



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District *of* Greater Chicago

Press Release

Allison Fore

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6626

allison.fore@mwrdd.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

For immediate release

February 17, 2016

MWRD to host two meetings in Northbrook to discuss flooding study

Who: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), the village of Northbrook and Northfield Township

What: Two public meetings to discuss the findings for existing flooding conditions and educate the public on green infrastructure

When/Where: Wednesday, February 17 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Sportsman's Country Club, 3535 Dundee Rd., Northbrook

Monday, February 22 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Ln., Northbrook

Residents in Northbrook and the surrounding unincorporated areas are invited to join the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), the village of Northbrook, and Northfield Township at two public forums to discuss existing flooding conditions and an ongoing flood study in Northbrook and nearby unincorporated areas.

The first meeting will take place this evening from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Sportsman's Country Club, 3535 Dundee Rd., Northbrook, and the second will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, February 22 at the Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Ln., Northbrook.

The two meetings will have a short introduction and will remain open for three hours. Residents can learn about initial findings from the flood study and the MWRD's next steps into investigating measures to mitigate the issues. Residents will have the opportunity to review reports of flooding in their watershed. Each of the four watersheds (Des Plaines River, West Fork North Branch Chicago River, Middle Fork North Branch Chicago River and Skokie River) will have its own booth with maps. To locate a watershed and see interactive online maps, visit the project's website at www.northbrookfloodstudy.org.

"We encourage residents and business owners in Northbrook and Northfield Township to join us as we seek to establish a resilient Cook County in managing stormwater," said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. "Public interaction is an important component of the Northbrook study because the quantities of water that must be addressed and managed during major rain events should be understood by all. Everyone working together to manage water in different ways will provide the protection needed."

After record-setting rain events in recent years, the MWRD began assembling a 100-year-flood plan for Cook County, beginning with a study of five pilot areas, which includes Northbrook. These stormwater management studies are investigating urban flooding issues and evaluating potential green and gray infrastructure solutions.

The Council of Governments (COGs) and the City of Chicago each selected a pilot study location within their areas based on high priority flooding concerns. These pilots are being used to develop a template for the rest of Cook County.

Hundreds of Northbrook and Northfield Township residents have already completed a survey which will help the project team understand where flooding exists and gauge the interest in various solutions. Paper copies will be available at the open houses or surveys can be found by visiting www.northbrookfloodstudy.org.

###