



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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MWRD publishes new educational tool: “A healthy waterway begins with you: A Guide to Water Wellness”

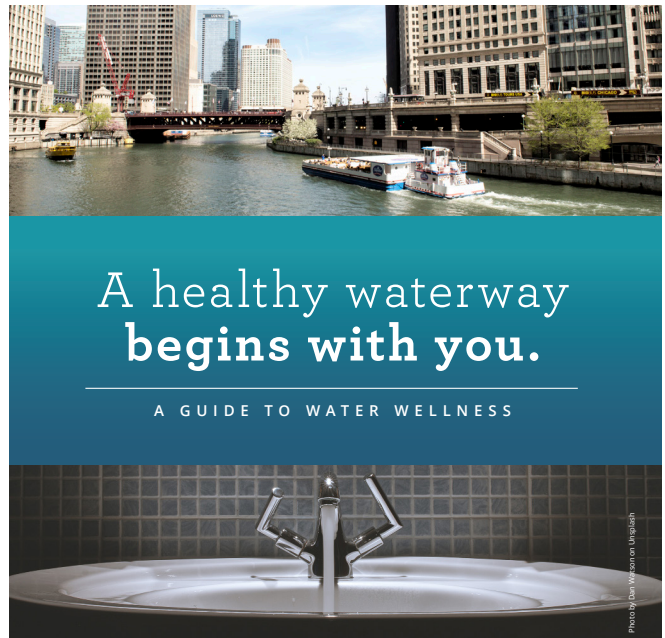
To educate the public on specific ways they can protect the waterways, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) has prepared a consumer guide that offers information on best practices. Titled “A healthy waterway begins with you: A Guide to Water Wellness,” this brochure offers suggestions for keeping contaminants out of the waterways and promotes simple lifestyle modifications that can create a more eco-friendly environment.

“Water is one of our most precious resources - it provides us with the basic necessities for life,” said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. “The steps we all take now will help improve the lives of future generations.”

Pollutants in our waterways pose a threat. When not disposed of properly, everyday products like shampoo, detergent and fertilizers can run off and have a harmful effect on the environment.

One simple way to protect our water environment is to pick up pet waste. It contains nitrogen, phosphorous, bacteria, and parasites which can pose a threat to the health of our waters. Similarly, medications should never be flushed nor poured down a drain – there are special collection sites throughout the county that will dispose of unwanted medication in an environmentally friendly manner. In fact, the MWRD has three permanent collection boxes; they are located at the Stickney (6001 W. Pershing Rd., Cicero), Calumet (400 E. 130th St., Chicago) and O’Brien (3500 Howard St., Skokie) Water Reclamation Plants. Additionally, Cook County residents can report any illegal or suspicious dumping in the waterways by calling 1-800-332-DUMP (3867).

Simple steps throughout our day can make a substantial impact on the environment. Choosing to buy products that do not contain phosphate, sulfates or microbeads and buying



chemical-free foods are just two of the ways to protect our water supply.

The MWRD continues to work towards its mission of protecting homes and businesses from flood damage and improving and protecting the quality of water, but ultimately a healthy waterway begins with all of us.

Download the brochure at www.mwrdd.org/irj/go/km/docs/documents/MWRD/internet/Public%20Affairs/Education/Resources/pdf/HealthyWaterwayBeginsWithYou.pdf.

Hard copies are available by contacting the MWRD Office of Public Affairs at 312-751-6633 or by emailing public.affairs@mwrdd.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.