



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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USDA, MWRD to host international “Soil in the City” Conference at Allerton Hotel, Chicago

Deindustrialization of metropolitan areas worldwide has resulted in a large amount of available land. Sharing ideas to envision new uses for this land is the goal of the internationally-renowned “Soil in the City” conference to be held at the Allerton Hotel, 701 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago from June 29 to July 2. This conference is co-hosted by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Illinois Water Environment Association (IWEA).

This conference is designed for city planners, community organizations, and natural resources professionals who are working to plan, design, construct or maintain urban infrastructures and outdoor areas. Targeted professions include engineers, landscape architects, designers, biosolids management leaders, contractors/consultants, developers, builders, city planners, arborists, foresters, urban gardeners, researchers and educators.

Program tracts include: Urban Ecology and Green Infrastructure, Greening Brownfields, Urban Farming, Urban Ecology and Green Infrastructure, and Urban Farming. Conference attendees will be eligible to earn up to 15 professional development credits.

“Soil in the City” is organized by the USDA Research Committee W-2170 on Soil-Based Use of Residuals, Wastewater and Reclaimed Water. The registration fee is \$300. A tour of the “Greenest Street in America” and the world’s largest wastewater treatment plant are also offered for \$40 per person, boxed lunch included. This tour is limited to 75 participants.

For more information, contact Dr. Lakhwinder Hundal at (708) 588-4201 or email hundall@mwr.org. To register for the conference or hotel online, visit <http://www.iweasite.org/Conferences/SoilCity.html>. The Allerton Hotel can be reached directly at (312) 440-1500.

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Our Water Environment: Take it personally

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwr.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.



In the photo: During the “Soil in the City” conference, an optional tour will be offered of the “Greenest Street in America” in Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood. Sections along this two-mile stretch of Blue Island Ave. and Cermak Rd. have been reconstructed with permeable pavement and includes vegetated planters, bioswales, rain gardens, and below ground infiltration basins.