



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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MWRD volunteers for Adopt-A-Beach cleanup

Staff from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) will assist the John G. Shedd Aquarium staff and volunteers to clean up the 12th Street beach during the next regularly scheduled cleaning event set for noon on June 20.

This will be the third regularly scheduled cleanup for the 2012 Adopt-A-Beach season. Last month, 19 volunteers, including MWRD staff members Jennifer Burns, Allison Fore, Andrelina Horton and Shekinah Horton helped collect a total of 61.5 pounds of debris. The items included 51 pounds of trash and 10.5 pounds of recycling.

“Anytime we can collect over 50 pounds of trash and recyclables, it’s a good day,” said Sam Bugg, Adopt-A-Beach organizer.

For the past two months, about two dozen volunteers have picked up items which cannot be collected by Chicago Park District tractors. Teams of 3-4 meticulously comb the sand looking for debris and waste and tallying each item. Some items are as small as cigarette butts and glass fragments and other are large, such as metal rods and blocks of concrete.

Beach cleanings are held monthly and begin promptly at noon. Other upcoming dates for the 12th Street cleanup are: July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 15 and Oct. 17.

The Shedd provides bags, gloves and tally sheets. For more information about the 2012 12th Street Beach cleanups, visit sheddaquarium.org.

Shedd Aquarium participates in the Alliance for the Great Lakes’ Adopt-a-Beach program. The Alliance for the Great Lakes (www.greatlakes.org) manages the Adopt-a-Beach Program throughout the region to promote healthy beaches. The mission of the Al-

liance for the Great Lakes is to “conserve and restore the world’s largest freshwater resource using policy, education and local efforts, ensuring a healthy Great Lakes and clean water for generations of people and wildlife.”



View of 12th Street beach where volunteers have removed 185 pounds of debris after two cleanup events.

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.