



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## Area schools participate in rain barrel painting contest

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Board of Commissioners launched a high school rain barrel painting contest earlier this year, and participating schools were given five complimentary rain barrels.

Working in groups, students altered the look of the traditional rain barrel into an interesting and attractive piece of art reflecting an environmental theme. To date, painted barrels at three area schools have been judged: Pride School in Oak Lawn, Reavis High School in Burbank, and Lincoln Park High School in Chicago. The students did superb work, which was well planned and transferred nicely to a rain barrel. All of the entrants will receive certificates for their accomplishments, and the creators of the winning barrel will be invited to tour the world's largest water reclamation facility, the Stick-

ney Water Reclamation Plant in Cicero, IL. The program will continue indefinitely.

While rain barrels are currently in winter storage, during the rest of the year, they can capture rainwater from roofs which can be stored for later use, for example, to wash cars, water grass, or irrigate plants. To prevent mosquito larvae from hatching, rain barrels are fitted with screening. 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 each or are distributed free of charge to communities that participate in the MWRD's rain barrel program. For more information about this program, visit [www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org) or call your local municipality. To participate in the school rain barrel painting program, call 312-751-6633.



*In the photo (L-R): The winning rain barrels from Pride School, Reavis High School and Lincoln Park High School.*

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*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.*