



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

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Doors open to the public at six MWRD plants in celebration of Infrastructure Week

Glimpse at water treatment process offered to all ages on May 21



- WHO:** Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD)
- WHAT:** Free open house and tours at six MWRD water reclamation plants (WRP)
- WHERE:** Calumet WRP, 400 E. 130th St., Chicago; Egan WRP, 550 S. Meacham Rd., Schaumburg; Hanover Park WRP, 1220 Sycamore Ave., Hanover Park; Kirie WRP, 701 Oakton St., Des Plaines; O'Brien WRP, 3500 Howard St., Skokie; Stickney WRP, 6001 W. Pershing Rd., Cicero
- WHEN:** Saturday, May 21, from 9 a.m. to noon

Cook County residents who have ever wondered where that last drop of water ends up after it funnels down their drains or is flushed down a toilet have an opportunity to see how it is transformed into clean water. On May 21, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) will open six of its water reclamation plants (WRPs) for a series of special open houses and tours. The open houses are taking place in conjunction with the Value of Water Coalition's Infrastructure Week (May 16-23), which sheds light on the importance of maintaining and modernizing the nation's infrastructure. Besides offering visitors an exclusive look at its plant operations, the MWRD will also be promoting its efforts in improving regional stormwater management by giving away hundreds of free potted oak tree saplings to restore the region's depleted canopy and help reduce flooding.

Visitors to the MWRD's plants can learn how the MWRD is recovering resources and transforming water at these fascinating and vital facilities. The MWRD, which owns and operates the largest water reclamation plant in the world at Stickney WRP, treats more than 1.4 billion gallons of water per day, and has the capacity

to treat more than 2 billion gallons per day. The MWRD serves 10.35 million people in an 883.6-square-mile area of Cook County, which includes Chicago and 128 suburban communities.

Across the country, water treatment agencies and members of the Value of Water Coalition in cities like Chicago, Los Angeles and Cleveland are hosting tours during Infrastructure Week. Participating agencies will tell the story about why water infrastructure matters to their communities and the nation, and show how they are securing a sustainable water future. Infrastructure Week 2016 is led by a steering committee consisting of the AFL-CIO, the American Society of Civil Engineers, Building America's Future, Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program, the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Value of Water Coalition.

Learn more about Infrastructure Week at www.infrastructureweek.org. Follow the conversation on Twitter, @InfraWeek and #InfrastructureMatters.

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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.