



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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For immediate release

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Service Project to Build Outdoor Classroom and Green Infrastructure at Manierre Elementary School

WHO: The Water Environment Federation (WEF), Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) and the City of Chicago's Department of Water Management

WHAT: A service project will transform a paved, flood-prone area at Manierre Elementary School into an outdoor classroom for students and also capture stormwater pollution.

WHERE: Manierre Elementary School, 1420 N. Hudson Ave., Chicago

WHEN: Saturday, September 30, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. with a ribbon cutting at 2:30 p.m.

A service project will transform a paved, flood-prone area at Manierre Elementary School into an outdoor classroom for students and also capture stormwater pollution.

The Water Environment Federation (WEF), Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) and the City of Chicago's Department of Water Management organized the project that educates the community about water, the environment and green infrastructure.

The project is held in conjunction with the Water Environment Federation Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC), which brings more than 20,000 people to Chicago this year. Conference and community volunteers will transform a portion of Manierre School's playground, which is currently all paved and suffers from poor drainage and periodic flooding. Participants will convert the space into a permeable outdoor classroom area that includes a bioswale with native plant species. This project will capture and filter stormwater runoff to alleviate flooding and improve water quality.

To kick off the project, the MWRD will join WEF in hosting the fifth-annual Water Ploozza educational fair on Friday, Sept. 29. Students and teachers will be invited to enjoy a fun-filled day of engaging in hands-on environmental activities provided by nearly 15 water companies, the MWRD and other governmental agencies, as well as nonprofit organizations.

The MWRD plans to capture the campus transformation through time-lapse photography.

Service Project Partner: The Water Environment Federation

(WEF), the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) and the City of Chicago Department of Water Management.

Sponsors: AECOM, Arcadis, Black & Veatch, Brown and Caldwell, Carollo Engineers, CDM Smith, CH2M, Greeley and Hansen, Hazen and Sawyer, HDR, and Mott MacDonald.

Donors: AE2S, AECOM/Parsons Joint Venture, APSCO, Brentwood Industries, Central States Water Environment Association, CH2M, Chemtrol, a brand of NIBCO INC., Corzan Industrial Systems, DC Water, Donohue & Associates, Inc., Duperon Corporation, EOSi, FKC Co., Ltd., Hach, Illinois Water Environment Association, Michael Baker International, Tnemec Company, Inc., Water Charities Fundraising, and World Water Works, Inc.

In-Kind Support: Anne Roberts Gardens, Center for Neighborhood Technology, City of Chicago Department of Water Management, Fiore Nursery, Trotter & Associates, Inc., Green City Market.

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About WEF

The Water Environment Federation is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization of 33,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. Since 1928, WEF and its members have protected public health and the environment. As a global water sector leader, our mission is to connect water professionals; enrich the expertise of water professionals; increase the awareness of the impact and value of water; and provide a platform for water sector innovation. To learn more, visit www.wef.org.

Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrdd.org) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for used water treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.