



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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For immediate release

January 16, 2018

MWRD prioritizes green infrastructure projects in 2018

Parks, forest preserves, municipalities, a university, a nature center, and several alleys and parking lots across Cook County will benefit from Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) funding in 2018. All of these projects will feature Green Infrastructure (GI) enhancements to better manage stormwater.

Projects selected for funding met several criteria: they are in flood prone areas; they are in areas new to MWRD GI funding; they have a high rate of ground infiltration in which stormwater is prevented from entering the local sewer system; they provide educational opportunities for residents to learn about GI practices; the applicant demonstrated the ability to operate and maintain the GI practices; and they showed an appropriate cost benefit ratio.

“We have seen how the natural long-term benefits of green infrastructure can provide solutions to managing the stormwater that confronts our communities,” said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. “Thank you to all of the communities that recognize the value of investing in green infrastructure and collaborating with us on these important projects.”

GI is designed to capture water and allow it to infiltrate into the ground before it enters the traditional conveyance system. This helps to reduce the amount of water flowing through the gray infrastructure of pipes that are often overwhelmed by increasingly intense rain events experienced throughout the region. Many of the projects are also located in combined sewer areas and will help to reduce peak flows into area sewers to alleviate flooding and basement backups.

“We appreciate the applications we received from dozens of government entities throughout Cook County who are working to manage stormwater,” said MWRD Commissioner Kari K. Steele. “We thank them for their commitment and look forward to these projects making a difference through new and exciting green infrastructure solutions.”

Projects selected include:



The permeable pavement at the MWRD's Egan Water Reclamation Plant is an example of a green infrastructure project that is growing in popularity for communities across Cook County. The MWRD is partnering with several government entities in 2018 to complete similar projects.

Arlington Heights

Village of Arlington Heights – installing permeable parking lot pavers and a bioinfiltration basin at Arlington Heights Police Station.

Calumet Park

Village of Calumet Park – introducing a detention pond, bioswales, permeable pavement and rain gardens as part of the Winchester Avenue improvements.

Chicago

City of Chicago, Department of Planning and Development – constructing a three-inch underground storage facility at Garfield Park Community Eco Orchard and planting trees.

City of Chicago, 10th Ward – constructing green alleys behind the 9900 blocks of South Avenue H and South Avenue J and the 10300 blocks of Ewing Avenue and South Avenue L.

Chicago Park District – improving stormwater infiltration through the establishment of native habitat at three Chicago parks. The project will convert a total of 16.4 acres of turf grass into native plants capable of *(continued)*

MWRD prioritizes green infrastructure projects in 2018 *(continued)*

absorbing stormwater runoff. At La Villita Park in the Little Village neighborhood and at Park 538 in the West Ridge neighborhood, turf grass will be replaced by native prairie plants, while a mixture of native sedge meadow short grass prairie, and open woodland will replace a low lying area of turf grass at Rutherford Sayre Park in the Galewood and Montclare neighborhoods.

RTA/Metra, Commuter Rail Division – providing permeable pavement, naturalized plantings and other GI improvements for the new Peterson Ridge Metra station planned for Peterson and Ravenswood avenues in the Edgewater neighborhood.

University of Illinois at Chicago – installing pavers and rain gardens at Arthington Mall and Parking Lot B2. In 2016, the University of Illinois at Chicago adopted the UIC Climate Commitments furthering the goals of the 2009 UIC Climate Action Plan. The UIC Climate Commitments include visionary goals to become a carbon neutral campus by 2050 and to become a zero waste, net zero water and biodiverse campus. This project will help the University attain those goals.

Des Plaines

City of Des Plaines – improving pervious concrete alleys. The City of Des Plaines alley improvement program consists of removing deteriorated alley pavement and replacing it with new porous concrete pavement. Some drainage improvements, such as new storm sewers, are included where appropriate.

Forest Park

Village of Forest Park – constructing a green alley utilizing permeable pavers in the alley between Marengo Avenue and Elgin Avenue to the west and east, and Lexington Street and Harvard Street, to the north and south. In addition to the permeable pavers, the alley will have perforated catch basins to maximize stormwater infiltration into the ground.

Harwood Heights

City of Harwood Heights – constructing green alleys in Harwood Heights.

Maywood

Village of Maywood – replacing five alleys that were planned for resurfacing with green alleys that will capture stormwater runoff from the tributary area and reduce residential flooding.

Midlothian

Village of Midlothian – installing permeable pavement, bioswales and a rain garden at the Midlothian permeable parking lot, as part of a GI demonstration project.

Orland Park

Village of Orland Park Village Hall – building a green roof on the Orland Park Village Hall.

Village of Orland Park Nature Center – installing permeable pavers, a limestone trail, naturalized plantings, and detention/wetland improvements.

Palos Heights

City of Palos Heights – installing permeable pavers in the Lake Katherine commuter parking lot. The Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens is an 85 acre non-profit park that includes woodlands, prairie, wetlands, rain gardens and a 10 acre lake highlighting green technologies.

Park Ridge

Forest Preserve District of Cook County – Constructing a porous parking lot retrofit with pavers, pavement removal and naturalization at the Dam No. 4 Woods East.

Posen

Village of Posen – installing a rain garden and permeable parking lot as part of Posen Goes Green.

River Forest

Village of River Forest – constructing Gale Avenue green alley improvements.

Riverside

Village of Riverside – installing permeable parking lot pavers in the Metra commuter Lot #1 parking lot.

Wheeling

Wheeling Park District – reconstructing the Chamber Park parking lot with a rain garden.

Selected project partners will be expected to provide long-term operation and maintenance of the installed GI practices. Construction is planned for 2018. Total project costs have not been finalized.

Please visit www.mwrdd.org for more information.

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.