Wastewater Cycle

LAKE MICHIGAN

FRESH WATER INTAKE

WATER PURIFICATION PLANT
(DRINKING WATER)

DRINKING WATER

CITY

SUBURBS

WASTEWATER

WASTEWATER

WATER RECLAMATION PLANT

MWRD

CLEAN WATER

WATERWAY

INDUSTRY

WASTEWATER
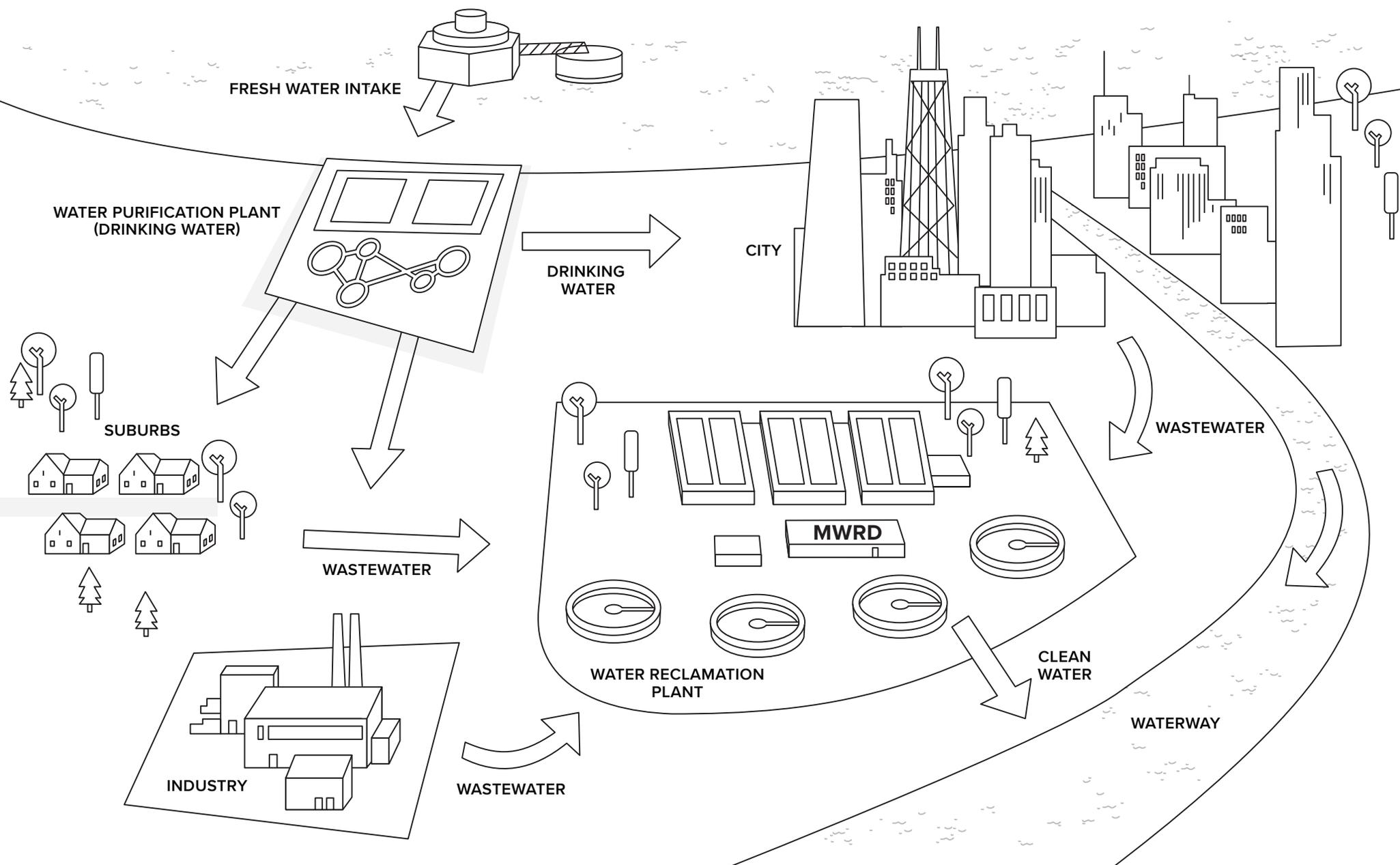
The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) has seven treatment plants called water reclamation plants. The polluted water from homes, factories and businesses is sent to the plants, treated and released clean into the waterways. The water reclamation plants imitate the way a river cleans itself, but work much faster. The MWRD started treating the dirty water for Cook County as early as 1922.

Metropolitan Water
Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago