

CELEBRATING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

2022

CALENDAR



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

     [mwrd.org](https://www.mwrd.org)

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is an award-winning, independent government agency responsible for protecting the region’s water environment. The MWRD accomplishes this by protecting area waterways and the source of drinking water (Lake Michigan), providing stormwater management for residents and businesses across Cook County and transforming and reclaiming wastewater in its service area, which encompasses 92 percent of the land area of Cook County. As an innovative utility of the future, the MWRD strives to develop groundbreaking technologies to recover and reuse valuable resources that improve water quality and protect the planet.

Established through an enabling act by the Illinois General Assembly in 1889 as the Sanitary District of Chicago, the MWRD’s name, roles, jurisdiction and authority have changed over more than 130 years. The enabling act in 1889 was in direct response to a long standing problem with contamination of the water supply and nuisance conditions of the rivers. The MWRD reversed the flow of the Chicago and Calumet River Systems to stop the discharge of sewage to Lake Michigan and instead discharge it to the Des Plaines River, where it could be diluted as it flowed into the Illinois River and eventually the Mississippi River. Prior to the MWRD’s construction of a 61.3 mile system of canals and waterway improvements, the Chicago and Calumet River Systems were tributaries to Lake Michigan. These river systems are now tributaries to the Illinois River system. MWRD constructed seven wastewater treatment plants in the 1920s–1930s.

From 1955 through 1988, the MWRD was called the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago. In order to provide a more accurate perception of the MWRD’s current functions and responsibilities, the name was changed effective January 1, 1989, to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

Mission and Responsibilities

The mission of the MWRD is to protect the health and safety of the public in its service area, protect the quality of the water supply source, improve the quality of water in watercourses in its service area, protect

businesses and homes from flood damages, and manage water as a vital resource for its service area. The MWRD collects wastewater from municipalities in its service area, conveys it to water reclamation plants, provides full secondary treatment, and provides tertiary treatment when appropriate. The MWRD is also responsible for stormwater management for all of Cook County. The MWRD does not treat and transport drinking water to homes and businesses; for information regarding drinking water in your neighborhood, contact your local municipality.

Services

The MWRD’s seven modern water reclamation plants provide excellent treatment for residential and industrial wastewater, meeting permitted discharge limits virtually at all times. The treatment process is protected by a pretreatment program to guard against hazardous substances and toxic chemicals. Water reclamation plants are strictly regulated pursuant to federal and state requirements. The MWRD routinely monitors industries and non-residential sources to assure that wastes are disposed of in an environmentally responsible and lawful manner.

Treated water, along with runoff from rainfall, enters local canals, rivers, and streams that serve as headwaters of the Illinois River system. Stormwater in the separate sewered area is controlled to reduce flood damages by a number of stormwater detention reservoirs. In the combined sewer area, the MWRD’s Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) has significantly reduced basement backup and overflows to local waterways.

Flow within the MWRD’s waterway system and the Lake Michigan discretionary diversion flow are controlled by three inlet structures on Lake Michigan: the Wilmette Pumping Station, the Chicago River Controlling Works, and the O’Brien Lock and Dam. The single outlet control structure is the Lockport Lock and Powerhouse.

While exercising no direct control over water collection systems owned and maintained by cities, villages, sewer districts, and utilities, the MWRD

does control municipal sewer construction by permits outside the City of Chicago. The MWRD also owns a network of intercepting sewers to convey wastewater from the local collection systems to the water reclamation plants.

Facilities

The MWRD is located primarily within the boundaries of Cook County, Illinois. The MWRD serves an area of 882.1 square miles, which includes the City of Chicago and 128 surrounding suburban communities. The MWRD serves an equivalent population of 10.35 million people; 5.25 million real people, a commercial and industrial equivalent of 4.5 million people, and a combined sewer overflow equivalent of 0.6 million people. MWRD’s 560 miles of intercepting sewers and force mains range in size from 6 inches to 27 feet in diameter, and are fed by approximately 10,000 local sewer system connections.

TARP is one of the country’s largest public works projects for pollution and flood control. Four tunnel systems total 109.4 miles of tunnels, 8 to 33 feet in diameter and 150 to 300 feet underground. The tunnels are designed to empty into three large reservoirs to provide storage for the polluted water captured by TARP.

The MWRD owns and operates one of the world’s largest water reclamation plants, in addition to six other plants and 23 pumping stations. The MWRD treats an average of 1.3 billion gallons of water each day. The MWRD’s total water treatment capacity is over 2.0 billion gallons per day.

The MWRD controls 76.1 miles of navigable waterways, which are part of the inland waterway system connecting the Great Lakes with the Gulf of Mexico. It also owns and operates 34 stormwater detention reservoirs to provide regional stormwater flood damage reduction.

The MWRD uses all of its biosolids through a farmland application program in nearby counties and local use of EQ biosolids and composted biosolids in the Chicago metropolitan area.

GOVERNANCE



The MWRD is governed by a nine-member Board of Commissioners (Board). Commissioners are elected at large and serve on a salaried basis. Three Commissioners are elected every two years for six-year terms. Biannually, the Board elects from its membership a President, Vice President, and Chairman of the Committee on Finance.

Kari K. Steele	President	(312) 751-5694	Kari.Steele@mwrld.org
Barbara J. McGowan	Vice President	(312) 751-5640	Barbara.McGowan@mwrld.org
Marcelino Garcia	Chairman of Finance	(312) 751-5661	Marcelino.Garcia@mwrld.org
Cameron Davis	Commissioner	(312) 751-5470	Cameron.Davis@mwrld.org
Kimberly Du Buclet	Commissioner	(312) 751-5085	Kimberly.DuBuclet@mwrld.org
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Eira L. Corral Sepúlveda	Commissioner	(312) 751-5465	Eira.Sepulveda@mwrld.org
Mariyana T. Spyropoulos	Commissioner	(312) 751-5650	Mariyana.Spyropoulos@mwrld.org

WATER RECLAMATION PLANTS



- 1 Calumet Water Reclamation Plant
- 2 Egan Water Reclamation Plant
- 3 Hanover Park Water Reclamation Plant
- 4 Kirie Water Reclamation Plant
- 5 Lemont Water Reclamation Plant
- 6 O’Brien Water Reclamation Plant
- 7 Stickney Water Reclamation Plant



JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
					1939 MWRD INSTALLS LOCKS AT LAKEFRONT INTAKES. NEW YEAR'S DAY	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1900 CHICAGO RIVER REVERSED; CHICAGO SANITARY AND SHIP CANAL COMPLETED.				MWRD BOARD MEETING		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		2018 MCCOOK RESERVOIR FIRST FILL.				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY			MWRD BOARD MEETING		
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

▲ The MWRD’s Racine Avenue Pumping Station (RAPS), at the south end of Bubbly Creek, houses pumps that deliver wastewater to the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant, and it also provides green infrastructure on its roof. The 4,500-square-foot green roof includes a variety of sedum plants that withstand harsh weather conditions to soak up stormwater and mitigate runoff.

Let’s Learn!
Visit
MWRD.ORG/K-12
for educational activities and resources and to request a virtual presentation.





AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH • AMERICAN HEART MONTH

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		CHINESE NEW YEAR	GROUNDHOG DAY	MWRD BOARD MEETING		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
						LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	VALENTINE'S DAY			MWRD BOARD MEETING	1971 FULTON COUNTY PRAIRIE PLAN BEGINS.	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK				
	PRESIDENTS' DAY					
27	28					



**Go behind
the scenes.**

Take a live virtual tour or watch it on-demand.

Visit
MWRD.ORG
for details.

▲ Improvements to the Cherry Creek East Branch in Flossmoor include a new channel alignment as well as culverts, pools, riffles, and in-stream structures west of Governors Highway. The MWRD's \$3.3-million Cherry Creek East Branch Flood Control Project reduced flooding in Flossmoor and the installation of native plants, bioswales and other green infrastructure protects area water quality.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		2006 TARP TUNNELS (109.4 MILES) COMPLETED.		MWRD BOARD MEETING		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	CASIMIR PULASKI DAY	INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS				ST. PATRICK'S DAY MWRD BOARD MEETING		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		WORLD WATER DAY	2016 UV DISINFECTION BEGINS AT O'BRIEN WRP.			
27	28	29	30	31		



Capture and reuse rainwater.
Cook County residents can order rain barrels from the MWRD.
Visit MWRD.ORG

▲ Rain barrels are forms of green infrastructure that mitigate flooding and improve area water quality by reducing runoff entering the sewer system and area waterways. Cook County residents can purchase rain barrels from the MWRD. The barrels save homeowners on their water bills and conserve drinking water. Captured water can be used to water lawns, plants and gardens, and to wash cars, work boots and tools.



EARTH MONTH

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	
						RAMADAN BEGINS
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				MWRD BOARD MEETING		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
					PASSOVER BEGINS AT SUNDOWN GOOD FRIDAY	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
EASTER				MWRD BOARD MEETING	EARTH DAY	LAST DAY OF PASSOVER
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
ORTHODOX EASTER			ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY		ARBOR DAY	

▲ The new Arthington Mall Plaza at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) offers health sciences students a vibrant, attractive and resilient outdoor meeting place that draws in stormwater to help reduce flooding and instill an education on the importance of green infrastructure, thanks in part to MWRD funding. The mall features 37,000 square feet of permeable pavement and rain gardens.



Restore the Canopy, Plant a Tree.
Visit
MWRD.ORG/TREESRESTORE-CANOPY
to learn how you can help replenish the Cook County canopy.

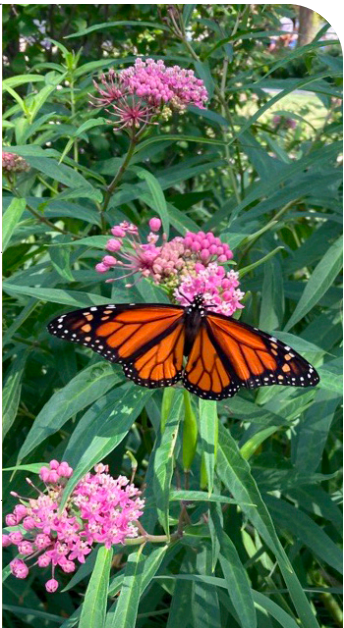


ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH • NATIONAL BIKE MONTH

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
EID AL-FITR BEGINS	RAMADAN ENDS	EID AL-FITR ENDS		CINCO DE MAYO MWRD BOARD MEETING		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
MOTHER'S DAY				1980 KIRIE WRP COMMENCES OPERATIONS.		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	1963 HANOVER PARK WRP COMPLETED.			MWRD BOARD MEETING	NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY	ARMED FORCES DAY
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	1939 SOUTHWEST PLANT (STICKNEY WRP) COMMENCES OPERATIONS.	1985 MAINSTREAM TUNNEL TARP SYSTEM BEGINS OPERATING.	2016 STICKNEY WRP NUTRIENT RECOVERY FACILITY UNVEILED.			
29	30	31				
1889 SANITARY DISTRICT OF CHICAGO ESTABLISHED.	MEMORIAL DAY					

▲ The MWRD’s partnership with the Illinois Monarch Project has yielded instant success. Since 2020, the MWRD has distributed more than 9,700 packets of milkweed seeds, while also planting 23 acres of milkweed to support the monarch population and better storm water management practices. These native plants have extensive root systems that help reduce flooding and improve water quality.



Save the Monarchs.

Take our online pledge to help save monarchs at **MWRD.ORG/SAVE-MONARCHS.**



LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH • NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
				1930 WEST SIDE PLANT (STICKNEY) COMMENCES OPERATIONS. MWRD BOARD MEETING		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			1989 NICHOLAS J. MELAS CENTENNIAL FOUNTAIN COMES ONLINE TO COMMEMORATE MWRD'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY. MWRD BOARD MEETING			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
FATHER'S DAY JUNETEENTH						
26	27	28	29	30		



The Green Neighbor Guide has step-by-step instructions for installing green infrastructure on your property. Download it today at **MWRD.ORG**



▲ A green alley in Berwyn, funded by the MWRD, collects precipitation where it falls by detaining and partially infiltrating runoff to prevent it from overwhelming sewers and flooding communities. The MWRD agreed to contribute additional funds to expand green alleys in Berwyn, among other community projects in 2021. Local partnerships with the MWRD lead to green infrastructure solutions.



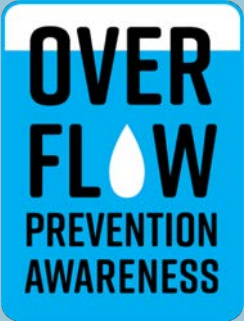
JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	INDEPENDENCE DAY					EID AL-ADHA BEGINS
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			EID AL-ADHA ENDS	MWRD BOARD MEETING		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
					NATIONAL INTERN DAY	

2015 DISINFECTION FACILITY AT CALUMET WRP COMPLETED.

1980 CHICAGO UNDERFLOW PLAN (LATER NAMED GLORIA ALITTO MAJEWSKI) TARP RESERVOIR COMPLETED.

▲ The MWRD’s Space to Grow partnership with the Chicago Department of Water Management, Chicago Public Schools (CPS), Healthy Schools Campaign and Openlands resulted in the transformation of 30 CPS schoolyards that present students and communities a vibrant place to play with rain gardens, outdoor classrooms and permeable surfaces that store a combined 5.6 million gallons per rain event.



Conserve water.

Reduce Your Water Use before and during a rainstorm.

Learn how and why at **MWRD.ORG**



AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				MWRD BOARD MEETING		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				1922 CAL-SAG CHANNEL BECOMES OPERATIONAL.		1907 CHICAGO RIVER MAIN CHANNEL AND CHICAGO SANITARY AND SHIP CANAL EXTENSION COMPLETED. LOCKPORT POWERHOUSE AND LOCK WENT ONLINE.
28	29	30	31			
▲ A herd of goats and sheep are recruited each year by the MWRD to graze on dozen acres of shrubs, plants, overgrowth and native prairie landscaping (NPL) growing outside MWRD facilities. The MWRD has more than 50 acres of NPL serving as green infrastructure soaking up more stormwater to improve local water quality, sequester carbon, and increase biodiversity and wildlife.						

Where Does It Go?

Download the book and watch the animation at **MWRD.ORG/ WHERE-DOES-IT-GO.**





NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15 • NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	
			2015 THORNTON TARP RESERVOIR COMPLETED. MWRD BOARD MEETING	1892 CHICAGO SANITARY AND SHIP CANAL CONSTRUCTION BEGINS.		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	LABOR DAY		1938 CHICAGO RIVER CONTROLLING WORKS OPENS.			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1922 CALUMET WRP COMPLETED. PATRIOT DAY	1907 NORTH SHORE CHANNEL CONSTRUCTION BEGINS.			NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH BEGINS MWRD BOARD MEETING		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1969 SEWAGE AND WASTE CONTROL ORDINANCE ADOPTED.						
25	26	27	28	29	30	

ROSH HASHANAH

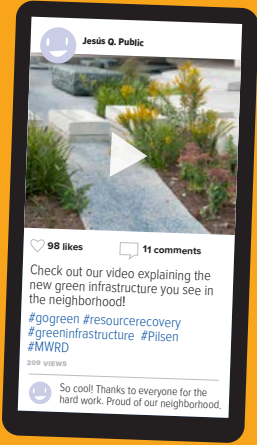
▲ Kayakers enjoy the North Branch of the Chicago River along the banks of Horner Park on the North Side of Chicago. The native prairie provides erosion control, natural habitat and green infrastructure to protect water quality and enhance recreation. Restoration work by the Chicago Park District and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers helps the MWRD land reduce heat island effect, sequester carbon and mitigate flooding and air pollution.

Stay informed.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

Join our email list at **MWRD.ORG**.

#mwrdd
#stormwatermanagement
#greeninfrastructure
#TARP #deeptunnel
#wastewatertreatment





BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

OCTOBER

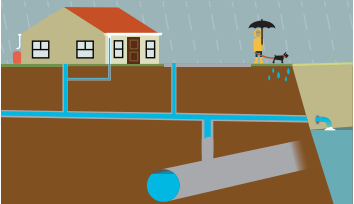
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 <small>1928 NORTH SIDE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS (LATER RENAMED O'BRIEN) WRP COMPLETED.</small>	4 <small>YOM KIPPUR</small>	5	6 <small>MWRD BOARD MEETING</small>	7	8 <small>WEFTEC 2022 STARTS WEFTEC.ORG</small>
9	10 <small>INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY</small>	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 <small>MWRD BOARD MEETING</small>	21 <small>IMAGINE A DAY WITHOUT WATER</small>	22 <small>1955 ASCE NAMES CHICAGO SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM ONE OF SEVEN ENGINEERING WONDERS OF U.S.</small>
23/30 <small>1990 CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON O'HARE (MAJEWSKI) RESERVOIR. (31ST) DIWALI (24th) HALLOWEEN (31st)</small>	24/31	25	26 <small>1972 TUNNEL AND RESERVOIR PLAN (TARP) ADOPTED.</small>	27	28	29

▲ Native flowers bloom at an MWRD streambank stabilization project on Addison Creek near Jerome Park in Northlake. The MWRD partnered with the City of Northlake to strengthen 750 feet of streambank to alleviate flooding and install native plants. This form of green infrastructure reduces erosion, collects stormwater before it can enter the creek and provides important habitat.

Understanding Your Sewers

Help prevent or reduce the chance of sewer backups in your home.

Visit
MWRD.ORG/UNDERSTANDING-YOUR-SEWER-0
to learn how.





NOVEMBER

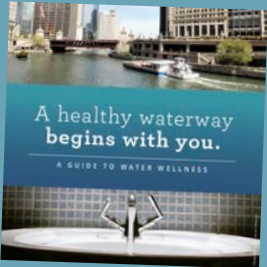
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
				MWRD BOARD MEETING		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS		ELECTION DAY NATIONAL STEM/STEAM DAY			VETERANS DAY	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
			1961 LEMONT WRP COMMENCES OPERATIONS.	2004 ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE NAMES MWRD STORMWATER AUTHORITY FOR COOK COUNTY. MWRD BOARD MEETING		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
					1907 LOCKPORT POWERHOUSE DELIVERS FIRST ELECTRIC CURRENT TO CHICAGO. 2015 THORNTON TARP RESERVOIR FIRST FILL.	
27	28	29	30	THANKSGIVING DAY		
		1910 FIRST WATER FLOWS INTO NORTH SHORE CHANNEL.				

▲ The Buffalo Creek Reservoir Expansion Project increases storage capacity to alleviate flooding for downstream communities, while improving recreation at Buffalo Creek in the Lake County Forest Preserves. For the \$9.7-million-project, the MWRD restored tributaries, wetlands and prairie and established native plantings, hundreds of new trees, shrubs and other forms of green infrastructure.

A healthy
waterway
begins with
you

Minimize or avoid
the risk of water
contamination.

Find out how at
**MWRD.ORG/
WATER-WELLNESS.**





DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				MWRD BOARD MEETING		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2017 STAGE I OF MCCOOK RESERVOIR UNVEILED.		MWRD BOARD MEETING (ANNUAL)				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
				MWRD BOARD MEETING	1975 EGAN WRP COMPLETED.	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
CHANUKAH BEGINS						CHRISTMAS EVE
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
CHRISTMAS DAY	KWANZAA BEGINS LAST DAY OF CHANUKAH					NEW YEAR'S EVE

▲ A migratory killdeer makes its home atop a green parking lot at the MWRD’s Egan Water Reclamation Plant in Schaumburg. The permeable lot improves area water quality, groundwater recharge and delays discharge of stormwater to local waterways. The MWRD also installed driveways, walkways, a bio-retention basin, trees, landscaping, sewers, drainage structures and lighting.



The Environment is our Office.

Explore our Online Employment Center at **MWRD.ORG/CAREERS** to learn more about working at the MWRD.



GOOD NEIGHBORS COMMUNICATE

Help protect our waterways and sewer systems.

Call our **1 (800) 332-3867** Citizen Incident Reporting hotline to report:

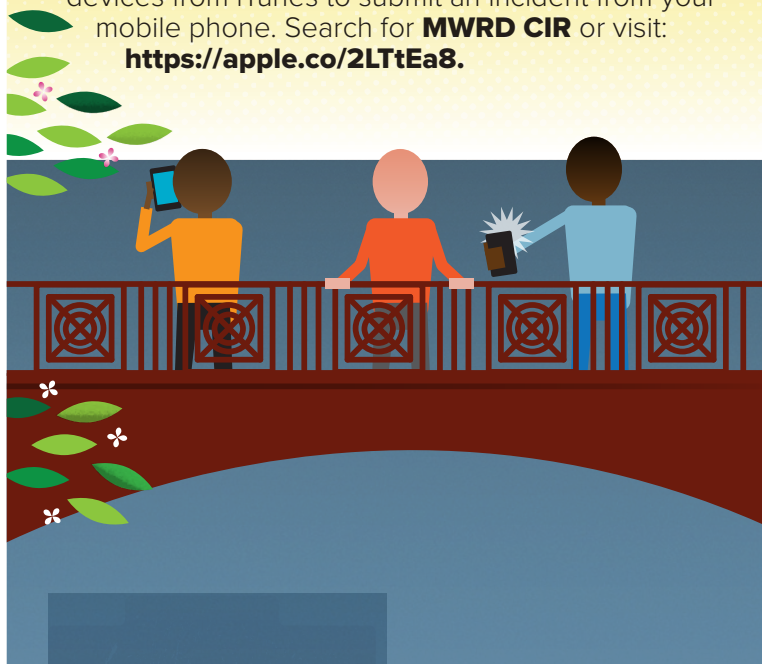
- Dead fish or other aquatic species
- Foul or suspicious odors
- Illegal or suspicious dumping to waterways or sewers
- Waterway blockages

En Español: **1-855-323-4801**

All calls are logged and routed 24/7.

Submit reports online using our Citizen Incident Reporting (CIR) form at mwr.org. From the homepage, select the "Incident Reporting" icon.

Get mobile Download our free CIR app for iOS devices from iTunes to submit an incident from your mobile phone. Search for **MWRD CIR** or visit: <https://apple.co/2LTtEa8>.



THINK INSIDE THE BOX

for unused medication disposal.

Never flush medications down the toilet or a drain. Instead, use one of our safe collection sites. Collection boxes are located near the main gate at three water reclamation plants (WRP) and in the lobby of the Main Office Building in Chicago.

Main Office Building

100 E. Erie St., Chicago
Open Monday - Friday:
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Calumet WRP

400 E. 130th St., Chicago
Open seven days a week:
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

O'Brien WRP

3500 Howard St., Skokie
Open seven days a week:
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Stickney WRP

6001 W. Pershing Rd., Cicero
Open seven days a week:
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Visit mwr.org for more information and a listing of medication collection sites located throughout Cook County, or scan the QR code shown below.



COVER: The Stickney Water Reclamation Plant was the first MWRD facility to receive monarch waystation certification in 2021 by providing milkweed, nectar plants and shelter for monarch butterflies. To further show its commitment to the Illinois Monarch Project, the MWRD has planted 23 acres of milkweed and distributed nearly 10,000 milkweed seed packets since 2020.