



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Nathan S. Davis Elementary is 10th CPS schoolyard transformed through Space to Grow partnership



Space to Grow partners, Davis School students, and neighbors cut the ribbon to inaugurate the new schoolyard.

The award-winning partnership that transforms Chicago schoolyards into vibrant outdoor spaces completed its tenth project yesterday in the Brighton Park neighborhood, and a grand opening celebration comprised of hundreds of students, staff, residents and elected officials also commemorated the last day of school.

Healthy Schools Campaign, Openlands, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Department of Water Management (DWM), and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) joined students, staff, and community members for a ribbon cutting ceremony at Nathan S. Davis Elementary School, 3014 W. 39th Place.

Davis Elementary is the first of six Chicago Public Schools in 2018 to receive the \$1.5 million makeover through the Space to Grow partnership. The Space to Grow program creates opportunities for the school community to play, learn, and grow while positively affecting the local waterways. The new features at Davis Elementary include a turf field and track; playground equipment; basketball courts; outdoor classroom area; rain gardens and native gardens.



MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos addresses students, faculty, families and Space to Grow partners.



(L-R): MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore, Openlands President Jerry Adelmann, MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos, and MWRD Commissioners Kari K. Steele, David Walsh and Ken Dunkin.

MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos, Chicago Alderman George Cardenas and DWM Commissioner Randy Conner, Chief of Chicago Public Schools Network 8 Elizabeth Alvarez, Davis Principal Rocío Rosales-Gaskin, President and CEO Openlands Jerry Adelmann, and Senior Vice President, Healthy Schools Campaign Claire Marcy addressed the audience. MWRD Commissioners Ken Dunkin, *(continued)*

Nathan S. Davis Elementary is 10th CPS schoolyard transformed (cont.)



Davis School, before.

Debra Shore, Kari K. Steele, and David Walsh were also on hand to greet students, check out the new playground and participate in the ceremony.

“This is a wonderful project that will serve as a central gathering place for the students and community long after the ceremony is over,” said President Spyropoulos. “Not only is this an attractive amenity, the green infrastructure elements will allow 197,422 gallons of stormwater to collect in underground storage instead of entering the sewers. We couldn’t be more pleased with how this schoolyard turned out, and it’s thanks to the wonderful collaboration with our partners, students and local residents.”



Davis School, after.

Five more schools will be completed in 2018, and collectively, they will be able to capture 1,027,503 gallons of rain water per storm event. The five other schools include:

- Cook Elementary, 8150 S. Bishop, Austin-Gresham neighborhood (217,978 gallons)
- Farnsworth Elementary, 5414 N. Linder, Jefferson Park neighborhood (152,869 gallons)
- Field Elementary, 7019 N. Ashland, Rogers Park neighborhood (170,060 gallons)
- Fernwood Elementary, 10041 S. Union St., Washington Heights neighborhood (138,222 gallons)
- Morton Elementary, 431 N. Troy, Humboldt Park neighborhood (150,952 gallons)

Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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