

## Protecting Our Water Environment

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## ***BIOSOLIDS DEMONSTRATION AT MWRD FIELD DAY***

(Chicago--) Recently the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) held its annual Field Day to present information to municipalities on the use of biosolids as a fertilizer and a soil builder.

Biosolids are nutrient-rich organic material produced from the stabilization of municipal sewage sludge that meet the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) most stringent quality standards for land application.

Since 2006, the MWRD has hosted Field Days at area farms and parks where biosolids have been used to effectively fertilize and improve soil productivity of turf and crops used as animal feed. This year, the event was held at the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant. Farmers, public officials and managers of parks and golf courses were invited to learn how biosolids are produced and treated. Guests viewed a biosolids application and toured demonstration plots showing biosolids use on conventional turf and native prairie landscaping. Biosolids users were on hand to explain how biosolids have successfully replaced chemical fertilizers; saving money, improving crop quality and productivity.

MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore and Acting Director of Maintenance and Research Dr. Thomas Granato presented the 2011 Chicago Metro Biosolids User Awards. Each year, an award is given to an individual and an organization for their efforts in the beneficial reuse of biosolids.

This year's individual recipient, Dan Dinelli, superintendent of the North Shore Country Club, was recognized for ten years of collaborative research and innovative use of biosolids as a fertilizer and for soil amendment on the golf course.

The Blue Island Park District was honored for its continuous commitment to incorporate biosolids in routine turf maintenance in all parks in Blue Island.

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