



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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For immediate release

November 12, 2014

## Pride School students first to decorate MWRD rain barrel for contest

Art students at the Pride School in Oak Lawn were the first to enter the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (MWRD's) rain barrel painting contest.

Launched over the summer for high school art students, participating schools were provided with five complimentary rain barrels, and students were invited to alter the look of the traditional rain barrel and incorporate an environmental theme.

All participants will be given certificates, and the creators of the winning barrels from each school will have the opportunity to tour the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) in Cicero, Illinois, the largest wastewater treatment facility in the world.

Rain Barrels are a smart idea because they capture rain-water from roofs and save it for later," said MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan. "Roofs comprise 41 percent of the impenetrable surface in Cook County, and many of these rooftops are directly connected to the public drainage system. By disconnecting downspouts and directing the water to a rain barrel instead, much can be done to help minimize basement backups, sewer overflows and flooding."

To prevent mosquito larvae from hatching, the rain barrels are fitted with screening. Saved rain barrel water may be used to wash cars, water grass, or irrigate plants. The MWRD's rain barrels are twice as environmentally sound because they are made from repurposed food barrels.

Rain barrels may be purchased for \$58 a piece or are available to qualifying residents at no cost from participating municipalities. For more information about the rain barrel program or to schedule a private tour of the Stickney WRP, please call 312-751-6633.

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**Our Water Environment: Take it personally.**

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



*In the photo: The winning rain barrel from Pride School in Oak Lawn*