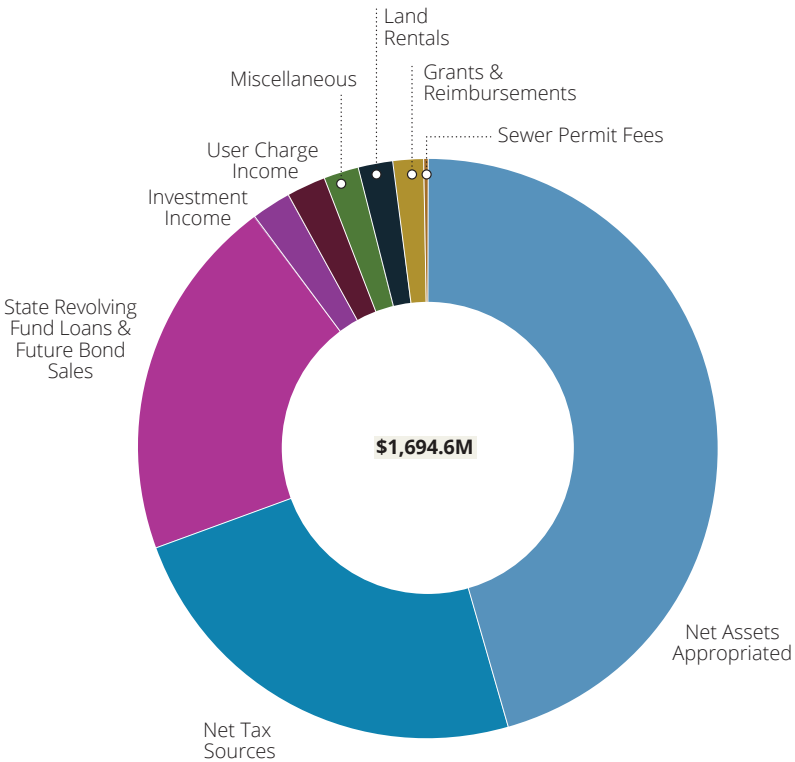
The District has been successful in obtaining grant funding and will continue to pursue grants for stormwater and other capital projects. In 2024, the District secured \$10.0 million from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the Addison Creek Channel Improvements project and \$20.0 million from the Army Corps of Engineers as reimbursement for the District's work on the design and construction of the Thornton Composite Reservoir. The District is also partnering with Cook County to invest up to \$18.0 million over four years to support local stormwater management projects utilizing American Rescue Plan Act funding. Over 2024 and 2025, the District anticipates \$44.2 million and \$30.9 million in total grant and reimbursement funding, respectively, with additional funding to be received over the following four years.

User Charges, Property, Services, & Miscellaneous

A major revenue source for the District is the user charge system, which imposes a surcharge above property tax payments for commercial, industrial, and tax-exempt users of the sewerage systems. Estimated user charge revenues in 2025 are \$37.0 million. Land rentals, investment income, sewer permit fees, connection impact fees, and other revenues will provide an estimated \$103.0 million in 2025.

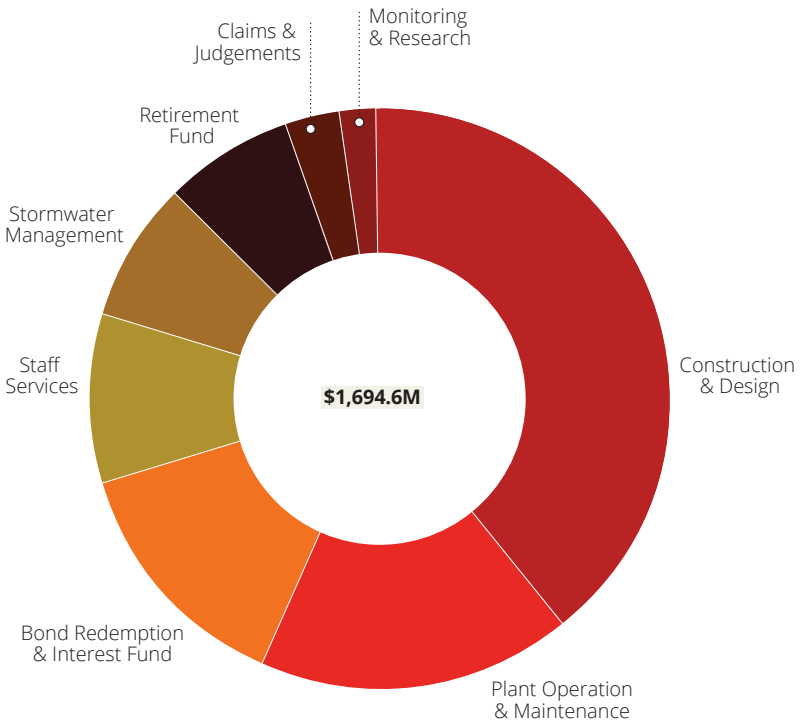
WHERE DISTRICT MONEY COMES FROM

\$1,694.6 Million		
Net Assets Appropriated	\$ 773.0M	45.6%
Net Tax Sources	\$ 407.1M	24.0%
State Revolving Fund Loans & Future Bond Sales	\$ 343.5M	20.3%
Investment Income	\$ 38.6M	2.3%
User Charge Income	\$ 37.0M	2.2%
Miscellaneous	\$ 32.0M	1.9%
Land Rentals	\$ 31.5M	1.8%
Grants & Reimbursements	\$ 30.9M	1.8%
Sewer Permit Fees	\$ 1.0M	0.1%
TOTAL	\$ 1,694.6M	100.0%



WHERE DISTRICT MONEY GOES

\$1,694.6 Million		
Construction & Design	\$ 666.2M	39.3%
Plant Operation & Maintenance	\$ 294.7M	17.4%
Bond Redemption & Interest Fund	\$ 234.6M	13.8%
Staff Services	\$ 156.7M	9.2%
Stormwater Management	\$ 134.7M	8.0%
Retirement Fund	\$ 118.7M	7.0%
Claims & Judgments	\$ 53.6M	3.2%
Monitoring & Research	\$ 35.4M	2.1%
TOTAL	\$ 1,694.6M	100.0%

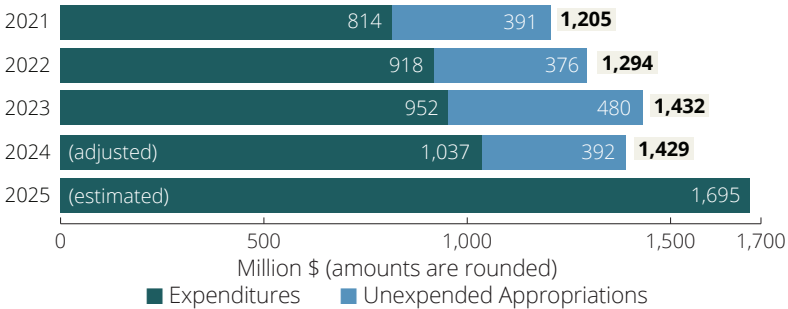


2025 APPROPRIATIONS

The 2025 Budget is a \$1.7 billion fiscally responsible spending plan that invests in public infrastructure, responds to inflationary cost increases, and considers the long-term environmental and financial implications of all programs and projects. The budget invests in the District's Water Reclamation Plants (WRPs) and addresses flooding, while prioritizing sound fiscal management. The 2025 Corporate Fund Budget is \$523.7 million, an increase of \$26.4 million, or 5.3 percent, from the 2024 Adjusted Budget. The operating budget reflects current economic conditions and inflationary cost increases, reflecting both positive results from personal property replacement tax and investment returns as well as projected cost increases related to personnel, chemicals, and commodities. Additionally, the District continues to determine the optimal solutions for phosphorus removal at the water reclamation plants.

Appropriations are allocated to seven separate funds. Each fund maintains a self-balancing set of accounts that are reported separately in their own financial statements. The funds are created to account for the different types of activities and legal restrictions associated with a particular function. In 2025, there is an increase of \$237.8 million planned in the Capital Improvements Bond Fund, which is appropriated on an obligation basis and based on project schedules. There are also increases in the Stormwater Management Fund of \$3.2 million, the Construction Fund of \$8.5 million, and the Reserve Claim Fund of \$1.3 million. The Bond Redemption & Interest Fund will decrease by \$1.1 million. In 2022, the District prepaid five State Revolving Fund loans at a taxpayer savings of \$12.7 million over 15 years. The Retirement Fund appropriation will decrease by \$10.5 million and includes an anticipated \$21.6 million transfer of budgetary reserves and \$8.4 million from the 2023 Property Tax Levy Adjustment to maintain the Retirement Fund's funded ratio.

Appropriations & Expenditures, 2021 - 2025



Summary by Fund

	2025 Budget	2024 Adjusted Budget	Dollar Increase (Decrease)	Percent Change
Corporate Fund	\$ 523,694,700	\$ 497,258,600	\$ 26,436,100	5.3%
Construction Fund	83,143,600	74,598,800	8,544,800	11.5%
Capital Improvements Bond Fund	546,102,500	308,278,600	237,823,900	77.1%
Stormwater Management Fund	134,723,100	131,517,700	3,205,400	2.4%
Retirement Fund	118,736,000	129,207,295	(10,471,295)	(8.1)%
Reserve Claim Fund	53,586,800	52,315,900	1,270,900	2.4%
Bond Redemption & Interest Fund	234,620,974	235,755,740	(1,134,766)	(0.5)%
TOTAL	\$ 1,694,607,674	\$ 1,428,932,635	\$ 265,675,039	18.6%

APPROPRIATIONS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The District has a long history of proactive and responsible financial management. The graph below displays the allocation of the 2025 appropriation and the personnel assigned to each operational objective across all funds. In 2025, a total of 1,952 positions are budgeted across all operational objectives. The District's mission is achieved daily through six main operational functions:

Collection

\$135,867,724 • 300 Personnel

Operation and maintenance of pumping stations, force mains, and intercepting sewers.

Treatment

\$631,315,595 • 439 Personnel

Treatment of influent at water reclamation plants.

Solids Processing

\$104,163,623 • 253 Personnel

Processing of primary, secondary, and tertiary sludge.

Flood & Pollution Control

\$207,734,633 • 452 Personnel

Programs for the design and construction of flood and pollution control projects and waterways control.

Solids Utilization

\$45,319,934 • 42 Personnel

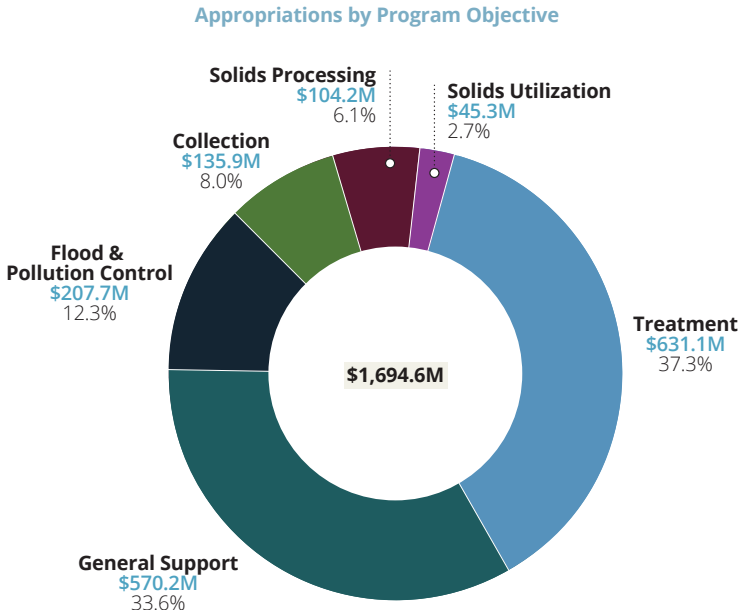
Drying and beneficial utilization of secondary and tertiary solids from the treatment process.

General Support

(Debt Service, Retirement, Reserve Funds, & Support Departments)

\$570,206,165 • 466 Personnel

Indirect costs essential for achieving operational goals.



WATER RECLAMATION PLANT OPERATIONS

The District treats an average of 1.2 billion gallons of wastewater per day, with a total treatment capacity of over 2.0 billion gallons per day. In 2025, the District expects to collect and treat approximately 448.8 billion gallons of wastewater at its seven water reclamation plants. The District's reclaimed wastewater, along with runoff from rain-fall, is returned to the Chicago Area Waterway System, which includes local canals, rivers, and streams that serve as headwaters of the Illinois River system.

The District provides reclamation for residential and industrial wastewater, meeting permitted discharge limits virtually at all times. The water reclamation process is protected by a pre-treatment program to guard against hazardous substances and toxic chemicals. These are strictly regulated pursuant to federal and state requirements. The District routinely monitors industry and non-residential sources to ensure that those wastes are disposed of in an environmentally responsible and lawful manner.

The collection and treatment processes are performed in compliance with discharge permits issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, which regulates the quality of the effluent as it leaves the treatment plants. The District's high rate of compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements at all seven water reclamation plants produces consistently excellent results.

As regulatory requirements continue to evolve and permit requirements limiting the levels of phosphorus discharged from wastewater become progressively more stringent, the District is implementing innovative technologies and processes in order to maintain its record of compliance. In 2023, the District was recognized as one of industry and community leaders who are benefiting their residents through innovative, future-focused, and transformational programs by the Utility of the Future Today program.



The Egan WRP in Schaumburg serves a 44-square-mile-area and treats an average of 30 million gallons of wastewater per day.

INDUSTRIAL WASTE MONITORING & POLLUTION CONTROL

The District effectively eliminates offensive or dangerous discharges into the public sewer system through the administration of the Sewage and Waste Control Ordinance. It specifies limits on the quantity and quality of wastes discharged by industrial users with the potential to significantly impact the District's treatment facilities as required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The discharges, unless properly controlled and treated, could interfere with the District's treatment processes and adversely impact waterways. Industries and non-residential sources are routinely monitored by the District to ensure wastes are disposed of in an environmentally responsible and lawful manner. The District also operates a user charge system based on ad valorem taxes which directly charges commercial, industrial, and tax-exempt facilities for their discharge to the sewerage systems.

The District is designated by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency as an official response unit for chemical and hazardous waste spills in Cook County, and in that capacity is expected to respond to approximately 100 calls in 2025 from fire and police officials, citizens, and other federal and state agencies. The Citizen Incident Reporting Application, found on mwrđ.org/contact-us or via a mobile application, allows citizens to report odors, water pollution, waterway blockages, or other incidents. Dispatchers monitor both the online reporting system and a telephone hotline 24 hours per day. In addition, boat patrols are routinely conducted to locate pollution sources in the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS).

The District also conducts chemical and biological monitoring of District service area waterways and has developed, through collaborators in academia, water quality models of portions of the CAWS to assess the operation of the waterway to continually improve water quality and protect aquatic life. On a daily basis, the District monitors multiple critical control points of the liquid and solids process trains at each of the seven WRPs to improve operations and the quality of effluents and biosolids to protect water quality in the CAWS and ensure safety for public recreation. Nutrient enrichment of the water environment is an increasing national concern and in 2023 the District completed a comprehensive four-year CAWS phosphorus assessment and reduction study to guide future phosphorus reduction planning at the District's three largest water reclamation plants. This study was conducted in close collaboration with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Environmental Advocacy Groups.

More than 600 neighbors flocked to the District's water reclamation plants as part of Chicago Water Week. The impressive crowd dedicated their Saturdays to attend open houses hosted at the O'Brien and Stickney Water Reclamation Plants (WRPs) in Skokie and Cicero. Visitors touring the property on the Stickney WRP bus were treated to a view of sheep and goats clearing vegetation.



TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN

The District's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan is one of the country's largest public works projects for pollution and flood control. The Tunnel and Reservoir Plan has been successful in preventing flooding and pollution caused by combined sewer overflows by capturing and storing combined stormwater and sewage that would otherwise overflow into waterways in rainy weather.

Phase I, completed in 2006, consists of 110.4 miles of deep rock tunnels, eight to 33 feet in diameter, and 150 to 300 feet underground. The tunnels provide crucial protection and can capture up to 2.3 billion gallons of the first flush of sewage contaminated stormwater from combined sewers that previously flowed into area waterways.

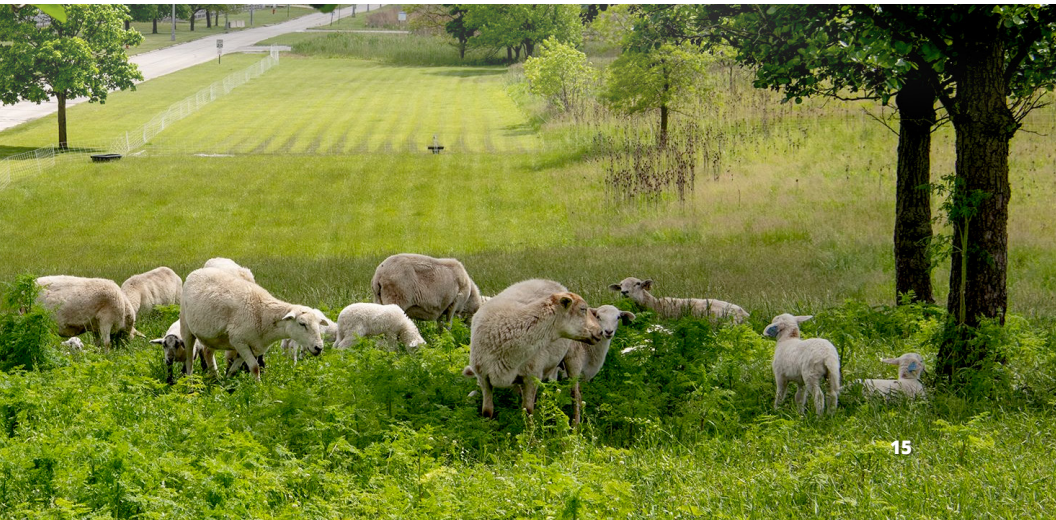
Phase II, the reservoir component, provides an additional 15.0 billion gallons of storage of combined sewer overflows for flood damage reduction and additional pollution control. This phase is composed of three separate reservoirs:

The Gloria A. Majewski Reservoir, located in Elk Grove Village, was built by the Army Corps of Engineers and completed in 1998, providing 350.0 million gallons of storage. Since its completion, the reservoir has captured approximately 7.9 billion gallons of polluted water while yielding over \$754.3 million in flood damage reduction benefits to three communities.

The Thornton Composite Reservoir was completed in 2015. It provides 7.9 billion gallons of storage, and through December 2024, has captured approximately 62.3 billion gallons of polluted water while yielding over \$631.7 million in flood damage reduction benefits to 14 communities. To date, the District has received a total of \$39.2 million from the Army Corps of Engineers as reimbursement for its work on the design and construction of the Thornton Composite Reservoir.

The McCook Reservoir is comprised of two stages. The first stage was unveiled on December 4, 2017 and provides 3.5 billion gallons of storage. The second stage, expected to be completed in 2029, will provide 6.5 billion gallons of storage. The McCook Reservoir is projected to bring more than \$175.0 million annually in flood reduction benefits to the 3.1 million residents of 37 communities. Through December 2024, approximately 125.7 billion gallons of combined sewer overflow have been captured.

A new 20-foot diameter inflow tunnel and gate shaft was constructed to connect the existing Des Plaines Tunnel system directly to the McCook Reservoir. The new tunnel provides a greater benefit to the communities served by the Des Plaines Tunnel. By connecting the Des Plaines Tunnel System to the McCook Reservoir, improved conveyance and additional flood water storage capacity are made available.



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The District's Stormwater Management Program has completed Detailed Watershed Plans for all seven major watersheds in Cook County, initiated a Stormwater Management Capital Improvement Program, initiated a Small Streams Maintenance Program (SSMP), and adopted and implemented the Watershed Management Ordinance. Through both green and gray engineered solutions, and flood-prone property acquisitions, the District's Stormwater Management Program addresses flooding problems throughout Cook County.

Some of the program's initiatives include advancing stormwater partnerships for green infrastructure, local stormwater projects, and flood-prone property acquisitions with local communities and other agencies and providing technical guidance to property owners interested in constructing offsite stormwater detention and volume control facilities in accordance with an ongoing pilot study to be completed in 2026. The 2025 Budget includes \$36.5 million in the Stormwater Management Fund for intergovernmental agreements for stormwater improvements.

Through the management of the SSMP, the District works to reduce flooding in urbanized areas. The SSMP's top priorities are removing blockages such as log jams, beaver dams, and other material and debris from streams and preventing future blockages by removing dead and unhealthy trees and invasive species, such as buckthorn and honeysuckle, which choke out native vegetation from the streambanks.

Many Stormwater Capital Improvement Program projects focus on regional waterways in highly urbanized areas and on using natural methods for addressing streambank erosion, including vegetated geogrids, geocells, turf reinforcing mats, and native vegetation. This program uses various financing methods, including grants. In 2024, the District expects to receive \$31.4 million in grants and reimbursements, including \$10.0 million from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the Addison Creek Channel Improvements project and \$20.0 million from the Army Corps of Engineers as reimbursement for the District's work on the design and construction of the Thornton Composite Reservoir. Partnering with Cook County, up to \$18.0 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to address localized flooding will be received over four years, including an estimated \$1.1 million in 2024 and \$7.1 million in 2025. Additional grants are also being pursued for the Suburban Green Schoolyard pilots and other flood mitigation projects.

The District's statutory authority for Stormwater Management in Cook County allows for the acquisition of flood-prone properties. The District solicits applications from municipalities and townships for assistance with the acquisition of flood-prone structures located throughout Cook County and enters into intergovernmental agreements to partner with communities to acquire flood-prone structures. Since 2014, the District has partnered on 19 projects targeting the voluntary acquisition of 240 properties, resulting in 117 acquisitions under this program to date. Based on the success of the District's program, additional solicitations will be made to identify opportunities to assist local communities with additional flood-prone property acquisitions in the future.

The District partnered with Evanston to fund a project that called for the reconstruction of parking lanes along Main Street by using permeable pavers that absorb stormwater.



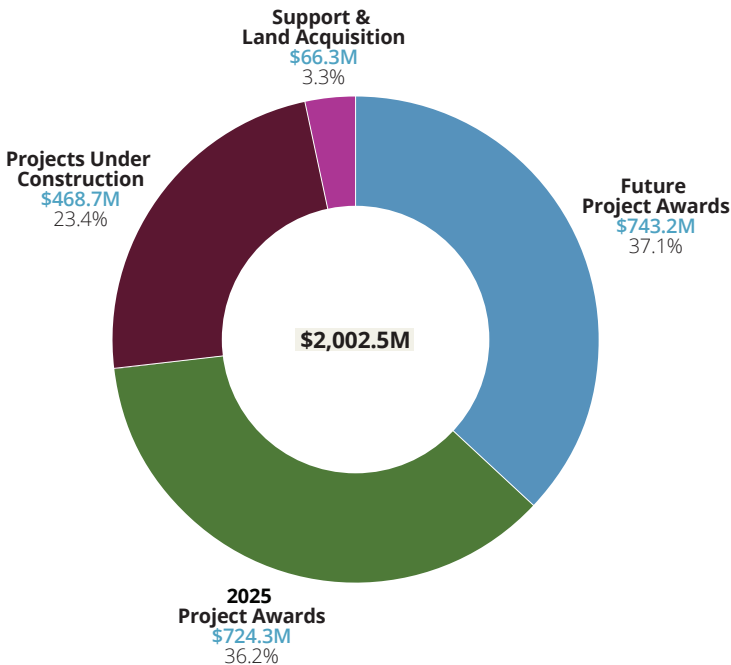
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Capital improvements preserve the useful life or increase the capacity or efficiency of District facilities. Capital projects involve the acquisition, improvement, replacement, remodeling, completion, alteration, construction, and enlargement of District facilities.

Sources of funding for the Capital Improvement Program includes the sale of capital improvements bonds, general property tax revenues, State Revolving Fund loans, and federal grants and reimbursements. The 2025 appropriation for the Capital Improvement Program, which includes capital projects funded by the Construction, Stormwater Management, and Capital Improvements Bond Funds, is \$744.8 million. The District's ambitious Capital Improvement Program invests in modernizing aging infrastructure, prepares for changing effluent permit conditions, and addresses stormwater management capital projects.

The district's overall Capital Improvement Program includes 2025 project awards, land acquisition, project support, future project awards, and the construction value remaining on projects currently under construction. A total of 195 capital projects will be under planning, design, or construction in 2025 with a total cost of approximately \$2,002.5 million, as displayed in the graph below.

Overall Capital Improvement Program





Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

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Native pickerelweed grows on the banks of Lake Katherine in Palos Heights. This perennial plant can grow in shallow water and provide protection to fish and other aquatic wildlife while also attracting pollinators to its flowers. Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens is one of the many parks and natural areas on District property.

