



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

**Allison Fore**

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6626

[allison.fore@mwrdd.org](mailto:allison.fore@mwrdd.org)

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

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## Water reclamation plant tours offer insight into water transformation

**WHO:** Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

**WHAT:** Open house and tours of six water reclamation plants

**WHERE:** Calumet Water Reclamation Plant, 400 E. 130th Street, Chicago  
Egan Water Reclamation Plant, 550 S. Meacham Road, Schaumburg, IL  
Hanover Park Water Reclamation Plant, 1220 Sycamore Avenue, Hanover Park, IL  
Kirie Water Reclamation Plant, 701 Oakton Street, Des Plaines, IL  
O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant, 3500 Howard Street, Skokie, IL  
Stickney Water Reclamation Plant, 6001 W. Pershing Road, Cicero, IL

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 19, 2018, 9 a.m. to noon

If you have ever been curious about what happens to the water after you flush the toilet, take a shower or wash dishes, a chance to satisfy that curiosity lies just ahead. On Sat., May 19 from 9 a.m. to noon, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) will offer facility tours at six water reclamation plant (WRP) locations. All ages are welcome and no reservations are necessary.

Visitors will watch MWRD staff recover resources and transform water at these fascinating and important facilities. For example, the Stickney WRP treats more than 1.4 billion gallons of water per day and has the capacity to treat more than two billion gallons per day. It's one of the largest such facilities in the world. The MWRD serves 10.35 million people in an 883.6-square-mile area of Cook County, which includes Chicago and 128 suburban communities.

The free open houses and tours are part of the Value of Water (VOW) Campaign's Infrastructure Week which sheds light on the importance of maintaining and modernizing the nation's infrastructure. Across the

country, water treatment agencies and VOW members host tours to explain why water infrastructure matters to their communities and the nation.

Besides offering visitors an exclusive look at its plant operations, the MWRD is promoting its efforts in improving regional stormwater management by giving away potted oak tree saplings to restore the region's depleted canopy and help reduce flooding. Tree distributions also occur every Wednesday morning at MWRD plants. For more information about obtaining free tree saplings, visit [www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org).

Private tours are also offered year round for groups of up to 25 at MWRD's treatment plants and the Mainstream Pumping Station in Hodgkins, IL, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All tours must be scheduled at least one month in advance to accommodate background checks and are open to adults and students in seventh grade or higher. Please contact the MWRD Office of Public Affairs for more information at (312) 751-6633 or email [public.affairs@mwrdd.org](mailto:public.affairs@mwrdd.org).

### Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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