



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Glenview teams with MWRD, Cook County to provide flood relief



In the photo (left to right) Glenview Park Commissioner Dan Peterson, Glenview Park Board Vice President Charles Kuhn, Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin, State Rep. Laura Fine (17th), Glenview Village President Jim Patterson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Commissioner Debra Shore and Glenview Park Board President Bill Casey cut the ribbon to represent the completion of the East of Harms Storm Relief Project re-opening of Cunliff Park in Glenview.

While Glenview children celebrated a new neighborhood playground, their parents rejoiced with village leaders over the completion of a stormwater management project provided by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) to bring sorely needed relief to flood-prone homes.

Officials with the village of Glenview, Glenwood Park District, Cook County and MWRD joined to celebrate the completion of the East of Harms Storm Relief Project and re-opening of Cunliff Park, 540 Echo Lane in the north suburb.

“This area of Glenview has had historic flooding problems both from the North Branch of the Chicago River and poorly designed infrastructure,” said MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore. “Back flow preventers and

stormwater piping are not always visible pieces of infrastructure, except when construction is going on. But these investments in infrastructure will prove invaluable as we seek to manage water in our urbanized landscape in the 21st Century. We are grateful to be a part of this project and happy to deliver Glenview residents some much needed relief.”

The flood control project will benefit 1,150 single-family homes east of Harms Road in Glenview that have been stricken by repeated flooding due to the low-lying location in relation to the main stem (middle fork) of the North Branch of the Chicago River, just west of the Cook County Forest Preserve.

In years past when the river reached flood stage, the village storm sewer connections were as much as 10 feet underwater. As a result, regional river water flowed back into the local system and local storm sewers were unable to drain at all until the river receded. Impacted areas experienced sanitary sewer backups into basements, stormwater flooding over foundations into homes and roads rendered impassable, making properties inaccessible to first responders and homeowners. Water had nowhere to go. Local sewers, installed in the 1960s, were overtaxed during rain events.

To prevent the North Branch from backing into neighborhood storm sewers, the project included the installation of three backflow preventers on storm sewer pipes, which lead to the river; two pumping stations with backup generators and new storm sewer piping. One pump station was provided at the *(continued)*



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Glenview Road and Harms Road area to support the local sewer system, and the other pump station was installed at Cunliff Park. Additionally, new 84-inch storm sewers were constructed under Harms Road to provide for storm water conveyance and detention.

Through an intergovernmental agreement between MWRD and Glenview, the MWRD allocated \$6 million, covering more than half the cost of the project. Glenview also secured \$2 million in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery grant funds from Cook County for the project.

“Flooding in this neighborhood had long challenged the village,” Glenview Village President Jim Patterson said. “It wasn’t until we were able to partner with the Park District, MWRD and Cook County that a

solution could be implemented in a comprehensive, cost-effective way.”

The pump station construction also allowed the Glenview Park District to undertake improvements at Cunliff Park. The Cunliff Park fieldhouse was renovated, new bathrooms were built and a new playground installed.

“Working with the Village, the Glenview Park District was able to renovate Cunliff Park while flooding mitigation was being implemented,” said Glenview Superintendent of Park and Facility Services James Warnstedt. “Cunliff Park now has a new playground — with equipment for both tots and older kids — a picnic pavilion, a renovated fieldhouse with ADA improvements, upgraded appliances and enhanced landscaping throughout the park.”

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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.