



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Visitors 'follow the flush' to MWRD treatment plants

Hundreds of visitors helped the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) celebrate its 125th anniversary during open houses and tours held at six water reclamation facilities in Chicago, Cicero, Des Plaines, Hanover Park, Schaumburg and Skokie on September 20.

The open houses were held in conjunction with other utilities from across the country as part of a national effort designed to showcase utility infrastructure and to raise awareness about the importance of water and the water industry. The guided tours offered the public a chance to look behind the scenes at the equipment and processes that are needed to treat nearly 450 billion gallons of wastewater per year for five million people.

The MWRD was created by an Act of the Illinois General Assembly in 1889 to protect Lake Michigan, the source of our drinking water, from pollutants. In addition to providing wastewater treatment and stormwater management for Cook County, the MWRD is working to become more sustainable and energy neutral within the next decade. Visitors learned about ongoing environmental improvement projects and developing technologies for renewable energy generation.

To learn more about our sustainability initiatives, the wastewater treatment process, or to schedule a private tour, please contact the MWRD's Office of Public Affairs at (312) 751-6633 or public.affairs@mwrdd.org. To remain up-to-date on MWRD efforts and activities, sign up for our news releases or follow us on social media.



MWRD President Kathleen Therese Meany was on hand to assist with tours at the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant on Sept. 20. In the photo: (L-R) Bill White, Treatment Plant Operator III; Kaye Heidenreich, Chief of Police; Reed Dring, Engineer of Treatment Plant Operations I; President Meany; Stephen Carmody, Engineer of Treatment Plant Operations I; and Sal Atinello.



In the photo: Aide to Commissioner Kari Steele, Nikkida Hart, and Commissioner Steele survey a final settling tank, one of the last steps of the wastewater treatment process, at the Calumet Water Reclamation Plant in Chicago on Sept. 20.

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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.

Visitors 'follow the flush' to MWRD treatment plants (continued)



Managing Engineer Brian Perkovich (far right) gave his parents, Kathleen and Tony Perkovich, a tour of the Calumet Water Reclamation Plant on Sept. 20.



Pictured is Reed Dring, Engineer of Treatment Plant Operations I, explaining the wastewater treatment process to students during a tour at the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant.



Deputy Director of Maintenance and Operations Brett Garelli explains how the MWRD cleans 1.4 billion gallons of wastewater each day during tours offered at the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant on Sept. 20.



Assistant Mechanical Engineer Casey Nesbit explains the wastewater treatment process to a tour group at the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant on Sept. 20.

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