



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## MWRD delivers compost, trees to Temple Missionary Baptist Church Heritage Peace Garden



*(L-R) MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan, Chicago Alderman Michael Scott and Pastor Reshorna Fitzpatrick display some of the plants that will be included in the Stone Temple Missionary Baptist Church Heritage Peace Garden.*

To support the mission of providing a safe haven of peace for community residents through healthy eating with fresh produce grown in an urban garden, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) delivered 20 cubic yards of compost and oak saplings to the Stone Temple Missionary Baptist Church Heritage Peace Garden.

Alderman Michael Scott and Nikki Harvey from the Office of Congressman Danny Davis, along with neighbors and friends of the church, joined Vice President Barbara McGowan and Pastor Reshorna Fitzpatrick in the planting event.

“This has truly been a blessing for all of us,” said Pas-

tor Fitzpatrick. “We have thought about this for quite some time and weren’t quite sure how we were going to make it all happen, so one of the answers to our prayers came from Commissioner McGowan and the Water Reclamation District.”

The Church is a 501c3 organization with a mission of faithfully caring for families and the earth by building strong families, strong kids and strong communities through programs that develop the mind, body and spirit. The Church’s Green Team strives to educate the community through its sustainable food and land use program by empowering youth and adults with ways to conserve our natural and cultural resources. For this initiative to meet its mission of “Caring *(continued)*

## MWRD delivers compost, trees to Temple Missionary Baptist Church, *cont.*



*Pastor ReShorna Fitzpatrick and MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan reflecting on the first phase of the Temple Missionary Baptist Church Heritage Peace Garden.*

for Families and Conserving the Earth,” youth and adult participants in the program learn to grow fresh produce for consumption and manage urban gardens.

The MWRD offers high quality compost for no charge to residents, non-profit organizations, and governmental agencies within Cook County. Called EQ Compost, the product is created by blending bio-solids, woodchips, grass clippings and leaves and is a superior alternative to other soil amendments available today. The term “EQ” comes from the product’s designation as “Exceptional Quality” under federal and state regulatory standards.

EQ Compost increases organic matter, reduces nutrient loss, and increases water infiltration and retention of the soil. The compost can be used as a soil amendment or conditioner for establishing turf grass, mixing into custom topsoil blends, or used as a mulch and added to planter beds and pots for establishing flowers and trees.



“We are extremely pleased to support this effort,” said MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan. “I commend Reverend Bishop Derrick Fitzpatrick, ReShorna Fitzpatrick and Congressman Danny Davis for facilitating this partnership. Our compost can increase organic matter in the soil that will make an excellent foundation for these community gardens.”

### ***Recovering Resources, Transforming Water***

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