



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Anchors Aweigh!

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Board clears path for Chicago Park District boat houses and storage

Two boat houses strategically situated along the Chicago River are one step closer to reality thanks to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Board of Commissioners.

During their March 1, 2012 meeting, the Board voted to amend lease agreements with the Chicago Park District (CPD) for the construction, operation and maintenance of two boat houses. One of the structures will be located in Clark Park, east of the North Branch of the Chicago River, between Addison and Roscoe Streets. The second boat house will be constructed in River Park, located south of Foster Ave. along the North Branch of the Chicago River and will also include a boat storage facility.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced the concept of boat houses last September during a news conference. His plan called for the construction of four boathouses along the Chicago River. Recognizing that the river is increasingly being used for recreational purposes, canoe, kayak and bicycle rentals will be offered to the public.

“The truth is, because of our lake, we’ve only thought of it as our front yard,” Mayor Emanuel said at the Sept. 19, 2011 news conference. “I now want to turn our attention to our backyard and have that same vision... We’re about to make the river as important to our residents as it has been to our industry and commerce.”

The MWRD Board of Commissioners and Executive Director David St. Pierre share the Mayor’s vision.

“The Chicago area waterways are an attractive destination for those seeking water-based activities, and the MWRD Board of Directors understands that the property is an important part of an overall plan,” said St. Pierre. “The Board was eager to accommodate the city’s request and looks forward to the life quality enhancement the new structures will bring to the region.”

More information about the MWRD can be found at www.mwrdd.org.

Our water environment... Take it personally.