



2023 CALENDAR

CLEAN WATER, WILD LIFE



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

     mwrld.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 93 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.

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. The MWRD constructed seven modern water reclamation plants over the 20th century.

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 12.72 million people; 5.19 million residents, a commercial and industrial equivalent of 5.29 million people, and a combined sewer overflow equivalent of 2.24 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 110 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 33 stormwater detention reservoirs to provide regional stormwater flood damage reduction.

In 2023, the MWRD enters year three of a five-year Strategic Plan that outlines its mission, vision, and goals toward operational strengths, financial sustainability and resiliency while addressing climate change and regional water resource protection.

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@mwrд.org
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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

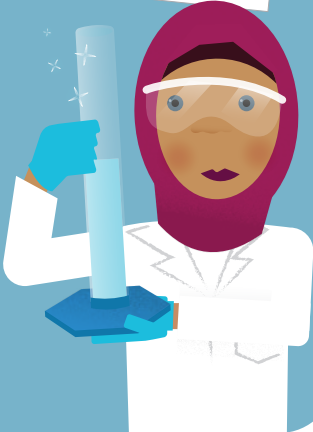


Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

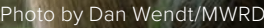
JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<div>1939 MWRD installs locks at lakefront intakes.</div> <div>New Year's Day</div> <div>Kwanzaa Ends</div>				<div>1900 Chicago River reversed; Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal completed.</div> <div>MWRD Board Meeting</div>		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<div>2018 McCook Reservoir first fill.</div>						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<div>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</div>				<div>MWRD Board Meeting</div>		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<div>Chinese New Year</div>						
29	30	31				

Let's Learn!
Visit
MWRD.ORG
for educational activities and resources and to request a virtual presentation.



▲ Formerly endangered, ospreys are a bird of prey now found along waterways in the MWRD’s service area. Their diet is almost exclusively fish and their presence is a strong indicator of water quality and fish habitat. These ospreys flew near a nesting area on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal in Lemont.



FEBRUARY

▲ This white-tailed deer was spotted in the Miami Woods and Prairie in the Forest Preserves of Cook County near Morton Grove along the North Branch of the Chicago River, as an MWRD Small Streams Maintenance Program crew worked nearby removing a blockage of debris to reduce flooding and keep the river flowing.





Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			2006 TARP tunnels (109.4 miles) completed.	MWRD Board Meeting		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Casimir Pulaski Day		International Women’s Day			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Daylight Saving Time Begins				MWRD Board Meeting	St. Patrick’s Day	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			World Water Day First of Ramadan Begins at Sundown	2016 UV disinfection begins at O’Brien WRP.		
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Capture and reuse rainwater.

Cook County residents can order rain barrels from the MWRD.

Visit **MWRD.ORG**



▲ An American bullfrog in the waters of Addison Creek in Northlake. The MWRD stabilized 750 feet of streambank here to reduce flooding and installed native plants to reduce erosion and provide habitat. The MWRD is improving other Addison Creek Channel areas to mitigate flooding for six local communities.



Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

EARTH MONTH

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Passover Begins at Sundown	MWRD Board Meeting	Good Friday	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Easter				Passover Ends		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Orthodox Easter				MWRD Board Meeting	Ramadan Ends Eid al-Fitr Begins	Eid al-Fitr Ends Earth Day
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29
			Administrative Professionals Day		Arbor Day	



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

▲ An adult bald eagle keeps an eye out while two babies await their next meal in a nest area near the Des Plaines River. The USDA Forest Service reported in 2022 that 35 bald eagle nests have been spotted in the six counties surrounding Chicago.



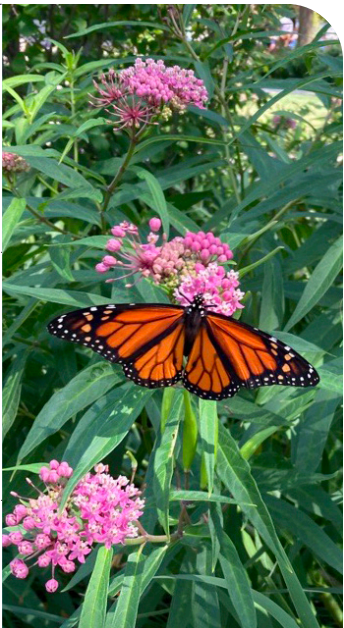
Photo by Justin Brown/MWRD

ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH • NATIONAL BIKE MONTH

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				MWRD Board Meeting	Cinco De Mayo	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					1980 Kirie WRP commences operations.	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Mother's Day		1963 Hanover Park WRP completed.		MWRD Board Meeting	National Bike to Work Day	Armed Forces Day
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		1939 Southwest plant (Stickney WRP) commences operations.	1985 Mainstream Tunnel TARP system begins operating.	2016 Stickney WRP nutrient recovery facility unveiled.		
28	29	30	31			
	1889 Sanitary District of Chicago established. Memorial Day					

▲ Monarch butterflies thrive among 12 acres of milkweed planted by the MWRD at its certified monarch waystation at Stickney Water Reclamation Plant, serving as habitat for pollinators throughout nearly 16 acres of native prairie landscaping. The MWRD also distributed nearly 10,000 milkweed seed packets in 2022.



Save the Monarchs.
Take our online pledge to help save monarchs at **MWRD.ORG**



Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH • NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				MWRD Board Meeting	1930 West Side plant (Stickney) commences operations.	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
				1989 Nicholas J. Melas Centennial Fountain comes online to commemorate MWRD's 100th Anniversary.		
			Flag Day	MWRD Board Meeting		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Father's Day	Juneteenth					
25	26	27	28	29	30	
			Eid al-Adha Begins	Eid al-Adha Ends		

▲ An eastern cottontail rabbit near the prairie at the Chicago Park District's Rutherford Sayre Park, one of over 80 community spaces benefitting from the MWRD's Green Infrastructure Program. Four acres of turf grass were converted to prairies to provide natural habitat and deep-rooted plants that absorb water.



The Green Neighbor Guide

has step-by-step instructions for installing green infrastructure on your property.

Download it today at **MWRD.ORG**





Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Independence Day				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
				MWRD Board Meeting		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	2015 Disinfection facility at Calumet WRP completed.					
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29
				National Intern Day		

▲ A Savannah sparrow in a grassy open area at the top of Centennial Hill built by the MWRD using excavated material from the nearby McCook Reservoir. It is located along the Centennial Trail between Willow Springs Road and Illinois Route 83 in the Columbia Woods Forest Preserve near Willow Springs.



Conserve water.

Reduce Your Water Use before and during a rainstorm.

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



Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
				MWRD Board Meeting		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	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.						
▲ Native prairies are a big part of the MWRD’s green infrastructure plans, featuring plants that thrive in the regional climate, absorb more rainwater with deeper roots than most plants, and provide habitat for pollinators and other animals.						

Where Does It Go?

Download the book and watch the animation at **MWRD.ORG**





Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

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

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					2015 Thornton TARP Reservoir completed.	1892 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal construction begins.
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Labor Day			1938 Chicago River Controlling Works opens. MWRD Board Meeting		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Patriot Day 1922 Calumet WRP completed.	1907 North Shore Channel construction begins.			National Hispanic Heritage Month Begins Rosh Hashanah Begins	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Rosh Hashanah Ends	1969 Sewage and Waste Control Ordinance adopted.			MWRD Board Meeting		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Yom Kippur Begins	Yom Kippur Ends					WEFTEC 2023 STARTS WEFTEC.ORG

▲ A heron moves slyly in the waters of the Buffalo Creek Reservoir, where the MWRD increased storage capacity to alleviate flooding for downstream communities in Buffalo Grove, while at the same time improving public recreation amenities at Buffalo Creek in the Lake County Forest Preserve District.

Stay informed.

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

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

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

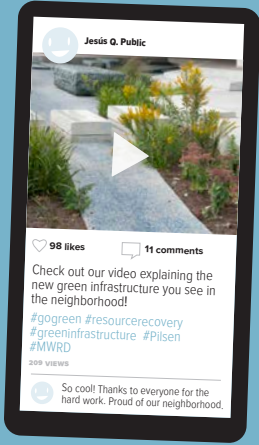




Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		1928 North Side Sewage Treatment Works (later renamed O'Brien) WRP completed.		MWRD Board Meeting		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Indigenous Peoples' Day					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
National Hispanic Heritage Month Ends				Imagine a Day Without Water MWRD Board Meeting		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1955 ASCE names Chicago Sewage Disposal System one of seven engineering wonders of U.S.				1972 Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) adopted.		
29	30	31				
		1990 Majewski Reservoir construction begins Halloween				

▲ A northern water snake weaves through the grasses along the Centennial Trail. The trail is part of the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor and runs through parts of Cook County, DuPage and Will County Forest Preserves and was named in 1989 in honor of the 100-year anniversary of the MWRD.

Understanding Your Sewers

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

Visit MWRD.ORG to learn how.





Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
				MWRD Board Meeting		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Daylight Saving Time Ends		Election Day	National STEM/STEAM Day			Veterans Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Diwali				1961 Lemont WRP commences operations. MWRD Board Meeting	2004 Illinois legislature names MWRD stormwater authority for Cook County.	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
				Thanksgiving Day		
26	27	28	29	30		
1907 Lockport Powerhouse delivers first electric current to Chicago.						
2015 Thornton TARP Reservoir first fill.			1910 First water flows into North Shore Channel.			

▲ A black-crowned night-heron searches for its next meal in the North Branch of the Chicago River at River Park, where a century-old dam was removed in 2018 as part of a restoration effort by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MWRD and Chicago Park District to improve upstream fish migration and recreation.

Stormwater Management

Learn how the MWRD works with local governments to solve stormwater challenges in Cook County.

Visit **MWRD.ORG**





Photo by Dan Wendt/MWRD

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	2017 Stage I of McCook Reservoir unveiled.	MWRD Board Meeting (Annual)		Chanukah Begins MWRD Board Meeting		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
					Chanukah Ends	1975 Egan WRP completed.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
				MWRD Board Meeting		
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
Christmas Eve (24th) New Year's Eve (31st)	Christmas Day	Kwanzaa Begins				



The Environment is our Office.

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

▲ The Chicago Riverwalk attracts all types of critters, both wild and domesticated, in the warm months and even during winter. The MWRD’s work to protect water quality has helped the Riverwalk thrive as a sight-seeing destination featuring views of the Chicago River and surrounding architecture.



COVER: A bald eagle in flight along the Des Plaines River in the Lockport area. Bald eagle sightings are becoming more common in part due to improved water quality and a more reliable supply of fish in Chicago area waterways.

GOOD NEIGHBORS COMMUNICATE

Help protect our waterways and sewer systems.

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

- Waterway blockages
- Illegal or suspicious dumping to the waterways or sewers
- Odors

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

