



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## Name that biosolid: The MWRD extends naming contest to public to include school participation *Contest deadline extended to September 30*



*The new and heralded Maggie Daley Park (top left) is one of more than 50 area parks that has benefited from biosolids. Other benefiting sites include Harborside International Golf Center (top right, clockwise) on the Far South Side, Horner Park on the North Side and Ping Tom Park on the near South Side. The soil enhancer stimulates plant growth and lasts three to five years longer than regular chemical fertilizers and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) has the opportunity to make it available to the public for the first time. Now the MWRD just needs a name.*

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District in Wisconsin markets their biosolids as “Milorganite.” DC Water in Washington, DC recently launched “Bloom.” The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Chicago (MWRD) is looking to join these and other sister water agencies in naming the locally-produced products. Based on popular demand and to accommodate the upcoming school year, the MWRD is expanding its contest to students of all ages to participate and learn more about their environment.

Due to recent changes in Illinois law, MWRD biosolids, for the first time, can be made available and sold to the general public. The MWRD produces the biosolids as part of the water treatment process and is turning to the public for help in naming both the Exceptional Quality (EQ) biosolids and EQ biosolids blend that is composted with woodchips.

Contestants are urged to be appropriate but creative. The deadline is September 30, 2016. To submit a *(continued)*

## Name that biosolid: The MWRD extends naming contest *(continued)*

name, contact [public.affairs@mwrld.org](mailto:public.affairs@mwrld.org) or find the MWRD on Facebook or Twitter.

“At a time when there is growing scrutiny over fertilizers and pesticides, we are supporting a natural trend that is both resourceful to our environment and also our taxpayers,” said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. “We encourage the public to enter the contest today and have fun knowing they are part of this most interesting and unusual cycle of life.”

MWRD biosolids are a high-quality product of the water treatment process that can be recovered and turned into a valuable resource for plants. Air-dried biosolids look like dark, fine-textured topsoil and are a sustainable alternative to chemical fertilizers. Instead of being trucked to a landfill or deposited in waterways like practiced many years ago, the biosolids can be used almost anywhere soil amendments and chemical fertilizers would be used, only more effectively and at a fraction of the cost. Golf courses, athletic fields, parks and recreational facilities and agricultural and farm fields have used MWRD biosolids. The biosolids have also been used to restore brownfields and other disturbed lands.

The legislation, which was signed last year by Gov. Bruce Rauner, amends the Illinois Environmental Protection Act (IEPA) to create the new definition of EQ biosolids. The MWRD worked with the IEPA, Illinois Department of Agriculture and several environmental groups to develop the legislation after gaining approval from the US EPA and other environmental regulators. The approval affirms the rigorous testing EQ biosolids have undergone and ensures its safety and effectiveness.

The MWRD reserves discretion in naming this product.

The popularity of the contest is evident based on the amount of quality names already submitted and increasing media exposure.

“That popularity and the educational value led us to consider opening up the contest a few weeks more to allow schools to participate and consider naming those biosolids that draw our attention and improve our environment,” said MWRD Commissioner Frank Avila.

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