



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Media Advisory

Allison Fore

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6626

allison.fore@mwrdd.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

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## MWRD's O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant to participate in Open House Chicago

**Who:** Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Open House Chicago

**What:** Free open house activities and tours of an MWRD water reclamation plant

**Where:** O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant, 3500 Howard Street, Skokie, IL

**When:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018

Architecture fans, science and technology enthusiasts, water environment experts and other visitors will have an exclusive glimpse into the process of transforming water and recovering resources when the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) opens its unique and historic facilities to the public for the Chicago Architecture Center's Eighth Annual Open House Chicago (OHC).

On Saturday, Oct. 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the MWRD will offer free guided facility tours of the O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) in Skokie. The O'Brien WRP is one of 250 spaces and places participating in the OHC in Chicago and near suburbs. Visitors to O'Brien WRP will be given a behind-the-scenes look into the critical operations that protect the local water environment from its 90-year-old facilities to the new innovative technologies employed today to turn wastewater into clean water that has sparked recreational demand along the North Shore Channel and Chicago River.

Placed into service in 1928 as the North Side Sewage Treatment Works, the O'Brien WRP today serves more than 1.3 million people residing in a 143-square-mile area that includes Chicago, north of Fullerton Avenue and the 17 suburbs in northern Cook County that extend to Lake County on the north, Lake Michigan on the east and Harlem Avenue and Des Plaines River on the west. The plant cleans an average of 230 million gallons of wastewater per day (mgd) and has the capacity to treat 450 mgd.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13  
**O'BRIEN WATER RECLAMATION PLANT**  
OPEN HOUSE & TOUR  
9 A.M. - 5 P.M.



OHC guests at O'Brien WRP will have access to family-friendly activities under a welcome tent followed by a guided 20-minute walking tour of MWRD facilities and an opportunity to meet staff and learn more about operations. Visitors are encouraged to wear sturdy, comfortable enclosed shoes.

Hosted by the Chicago Architecture Center, the OHC is part of a worldwide movement of free open house events that began in London in 1992. Today more than 40 cities worldwide hold similar weekend festivals. In 2017, approximately 91,000 people participated in the two-day OHC event for a total of 347,000 site visits.

For more information, please contact the MWRD Office of Public Affairs at (312) 751-6633 or email [public.affairs@mwrdd.org](mailto:public.affairs@mwrdd.org), and for more information on OHC, visit [www.open-housechicago.org](http://www.open-housechicago.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 wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.