



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District *of* Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## MWRD hosts first public meeting to discuss Centennial Trail closure, detour

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) hosted a public meeting to provide information about the next steps of the McCook Reservoir flood control project, discuss the temporary closure of Centennial Trail, and receive input about improvements to the trail on May 9 at the Willow Springs Community Center in Willow Springs.

During the trail's closure, users will be detoured to a parallel Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) trail located approximately 350 feet to the south along the Illinois and Michigan Canal. MWRD staff will explain the reasons and duration for the closure, discuss the detour, and receive suggestions for improvements to the trail when it is rebuilt.

Centennial Trail is located on MWRD property southwest of the McCook Reservoir, a component of the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan, or Deep Tunnel. The first phase of McCook Reservoir is due for completion in 2017, and when fully functional in 2029, it will have a total capacity of 10 billion gallons to capture combined sewer overflows that currently discharge to area waterways and cause sewer back-ups. It will also provide \$90 million per year in flood control benefits to 3.1 million people living in 37 communities.

The MWRD is working with the FPDCC and the contractor, Lane Construction Corporation, to ensure adequate signage is provided at both ends of the path. The trail is tentatively scheduled for closure on May 13, 2013. The MWRD will also consider written comments before making final restoration plans; please submit comments by email to [public.affairs@mwrdd.org](mailto:public.affairs@mwrdd.org) or write to Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Office of Public Affairs, 100 E. Erie Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

“Centennial Trail is a public amenity, and we certainly understand the concerns regarding the trail as a resource our residents enjoy,” said MWRD Executive Director David St. Pierre. “However, we must balance the need to keep the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan moving forward.”

Additional information about the project can be found at [www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org).