



National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits Consent Decree **2020 Annual Report**

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago



Introduction

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (District) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
Permits Consent Decree (Civil Action No. 11 C 8859)—2020 Annual Report

This report is being submitted to comply with the District's Consent Decree entered on January 6, 2014. Per the Consent Decree, this required Annual Report is for calendar year 2020 and is due March 31, 2021.

Per Section XII.44.a of the District's Consent Decree, this pre-TARP completion annual report transmits the following information:

- 1.** Status of Design and Construction Activities (Consent Decree Section V) and Reservoir Mining Progress for Thornton Composite and McCook Reservoirs.
- 2.** Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Quarterly Discharge Reports submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for calendar year 2020.
- 3.** 2020 Water Quality Data for Waterway Systems within the District's Jurisdiction.
- 4.** Record of Floatable Control Activities (Consent Decree Paragraph 18 and Appendix B).
- 5.** Green Infrastructure (GI) Activities (Consent Decree Section V of Appendix E).

This Annual Report for calendar year 2020 is intended to demonstrate satisfactory compliance with the Annual Reporting obligation of the District per the Consent Decree entered on January 6, 2014.

In addition to the above, the District would like to note that it is in compliance with Section II, Paragraph 5 of the Consent Decree, which requires the District to transmit copies of the Consent Decree to its officers, employees, and agents, as well as to CSO municipalities and its contractors. Letters were transmitted to all of the parties and a copy of the Consent Decree has been posted on the District's website. Language regarding the Consent Decree continues to be included in all contracts where the required work may impact the ability of the District to comply with the terms and conditions of the Consent Decree.

Also as required in Section V of the Consent Decree, the District remitted the civil penalty to both the IEPA and USEPA within 30 days from the date the Court entered the Consent Decree.



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McCook and Thornton Composite Reservoir March 2020 Progress Report

In the photo, Stage 2 of the McCook Reservoir is under construction to hold 6.5 billion gallons. The reservoir mitigates flooding and waterway pollution by containing the first flush of combined stormwater and sewage, enabling the District's Stickney Water Reclamation Plant time to catch up on treatment operations during heavy rainfalls.

This report provides an update on the progress of the McCook and Thornton Composite Reservoirs as required in the Consent Decree paragraphs 21 and 44.

McCook Reservoir

The District owns the land for the McCook Reservoir, which is being built within the Lawndale Avenue Solids Management Area (LASMA). A Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to construct, operate, and maintain the reservoir was signed on May 10, 1999. Under the PCA, the Corps was responsible for designing and constructing the reservoir features, and the District was responsible for providing lands, easements, right-of-way, and relocations, including providing the storage capacity for the reservoir through excavation of

overburden and rock mining. The reservoir is being completed in two stages. A major milestone was reached at the end of 2017 when the first stage was placed in service providing 3.5 billion gallons of storage for CSOs. The second stage is currently under construction and will expand the total capacity to 10 billion gallons of storage. The District and the Corps executed a new Project Participating Agreement (PPA) under which the Corps transferred the remaining federal funds for Stage 2 to the District, and the District will complete the remaining design and construction.

District Work

In order to accomplish its responsibilities, the District initiated numerous of projects which are described below, along with their status.

DECOMMISSIONING OF LOW SOLIDS LAGOONS: Seventeen of the District's biosolids stabilization and drying lagoons were decommissioned to provide the land necessary for constructing the reservoir.

WILLOW SPRINGS BERM (96-149-2P): Approximately 300,000 cubic yards of the reservoir overburden was hauled off-site in a test project and placed as a berm along the canal.

SITE PREPARATION (73-161-BH): Sludge lines that cut through the reservoir footprint were relocated, and earthwork was performed to drain the reservoir footprint to facilitate future work. This work commenced in July 1999 and was the start of construction work for the McCook Reservoir.

73RD STREET TUNNEL RELOCATION (97-156-2H): The existing 73rd Street TARP Tunnel cut through the future reservoir footprint and was relocated to go around the reservoir.

CONVEYANCE TUNNEL (73-161-AH): This tunnel was constructed to connect LASMA to Vulcan's McCook Quarry and is used to transport the crushed rock to the Vulcan processing plant.

STAGES 1 AND 2 OVERTURDEN REMOVAL (73-161-CH): Approximately 7.3 million cubic yards of overburden was removed from the footprint of the original Stage 1 and 2 McCook Reservoir sites to expose the top of the rock for mining.

MISCELLANEOUS OVERTURDEN REMOVAL (73-161-JH): An additional 450,000 cubic yards of overburden was removed from the site under this contract.

EXPANDED STAGE 2 OVERTURDEN REMOVAL (73-161-DH): The remaining 1.8 million cubic yards of overburden overlying the rock in the expanded Stage 2 portion of the reservoir was removed in 2015, fulfilling the District's obligations from Paragraph 17.d. of the Consent Decree ahead of schedule.

VULCAN CONVEYANCE SYSTEM AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES (73-161-FH): Mining facilities were constructed to crush and transport the rock from the reservoir site to the existing Vulcan Quarry. The contract included construction of the conveyance system, the office and maintenance buildings, installation of a rock crusher, relocation of the LASMA access road and sludge lines, and miscellaneous site work (access ramp, parking area, site lighting). The crusher was purchased separately in advance due to the long lead time.

VULCAN MINING EQUIPMENT (73-161-GH AND 73-161-HH): A fleet of mining trucks and other mining equipment were procured to facilitate mining of the reservoir.

MINING (73-161-EH): The District entered into an agreement with Vulcan on October 1, 2003, to mine the rock to create the storage capacity required for the original two-stage reservoir. Terms of the Agreement require Vulcan to mine at the same production rates they would have achieved at the existing quarry to meet the market demand.

- ✓ Mining for Stage 1 commenced in 2008 and was essentially completed in 2016, fulfilling the District's obligations from Paragraph 17.a. of the Consent Decree, which required that the Stage 1 mining be completed by December 31, 2016.
- ✓ A mining ramp into Stage 2 was initiated in 2013 and production mining began in 2014, concurrent with Stage 1 mining. Approximately 45 percent of the stone from Stage 2 had been mined by the end of 2020. Paragraph 17.e. of the Consent Decree requires that the Stage 2 mining be completed by December 31, 2028.

The overall market for stone in the Chicagoland area remained relatively stable and mining of Stage 2 is still expected to be completed by December 31, 2028. Vulcan's annual mining progress report for 2020 was transmitted to the IEPA and USEPA within 30 days of receipt (per paragraph 21 of the Consent Decree).

DES PLAINES INFLOW TUNNEL (13-106-4F): The Corps' original plan to use the existing dewatering tunnels and distribution tunnels to convey water from the Des Plaines Tunnel to the reservoir was modeled and it was determined that a new direct connection to the reservoir would provide greater flood relief benefits to the Des Plaines Tunnel's service area. Construction of a new 20-foot diameter tunnel and associated gate shaft to convey and control flow from the Des Plaines Tunnel System to the McCook Reservoir began in 2016 and is scheduled to be completed in 2021.

EXPANDED STAGE 2 SLOPE STABILIZATION AND RETAINING WALLS (16-125-4F): The District has committed to expanding the Corps-authorized 7 billion gallon reservoir to hold a total volume of 10 billion gallons. The District constructed retaining walls and stabilized the overburden slopes for the expanded portion of the reservoir. This work was completed in 2018.

STAGE 2 ROCK WALL STABILIZATION (17-131-4F): As the final vertical rock faces of Stage 2 of the reservoir are exposed, scaling, rock bolting, and other ground support will need to be installed to make the permanent walls stable. This work is scheduled to begin in 2021.

STAGE 2 MISCELLANEOUS FLOOR FEATURES (17-132-4F): Drainage improvements to the reservoir floor and reservoir aeration equipment will be provided after the mining is completed. Two tunnels will be constructed through the weir to allow water to pass between Stages 1 and 2.

Corps Work

The following projects have been completed by the Corps for the Stage 1 McCook Reservoir:

TEST GROUT CURTAIN: A test grout curtain was constructed along 400 linear feet of the reservoir perimeter to test the effectiveness of a grout curtain to prevent polluted water in the reservoir from migrating into the groundwater aquifer.

STAGE 1 GROUT CURTAIN: Based on the performance of the test grout curtain, a grout curtain was constructed around the north and west sides of the reservoir perimeter to create a full hydraulic barrier between the reservoir rock walls and surrounding groundwater.

STAGE 1 GROUNDWATER CUT-OFF WALL: A bentonite slurry wall was constructed through the overburden, around the perimeter of Stage 1 of the reservoir, to prevent migration of groundwater into the reservoir.

ADDITION OF PUMPS AND MOTORS: Two additional 330 cubic feet per second pumps were installed at the Mainstream Pumping Station to provide adequate pumping capacity to dewater the reservoir to the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant.

DISTRIBUTION TUNNEL SYSTEM: Tunnels and an underground control chamber were installed to connect the future reservoir to the Mainstream Pumping Station.

DISTRIBUTION TUNNELS EMERGENCY WORK: Due to excessive infiltration in the new distribution chamber from the distribution tunnels, emergency leakage investigation and repair work was completed.

DISTRIBUTION TUNNEL SYSTEM – ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SYSTEM AND MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS: Corroded equipment in the distribution chamber needed to be replaced and new communication for fire and gas alarms installed. This work was completed in 2017.

STAGE 1A AND 1B ROCKWALL STABILITY CONTRACTS: As the final vertical rock faces of the reservoir are exposed, scaling, rock bolting, and other ground support is installed as required to make the permanent walls stable. This work was completed under two separate contracts for Stage 1 of the reservoir.

STAGE 1 OVERTURDEN RETAINING WALLS: Retaining walls were constructed in several areas of Stage 1 where the top of the rock is lower than expected, in order to allow the footprint of the reservoir to be mined; due to time constraints, the District did part of this work. This work was completed.

MAIN TUNNELS AND GATES: The Mainstream Tunnel was connected to the reservoir by a new set of tunnels and control gates. This work was split among three contracts: one to fabricate the gates, another to excavate the main shaft, and the third to complete the tunnels and install the gates in the shaft. This work was completed in 2017.

FINAL RESERVOIR PREP: Final connections to the reservoir were made, including completion of the distribution tunnel and outlet structure. Floor drainage, reservoir aeration, ramps, roads, and other miscellaneous items were also installed under this contract which was completed in 2017.

INSTRUMENTATION AND GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELLS: Groundwater monitoring wells, piezometers, inclinometers, and other instrumentation were provided to monitor the reservoir under several different contracts. The groundwater monitoring wells and instrumentation for Stage 1 have been installed and are now functioning.



McCook Reservoir Stage 1 is able to hold up to 3.5 billion gallons of water.

The following projects have been completed by the Corps for the Stage 2 McCook Reservoir:

STAGE 2 GROUT CURTAIN: Based on the performance of the test grout curtain contract, a grout curtain was constructed around the south and east sides of the reservoir perimeter to create a full hydraulic barrier between the reservoir rock walls and surrounding groundwater.

STAGE 2 GROUNDWATER CUT-OFF WALL: A bentonite slurry wall was constructed through the overburden, around the perimeter of Stage 2 of the reservoir, to prevent migration of groundwater into the reservoir.

Stage 1 of the McCook Reservoir became operational in December 2017 and took water for the first time on January 22, 2018. Since that time and through the end of 2020, the reservoir captured a total of 70.9 BG of combined sewage, preventing it from polluting waterways and flooding homes. A table showing the dates and respective volumes captured by the McCook Reservoir is provided on the enclosed thumb drive. Overall, more than 121 BG of combined sewer overflows were captured by the Mainstream/Des Plaines TARP System since Stage 1 of McCook became operational. Stage 2 of the McCook Reservoir will help capture additional CSOs from within this service area when it is completed.

Thornton Composite Reservoir

The Thornton Composite Reservoir provides 7.9 billion gallons of storage for combined sewage from the Calumet TARP Service Area. In the future, flood waters from Thorn Creek will also be diverted to the Thornton Composite Reservoir when the Thornton Transitional Reservoir is decommissioned. Design and construction of the Thornton Composite Reservoir was planned as a joint venture between the Corps and the District. However, due to uncertainties in federal funding that threatened to deprive the Corps of appropriations sufficient to work on both the McCook and Thornton projects simultaneously, the District committed to proceed with the Corps work on the Thornton Composite Reservoir using the District's own resources in 2004 at a total cost of approximately \$437 million. The following projects were completed as part of construction of Thornton Composite Reservoir:

VINCENNES AVENUE RELOCATION (77-235-AF): Approximately 2,500 feet of roadway that cut through the footprint of the reservoir was relocated in order to provide the required storage volume.

THORNTON TRANSITIONAL RESERVOIR (77-235-BF): This temporary reservoir was constructed to provide floodwater storage for Thorn Creek while the Thornton Composite Reservoir was being constructed. At the end of 2022, the Thorn Creek flood water will be rerouted to the composite reservoir and the transitional reservoir will be decommissioned and turned back over to the quarry. At that time, the reservoir volume allocated for capturing CSOs will be 4.8 billion gallons while the remaining 3.1 billion gallons will be allocated for floodwater storage from Thorn Creek. Many of the facilities constructed for the transitional reservoir will be reused at the composite reservoir.

MINING (77-235-2F): The District entered into an agreement with Material Service Corporation (MSC) to purchase a portion of its existing rock quarry to be used for the reservoir. Under the agreement, MSC expanded their existing quarry to neighboring lands purchased by the District in order to achieve the required storage volume. Mining for the Thornton Composite Reservoir was completed in 2013, in fulfillment of the requirements outlined in Paragraph 16.a. of the Consent Decree.

TOLLWAY DAM, GROUT CURTAIN AND QUARRY PLUGS (04-201-4F): The south side of the reservoir is a rock dam that separates the reservoir from the rest of the quarry and carries the I-80/294 Tollway. A large opening and two haul tunnels in this wall were plugged to hydraulically isolate the reservoir from the quarry. Also, as part of this contract, a grout curtain was constructed around the entire reservoir perimeter, creating a hydraulic barrier and providing stability to the rock dam. This contract was completed in 2015 as required in Paragraph 16.b. of the Consent Decree.

CONNECTING TUNNELS AND GATES (04-202-4F): The existing TARP tunnels were extended to connect to the reservoir. A large gate chamber was constructed to allow for isolation of the tunnels from the reservoir. This contract work was completed in 2015 as required in Paragraph 16.c. of the Consent Decree.

SURFACE AERATION (04-203-AF): Floating solar aerators were installed in the reservoir to mitigate odors that may come from the reservoir. This contract was completed in 2015. An additional thirteen floating solar aerators were installed in the reservoir in March 2017.

FINAL RESERVOIR PREPARATION (04-203-4F): All remaining items required for operation of the Thornton Composite Reservoir were completed under this contract in 2015, and the reservoir was placed in operation as required in Paragraph 16.d. of the Consent Decree.

The Thornton Composite Reservoir became operational when it took water for the first time on November 26 and 27, 2015. Since that time and through the end of 2020, the reservoir captured a total of 39 BG of combined sewage during 89 storms events. A table showing the dates and respective volumes captured by the Thornton Composite Reservoir is provided on the enclosed thumb drive. Since the Thornton Composite Reservoir became operational, there have been very few CSO discharge events within the Calumet TARP service area. Overall, more than 99.9 percent of combined sewer overflows have been captured by the Calumet TARP System since Thornton became operational. The few discharges to the waterways that have occurred were the result of local conditions which prevented conveyance of storm flows into the TARP dropshafts. A contract to make some structural adjustments at these locations was completed in 2020 to prevent recurrence.

In 2021, a new contract is scheduled to be awarded to install odor control facilities at two shafts located near the Thornton Composite Reservoir, connect the Thorn Creek tunnel to the Thornton Composite Reservoir, and abandon the Thornton Transitional Reservoir that it can be reverted to a rock quarry by its owner upon termination of the District's lease at the end of 2022.



Beginning on November 26, 2015, the Thornton Composite Reservoir began to fill for the first time. It reached 17 feet and contained 400 million gallons of combined sewer overflow prior to being transported by tunnel for treatment at the Calumet Water Reclamation Plant.



Combined Sewer Overflow Quarterly
Discharge Reports submitted to
the IEPA for Calendar Year 2020

The Chicago River provides an efficient way to transport goods downstream. The number of trucks needing to traverse the roadways and vehicle emissions are therefore reduced.



"CSO monitoring reports and other CSO-related reports submitted to Illinois EPA including, but not limited to, all documentation of water quality data for the waterway systems within MWRD's jurisdiction, as required by the Calumet, North Side, and Stickney NPDES Permits." (44(a)(iii))

CSO Monitoring

The District utilizes its approved CSO Representative Monitoring and Reporting Plans for the North, Central, and South Areas to track the frequency, duration, and volume of individual CSOs within the Des Plaines River and Chicago Area Waterway System (Plans on the enclosed thumb drive).

In summary, the District monitors 221 (28 permitted to the District; 193 permitted to the City of Chicago and Suburbs) of the 394 (39 permitted to the District; 355 permitted to the City of Chicago and Suburbs) total outfalls within its service area. Most of the monitored outfalls have tide gates with telemetry; however, there are six monitored outfall locations permitted to the District that are pump stations. Unmonitored outfalls are assumed to discharge when select monitored ones discharge because of similar invert elevations. Signals are transmitted to the Stickney and Calumet Water Reclamation Plants (WRPs) when the outfall tide gate is open and assumed to be discharging. Plant staff are notified when the pumps are activated at the six pump stations. Volume estimates at six pump station locations are based on pump ratings and run times while volume estimates at the other outfall locations are performed via a conservative method that assumes that all rain that falls during the period that a tide gate is open is being discharged to the waterway. These discharge volumes are then compared to two boundary conditions: (1) total area rainfall volume and (2) outfall pipe capacity. The minimum of these three values are used as the final discharge volumes.

CSO Quarterly Discharge Reports submitted to the IEPA for calendar year 2020 are on the enclosed thumb drive.

Humans are not the only ones benefitting from improved water quality. This duck represents the increasing diversity of wildlife on the Chicago Area Waterway System. Since the District began monitoring fish population in the waterways in the 1970s, the number of fish species has skyrocketed from 10 fish species to 77, including 60 since 2000, drawing birds and other wildlife that are attracted to this increasing amount of fish.



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2020 Water Quality Data for Waterway Systems within the District's Jurisdiction

The Chicago River in downtown Chicago has experienced an economic resurgence thanks to the District's treatment initiatives and innovation and renewed public efforts to protect the quality of the water that is home to this uptick in traffic. Long considered the city's backyard to Lake Michigan, the attraction of the Chicago River is beginning to rival that famous front yard.



The Chicago Riverwalk.

"CSO monitoring reports and other CSO-related reports submitted to Illinois EPA including, but not limited to, **all documentation of water quality data for the waterway systems within the District's jurisdiction**, as required by the Calumet, North Side, and Stickney NPDES Permits." (44(a)(iii))

The District conducts Ambient Water Quality Monitoring (AWQM) and Continuous Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring (CDOM) on the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS).

In 2020, AWQM was conducted monthly at sixteen locations (weekly at Lockport) on the CAWS in accordance with the attached Quality Assurance Project Plan ([Appendix A](#)). A spreadsheet containing the water quality data generated from this monitoring is submitted as [Attachment 1](#).

The CAWS Use Attainability Analysis (IPCB Rulemaking R08-009) resulted in more stringent water quality standards for the CAWS, effective July 1, 2015, based on new CAWS A and CAWS B Aquatic Life Use designations. Analysis of the District's AWQM data shows that the CAWS typically exhibits high compliance with the new water quality standards, only dissolved oxygen (DO), fecal coliform, chloride, and low-level mercury (human health criteria) were exceeded more than once at any single station during 2020.

In 2020, CDOM was conducted at fifteen locations on the CAWS in accordance with the attached Quality Assurance Project Plan ([Appendix B](#)). A spreadsheet containing the hourly dissolved oxygen data generated from this monitoring is submitted as [Attachment 2](#). A report entitled "[Continuous Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring in the Service Area of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago During 2019](#)" was released in 2020 and is included as [Appendix C](#).

The District submitted a petition for variance related to the more stringent DO water quality standards for the CAWS, resulting in a stay of the DO standards that would otherwise have been effective July 1, 2015. As such, most CAWS waterways were subject to the Secondary Contact and Indigenous Aquatic Life Use DO water quality standard of 4.0 mg/L, with the exception of the Cal-Sag Channel, which had a DO standard of 3.0 mg/L, anytime, and the Chicago River, which was subject to General Use Standards. The DO concentration was greater than the more stringent water quality standard over 95 percent of the time on an annual basis at 11 out of 15 stations on the CAWS.

A draft of the Calumet TARP System Post Construction Monitoring Plan was submitted to the required agencies on November 7, 2014 in accordance with Section IX, paragraph 35a of the Consent Decree. Discussions regarding the plan continued in 2016 and a revised plan was submitted to the required agencies on September 30, 2016 (copy on enclosed CD). This plan was approved by the USEPA in a letter dated October 7, 2016 (copy on enclosed thumb drive). The sampling and monitoring required in this plan occurred during 2017 and 2018, and the required report was submitted on June 27, 2019. A report entitled "[Post-Construction Monitoring Report for the Calumet Tunnel and Reservoir Plan System](#)" is included as [Appendix D](#).

A draft of the Mainstream/Lower Des Plaines TARP System Post Construction Monitoring Plan was submitted to the required agencies on November 5, 2018 in accordance with Section IX, Paragraph 35b of the Consent Decree (copy on enclosed thumb drive). The sampling and monitoring required in this plan will occur during 2030 and 2031, with the final report scheduled for submittal by June 30, 2032.



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Record of Floatable Control Activities

The District removed 1,540 cubic yards of debris from the Chicago Area Waterway System in 2020.



The District's Skim Pickens and its partner the Skimmy Dipper work along the Chicago River to protect the quality of the waterway by removing trash, debris and other floatables polluting the water. The District's skimmer boats provide a vital community service by improving water quality and the recreational experience for thousands of people canoeing, kayaking, boating, and enjoying the waterways.

The following is a record of floatable control activities undertaken pursuant to the Consent Decree Paragraph 18 and Appendix B:

Dates of purchase and commencement of operations of each skimmer boat:

- ✓ The two skimmer boats were procured under Contract 13-611-21, "Furnish and Deliver Trash Collection Boats to the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant." The boats were delivered on January 2, 2015, and commenced operations on April 6, 2015. These boats continued operations during 2020.

The dates on which each skimmer boat, pontoon boat, or other piece of equipment was operated:

- ✓ A spreadsheet on the enclosed thumb drive, entitled *Summary of 2020 Floatable Control Activities*, is a summary of data collected for debris, skimmer and pontoon boat operations.
- ✓ Additionally, logs for each day a boat was in operation are also transmitted on the enclosed thumb drive. (*2020 Floatable Control Logs.pdf*)

Status of Combined Sewer Overflow Floatables Control in Addison Creek:

The floatables control boom was installed during the summer of 2017 and continued operation in 2020. All necessary permits and easements were obtained before the installation of the boom. A summary of floatables collected is also transmitted on the enclosed thumb drive. (*Summary of 2020 Floatable Control Activities*) The following is the summary of activities:

- ✓ In late September 2014, the District spoke to the Village of Broadview and the two private property owners regarding the proposed installation of the debris boom.
- ✓ On November 14, 2014, the District received a *Letter of No Objection* (LONO) from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) (on the enclosed thumb drive).
- ✓ On January 8, 2015, the District Board of Commissioners adopted an ordinance establishing the right-of-way in the installation, operation, and maintenance of the containment boom.
- ✓ On July 7, 2015, the District received *Permit No. NE2015032 from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)* (on the enclosed thumb drive) authorizing the project.
- ✓ On February 19, 2016, the District obtained an executed easement agreement (on the enclosed thumb drive) from the first private property owner, Real Group, LLC. The District's Board of Commissioners approved payment of the easement on April 7, 2016.
- ✓ In February 2016, the District purchased the floatables control boom.
- ✓ On March 31, 2017, the District obtained an executed easement agreement (on the enclosed thumb drive) from the second private property owner, 2920 South 19th Avenue, LLC. The District's Board of Commissioners approved payment of the easement on March 3, 2017.
- ✓ On April 17, 2017, the District obtained an executed agreement (on the enclosed thumb drive) from the third private property owner, the Village of Broadview.
- ✓ On July 31, 2017, the floatables control boom was installed (photo on enclosed thumb drive).

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Green Infrastructure Activities



The District partnered with the Village of Riverside in 2019 to construct a new commuter parking lot and bioretention area that will provide parking for Metra commuters and more than 237,000 gallons of stormwater storage per rain event. The permeable parking lot and rain garden will reduce the current load to the combined sewer system and help alleviate flooding within the project area.

The following is a report on Green Infrastructure activities undertaken pursuant to Consent Decree Section V of Appendix E:

Introduction

The Consent Decree required the District to submit a Green Infrastructure Program Plan (GIPP) to the EPA and IEPA for approval within one year of the effective date. A draft of the District's GIPP was submitted to the EPA and IEPA on December 23, 2014, and ultimately approved on October 7, 2015. (See [Green Infrastructure Program Plan](#) on the enclosed thumb drive)

Going forward, the Consent Decree (Appendix E, Section V) requires the District to include Green Infrastructure reporting in its Annual Report.

2020 Rain Barrel Program Annual Report (Appendix E.II.A)

Rain Barrel Program

In May 2015, the District revised and expanded the rain barrel distribution program that offered free rain barrels to Cook County residents and organizations to increase the number of barrels disseminated. The District delivered free rain barrels through three distribution networks: municipalities; campus-type facilities; and non-government organizations, planning groups, or community groups. This free program continued through 2016 and ended on December 31, 2016. To participate in this free program, municipalities were required to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the District, and non-governmental organizations, planning groups, or community groups throughout Cook County were required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding. During the free program, a total of 88 municipalities and 23 organizations were enrolled as partners. Since the free program concluded, the District began selling rain barrels to Cook County residents at cost (\$45.78 per rain barrel) via [mwwrd.org](#).

Marketing Activities

The District marketed rain barrels through multiple channels in 2020. Our marketing materials educated the public about the value of rain barrels in preventing flooding and improving water quality while countering barriers to their acceptance. To address concerns about the difficulty of installation, simple installation instructions were included in every barrel, and a link to an installation video developed by the District in partnership with Openlands (a not-for-profit organization that unites people and resources around the goal of land and water protection) was available. Concerns that rain barrels would have a negative impact on the appearance of a property were countered by using photography of rain barrels installed in beautifully landscaped yards.

PUBLICATIONS: Community Outreach events were on hold beginning in March 2020 due to the pandemic, so the rain barrel brochure that Public Affairs created was not physically distributed during that time. The brochure is posted online and provides specific details for ordering (See [MWRD Rain Barrel Brochure](#) on the enclosed thumb drive). The District continued to print an installation, use and maintenance instructional guide for rain barrels which was distributed with our rain barrels. The instructional guide is also available at [mwwrd.org](#) (See [MWRD Rain Barrel Instructions](#) on the enclosed thumb drive). New in 2020 was the creation of a storybook "Where Does IT GO?" where a rain barrel is shown on page 12. Rain barrels are also described in the District's new "Green Neighbor Guide."

SOCIAL MEDIA: The District promoted rain barrels on social media by posting photos to demonstrate the productive uses of rain barrels and other green infrastructure tools via Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube

Early Monitoring, Evaluation & Knowledge Building (Appendix E.II.B.)

The Consent Decree also required the District to implement one or more GI projects and dedicate a minimum of \$325,000 towards such projects prior to

The GIPP outlines the District's strategy to gain the public's acceptance and understanding of how GI can be beneficial to alleviate flooding issues and Combined Sewer Overflows in addition to describing how the District will satisfy the Consent Decree's GI Design Retention Capacity (DRC) requirements. The District is required to provide a minimum of 2 million gallons of DRC within five years and 10 million gallons of DRC within 15 years of the approval date of the Consent Decree. The District accomplished the DRC requirements in 2020.

and Instagram. Postings included general educational information regarding the environmental and monetary value of utilizing rain barrels, while other postings detailed specific events where rain barrels would be or were distributed to the public.

WEBSITE: Rain barrels were prominently advertised with a large graphic on the District's website, [mwwrd.org](#). The rain barrel content is refreshed as changes to the program are incorporated.

OUTREACH EVENTS AND RAIN BARREL DRAWINGS: The District promoted rain barrels at public outreach events before the pandemic started. Attendees were asked to complete a "Water Environment Pledge" detailing water conservation actions. One of the pledges was selected, and the individual was given a free rain barrel. These outreach efforts are designed to educate the public on the value of rain barrels and other green infrastructure in the District's pursuit of water quality improvements and flooding solutions. In 2020, Public Affairs implemented virtual tours, and rain barrels are mentioned as a valuable green infrastructure tool. They were also mentioned during other virtual presentations to schools and community groups.

WATER ENVIRONMENT PLEDGE MAILING LIST: The District maintains an email list of those who have signed the Water Environment Pledge. The addresses in this database may receive additional educational materials and program updates.

Number of Barrels Distributed

The District distributed 925 rain barrels in 2014, 29,358 barrels in 2015, 92,981 barrels in 2016, 10,294 barrels in 2017, and 779 in 2018, 981 in 2019 and 1,545 rainbarrels in 2020; for a total of 136,863 barrels. The cost to the District to provide the rain barrels was \$6,401,501.24.

Technical Assistance

The District continued to provide instructions on how to install a rain barrel with each order. The District worked with Openlands to create a YouTube video that demonstrates how to install a rain barrel. (See [storyboards](#) on the enclosed thumb drive.)

Potential Volume

With proper utilization, if all rain barrels distributed and sold through December 31, 2020, were properly utilized during the entire year, the volume of rainwater kept out of the sewer system in 2020 is 495,792,990 gallons.

below, the District satisfied this requirement in 2014 through collaboration with the Chicago Public Schools (CPS), the City of Chicago Department of Water Management (DWM), Openlands, and Healthy Schools Campaign in the Space to Grow Program (Phase I Space to Grow) and continued to participate in this program in 2016 (Phase II Space to Grow). The District and the DWM each invested approximately \$2 million towards the construction of GI at four CPS schools in 2014. The District's nearly \$2 million investment was used solely for GI improvements at the selected CPS schools, thereby far exceeding the minimum \$325,000 requirement of the Consent Decree.

Phase I Space to Grow Program – Financial Partnership between the District, CPS and DWM

Space to Grow is an innovative public-private partnership with a mission of transforming Chicago schoolyards into vibrant green spaces for physical activity, outdoor learning and play. As centers of school and community life, Space to Grow projects promote active and healthy lifestyles and connect people with nature in their daily lives. The schoolyards are also designed to prevent flooding and water pollution via rainfall-capturing green infrastructure features such as permeable surfaces, native plants and rain gardens.

The program is co-managed by the Healthy Schools Campaign and Openlands with capital funding, leadership and expertise from the District, CPS and the DWM. The District also provides technical support for green infrastructure elements to ensure that the new schoolyards provide optimal stormwater capture benefits.

Each Space to Grow schoolyard is unique, and the architectural landscape designs incorporate input from neighborhood residents, students, families, staff and faculty. Prior to renovations, many of the schoolyards were little more than asphalt parking lots with aging, or in many cases a lack of, playground equipment. In contrast, the new schoolyards typically feature expanded and safer playground equipment, track and field areas, multi-purpose courts on permeable asphalt, turf fields, outdoor classrooms, rain gardens and vegetable gardens. Also, on average, each Space to Grow schoolyard has the capacity to capture hundreds of thousands of gallons of rainwater that would otherwise have drained into local sewers.

The four elementary schools selected for Phase I Space to Grow are in low income areas throughout the City:

Green Infrastructure Program (Appendix E)

Phase II Space to Grow Program – Partnership between the District, CPS and DWM

Given the success of the Phase I Space to Grow Program, the District's Board of Commissioners authorized expansion of the program to fund GI at up to thirty schools, which started in 2015, and will continue through 2022, with a total investment by the District of approximately \$15 million. These projects will not only address localized flooding but will also serve to educate students, parents, and school staff about the benefits of GI. The District will also invest up to \$1,000,000 to fund project design at ten schools.

In 2015, plans and specifications were prepared for six schools and construction completed for two schools: Willa Cather (Cather) Elementary School, located at 2908 W. Washington Boulevard, and the Orozco Fine Arts and Sciences (Orozco) Elementary School, located at 1940 W. 18th Street. Both of these elementary schools are located in low-income neighborhoods in the city. The combined DRC for these two schools is an estimated 364,504 gallons per rain event. The District contributed a total of \$898,477.66 for the work at Cather and Orozco.

In 2016, Space to Grow projects were completed at three additional schools, also located in low-income neighborhoods: Daniel J. Corkery Elementary School, located at 2510 S. Kildare Avenue; Frank W. Gunsaulus Elementary Scholastic Academy, located at 4420 S. Sacramento Avenue, and the James

- ✓ Virgil I. Grissom Elementary School, 12810 S. Escanaba Avenue
- ✓ Morrill Elementary School of Math & Science, 6011 S. Rockwell Street
- ✓ Schmid Elementary School, 9755 S. Greenwood Avenue
- ✓ George Leland Elementary School, 512 S. Lavergne Avenue

These schools were prioritized for implementation by CPS, DWM, and the District based on flood risk, site suitability, and socioeconomic factors. Numerous community meetings were held to describe project details and benefits. The District and CPS executed an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) to facilitate this project whereby long term maintenance responsibilities are assigned to CPS. The District has perpetual rights to inspect the GI to ensure it is being properly maintained in accordance with the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Manual developed for each school.

The District reviewed and provided comments on the construction drawings and specifications at various intervals during the course of design. During the course of construction, the District frequently visited the sites to gain knowledge on the installation of GI. The four sites provide an estimated combined Design Retention Capacity (DRC) of 731,004 gallons per rain event. Educational signage has been placed at the sites to inform students and the surrounding community of the benefits of GI. Neighborhood residents were involved in the installation of GI plantings at some of the schools.

Groundbreaking and ribbon cutting ceremonies were held at each of the schools and were attended by students, parents, school staff, local residents, and elected officials, including the District's Commissioners. The four projects have positively impacted thousands of local residents by providing a safe place for their children to play, educating all to the benefits of GI, and providing much needed relief from localized flooding. CPS has indicated that the new playgrounds are being utilized by students at a far greater rate than before, as well as reducing gang activity within close proximity to the schools.

The District is proud to be a part of the Space to Grow program as it successfully brings communities together, enhances the educational experience for children throughout Chicago, connects people to nature and encourages physical activity while reducing the risk of flooding and water pollution.

Wadsworth Elementary School, located at 6650 S. Ellis Avenue. The District contributed a total of \$1,371,508.67 towards the work at these three schools, which provided an estimated combined DRC of 388,648 gallons per rain event.

In 2017, projects were designed for the following schools: John W. Cook Elementary School, located at 8150 S. Bishop Street; Nathan S. Davis Elementary School, located at 3014 W. 39th Place; Fernwood Elementary School, located at 10041 S. Union Avenue; Eugene Field Elementary School, located at 7019 N. Ashland Avenue; and Morton School of Excellence, located at 431 N. Troy Street. Unfortunately, due to financial issues at both CPS and CDWM, the projects at these schools were not constructed in 2017. The financial issues have since been addressed, and the projects were constructed in 2018. Also constructed in 2018 was the previously designed project at the James B. Farnsworth Elementary School located at 5414 N. Linder Avenue. The District contributed \$2,621,194.64 towards the work at these six schools, which provide an estimated combined DRC of 1,287,651 gallons per rain event.

In 2019, four more schools were designed. These four schools were Arthur R. Ashe Elementary School, 8505 S. Ingleside Avenue; Ninos Heroes Elementary Academic Center, 8344 S. Commercial Avenue; Henry H. Nash Elementary School, 4837 W. Erie Street; and Daniel Webster Elementary School, 405 W. Arthington Street. In addition, one school designed in 2015, the Oliver S. Wescott Elementary School, located at 409 W. 80th Street, was lacking enough financing from CPS to start construction at the time it was designed.

The additional funding was allocated in 2019 and this project was constructed in 2019, along with the other four schools. The District has contributed \$2,528,202.54 towards the work at these five schools, which provide an estimated combined DRC of 881,416 gallons per rain event.

In 2020, five more schools were designed. These five schools were John Barry Elementary School, 2828 N. Kilbourn Avenue; Daniel Boone Elementary School, 6710 N. Washtenaw Avenue; Genevieve Melody Elementary School, 3937 W. Wilcox Street; Jesse Sherwood Elementary School, 245 W. 57th Street; and Harold Washington Elementary School, 9130 S. University Avenue. The DRC for the five schools is estimated to be 827,003 gallons per rain event.

Currently, five more Space to Grow projects are being designed with construction anticipated in 2021. These five schools are Horace Mann Elementary School, 8050 S. Chappel Avenue, Arnold Mireles Elementary Academy, 9000 S. Exchange Avenue, Isabelle C. O'Keeffe Elementary School, 6940 S. Merrill Avenue, Daniel S. Wentworth Elementary School, 1340 W. 71st Street, and John Whistler Elementary School, 11533 S. Ada Street. The DRC for these five schools will be determined once the plans and specifications are completed. All Space to Grow schools were prioritized for implementation by CPS, DWM, and the District based on flood risk, site suitability, and socioeconomic factors. Numerous virtual community meetings were and will continue to be held to describe project details and benefits.

The existing IGA and amendments between the District and CPS facilitates the remaining projects through 2022. Under the agreement, long term maintenance responsibilities are assigned to CPS. The District has perpetual rights to inspect the GI to ensure it is being properly maintained in accordance with the O&M Manual developed for each school. The District reviewed and provided comments on the construction drawings and specifications at various intervals during the course of design. During construction, the District frequently visited the sites to gain knowledge on the installation of GI, while monitoring progress.

Space to Grow Awards

The Space to Grow program continues to be recognized by numerous awards, including:

- ✓ The 2014 Silver Ribbon Award, Friends of the Chicago River;
- ✓ The 2015 Active Design Excellence Award, Honorable Mention: This was the only submission from Chicago to be recognized this year. Fellow award recipients span the globe;
- ✓ The 2015 Emerald Award from the Illinois Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council, Mission category;
- ✓ The 2015 New Champions Award from the National Physical Activity Plan Alliance (NPAPA);
- ✓ The 2015 Sustainability Award from the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (IAFSM), which recognizes excellence in stormwater management across the state of Illinois;
- ✓ Top 100 Finalist for the 2015 Chicago Innovation Awards;
- ✓ Best of Green Schools 2016 – Collaborator, Green Schools National Network;
- ✓ First Place - Large Population Green Infrastructure, 2016, National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA);
- ✓ The 2016 Special Achievement Award to Primera Engineers, Ltd. for Morrill Elementary - American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Illinois;
- ✓ The 2017 MWRD Sustainable Landscaping Award;
- ✓ The 2017 Stormwater Solutions Magazine Top Project;
- ✓ The 2018 Local Initiatives Support Corporation Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards – Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois Healthy Community Award;
- ✓ The 2018 Metropolitan Planning Council Burnham Award for Excellence in Planning;
- ✓ The 2020 SHIFT Award for Land Management Innovation;
- ✓ The 2020 Water Environment Federation Public Communication and Outreach Program Award.

Additional GI Partnerships

In 2020, the District constructed additional GI projects that conform to the criteria established in the GIPP. The District worked with the City of Chicago, the City of Northlake, the Town of Cicero, the Villages of Broadview, Maywood, River Grove, Summit, the Chicago Park District, University of Illinois at Chicago, Thornton School District 154, and Union Ridge School District 86 to develop GI projects consisting of permeable pavement parking, green alleys, and bioretention facilities. The District committed \$3,139,689 to these projects which provided a combined DRC of 1,523,563 gallons. The District entered into IGAs with these entities whereby maintenance responsibilities lie with the local municipality or park district and the District retains perpetual rights to inspect the facilities to ensure they are being maintained as required by the O&M Manuals of the respective projects.



The District's Space to Grow partnership has completed 25 school transformations for a total design retention capacity of 4,480,226 gallons per rain event.

Broadview – Green Alley Improvements

In 2020, the Village of Broadview Green Alley Improvements consisted of constructing three permeable alleys using a combination of impermeable concrete and permeable pavers located between 18th and 19th Avenues, between 21st and 22nd Avenues, and between 23rd and 24th Avenues, bounded by Harvard Street to the north and Fillmore Street to the south. The District funded \$321,739 of the total \$568,444 estimated construction cost. This project provides 90,706 gallons per rain event in a flood prone area.

Chicago 10th Ward – Green Alleys Project in Chicago

In 2020, the City of Chicago's 10th Ward Green Alleys Project consisted of replacing two alleys with permeable pavement located in various locations in the 10th Ward. The project will reduce the current load to the combined sewer system and help alleviate flooding within the project area. The District funded \$110,000 of the total \$220,000 estimated construction cost. This project provides 78,361 gallons per rain event in a flood prone area.

Chicago Park District – Stormwater Infiltration Through the Establishment of Native Habitat at Three Chicago Parks

Completed in 2020, the Chicago Park District Stormwater Infiltration Through the Establishment of Native Habitat project consisted of replacing turf grass with native plantings at three Chicago Parks. The native plantings will reduce the current load to the combined sewer system and help alleviate flooding within the project area. The District funded \$238,930 of the total \$477,978 estimated construction cost. This project provides 367,372 gallons per rain event in a flood prone area.

Cicero – Green Alley Paving Improvements

In 2020, the Town of Cicero completed two alley pavement improvement projects in various locations in Cicero. Both projects consisted of removing deteriorated alley pavement and replacing it with new permeable pavers. In total for both projects the District funded \$437,422 of the total \$771,129 estimated construction cost. Both projects provide a combined 134,431 gallons per rain event in a flood prone area.

Maywood – Green Alley Program

In 2020, the Village of Maywood Green Alley Program consisted of constructing three permeable alleys using permeable pavers in the following locations to reduce flooding in a flood prone area: the "T" alley bounded by 21st and 20th Avenues, Washington Boulevard, and Randolph Street, and the two alleys bounded by Oak Street to the north, 21st Avenue to the west, Randolph Street to the south, and 19th Avenue to the east. The District funded \$538,106 of the total \$768,723 estimated construction cost. This project provides 163,368 gallons per rain event in a flood prone area.

Northlake – City Centre Permeable Parking Lot Project

In 2020, the City of Northlake City Centre Permeable Parking Lot Project consisted of constructing a permeable parking lot at 112 North Wolf Road using permeable pavers to reduce flooding and provide green infrastructure in the general area. The District funded \$317,322 of the total \$514,725 estimated construction cost. This project provides 106,558 gallons per rain event in a flood prone area.

River Grove – Green Alley Program

In 2020, the Village of River Grove Green Alley Program consisted of constructing three permeable alleys using permeable pavers in the following locations in River Grove, Illinois, for the public benefit of reducing flooding and providing green infrastructure in the general area: Between Spruce Street and Rhodes Avenue bounded by Herrick Avenue and Wrightwood Avenue; Between Spruce Street and Rhodes Avenue bounded by Wrightwood Avenue and Richard Street; and between Spruce Street and Rhodes Avenue bounded by Richard Street and Grand Avenue. The District funded \$263,548 of the total \$570,451 estimated construction cost. This project provides 141,804 gallons per rain event in a flood prone area.

Summit – Green Alley Paving Improvements

In 2020, the Village of Summit Green Alley Paving Improvements consisted of constructing two green alleys using permeable pavers—one located north of

60th Place bounded by 73rd Avenue and 74th Avenue and another located between 60th Place & 61st Street bounded by 75th Avenue and 76th Avenue. The District funded \$289,546 of the total \$463,273 estimated construction cost. This project provides 50,446 gallons per rain event in a flood prone area.

Thornton School District 154 – Wolcott School Playground Enhancement

In 2020, the Thornton School District 154 Wolcott School Playground Enhancement consisted of the removal of asphalt playground surfaces and the construction of permeable playground surfaces and a bioswale. The District funded \$140,953 of the total \$281,954 estimated construction cost. This project provides 53,494 gallons per rain event in a flood prone area.

UIC – University of Illinois at Chicago Green Infrastructure at the Arthington Mall

In 2020, the UIC Green Infrastructure at the Arthington Mall project consisted of installing porous pavers, rain gardens and native landscaping at Arthington Mall. The District funded \$242,000 of the total \$654,900 estimated construction cost. This project provides 228,311 gallons per rain event in a flood prone area.

Union Ridge SD86 – Union Ridge Elementary School Parking Lot Improvements in Harwood Heights

In 2020, the Union Ridge Elementary School Parking Lot Improvements in Harwood Heights consisted of constructing a permeable parking lot at 4600 N. Oak Park Avenue using permeable pavers. The District funded \$250,000 of the total \$585,605 estimated construction cost. This project provides 108,712 gallons per rain event in a flood prone area.

In 2020, the total DRC installed at CPS, the District-sponsored projects at the City of Chicago, the City of Northlake, Town of Cicero, and the Villages of Broadview, Maywood, River Grove, Summit, the Chicago Park District, UIC, Thornton School District 154, and Union Ridge School District 86 was 2,350,566 gallons.

Flood-Prone Property Acquisition Program

The District initiated a buyout program for properties in chronic flood-prone areas in 2015. Buildings that qualify will be purchased, demolished, and restored to pervious space, thereby increasing stormwater retention and detention. Since the program was initiated the District has partnered with five communities on six different projects to acquire 90 homes thus far. These homes were subsequently demolished and restored to open space. These 90 properties provide approximately 650,000 gallons of stormwater retention. Three of these partnerships are still actively pursuing acquisition of an additional 64 properties. The District contributed buyout funds in the amount of \$17,500,000 while the Illinois Emergency Management Authority (IEMA) and U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) contributed \$15,800,000 of funding towards the acquisition of these flood-prone properties to date.

The District will continue to pursue additional projects that will exceed the goals required by the Consent Decree.

Chicago-Calumet Rivers Fund

A team of private and public organizations, including the District, established and funded the Chicago-Calumet (Chi-Cal) Rivers Fund (Fund), administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The Fund's main goals include reducing damages caused by flooding, improving water quality, and restoring habitat and safe public access on the local waterways. One method to achieve these goals is through green infrastructure such as rain gardens, green roofs, pervious surfaces, bioswales, and cisterns.

In 2014 and 2015, the District contributed to the Chi-Cal Fund for green infrastructure projects throughout the region. However, in 2016 the District decided to no longer contribute to the Fund in order to have more flexibility to fund projects with high DRCs in flood prone areas throughout its jurisdiction. However, the District has continued to work with the Chi-Cal team in evaluating projects that will reduce flooding, improve water quality and reduce loads to the local sewer systems.

Watershed Management Ordinance

The District began requiring stormwater detention in 1972 under the Sewer Permit Ordinance (SPO) for development projects greater than five acres. In 2007, the District began work on a new stormwater management regulatory ordinance, known as the Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO). Numerous public hearings were held on the WMO in order to receive public input. The District's Board of Commissioners subsequently approved the WMO, which became effective on May 1, 2014. The WMO is a comprehensive regulatory ordinance drafted with the assistance of an Advisory Committee consisting of regulatory agencies, municipalities, and non-governmental organizations.

The WMO aims to protect public health, safety, and welfare, and Cook County homes and businesses from flood damage by managing and mitigating the effects of development and redevelopment on stormwater drainage. It provides uniform minimum stormwater management regulations for Cook County that are consistent with the region. The WMO replaces the District's Sewer Permit Ordinance (SPO) with WMO permit requirements more comprehensive than those of the SPO. The District has included a GI component in its WMO, which requires the capture of 1-inch of runoff from impervious surface for parcels greater than ½ acre in size when a WMO permit is required.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
WMO GI Permits Issued	7	107	182	201	208	207	168
Permitted GI DRC (Gallons) Installed*	247,647	8,083,484	9,836,953	12,503,066	9,536,518	5,871,835	2,134,324
Permitted GI DRC (Gallons) Under Construction*	0	74,946	1,586,894	4,242,580	5,311,371	9,677,775	11,031,686
Permitted GI DRC (Gallons) to be Constructed*	0	0	52,136	622,375	1,371,833	2,163,651	6,444,029
Total DRC (Gallons) Permitted	247,647	8,158,430	11,475,983	17,368,021	16,219,722	17,713,261	19,610,039
Cumulative Total			90,793,103				

*Values reflect status of permits issued in each respective year

In 2020, 168 permits were issued that required a total of 19,610,039 gallons of GI retention volume. For the WMO permits issued in 2020, 2,134,324 gallons of retention were completed, 11,031,686 gallons were under construction, and 6,444,029 gallons were approved on projects that have yet to be started. An additional 10,845,951 gallons of retention capacity permitted since 2014 has been constructed bringing the total GI installed under the WMO to 48,213,827 gallons. The District anticipates that more GI retention volume will be approved in 2021 and beyond. (see Green Infrastructure Project Log below and table showing Green Infrastructure Design Retention Accomplishments on enclosed thumb drive) [Green Infrastructure Design Retention Accomplishments on enclosed thumb drive](#).

The District's WMO requires GI for new development and redevelopment projects. As can be seen in the table below, the WMO's GI requirements will lead to the eventual installation of over 90 million gallons of DRC throughout Cook County. This number will continue to grow significantly in future years. The District's permit review engineers provide input to design consultants on GI at the onset and during the permitting process. A list of all GI Permits issued from 2014 through 2020 is on the enclosed thumb drive.

Potential Future GI Projects

In order to assist communities in addressing urban flooding issues and promote the use of GI in the region, the District has been sending out a "Call for Green Infrastructure Projects" to governmental organizations (i.e. municipalities, townships, and various agencies) within its corporate boundaries. In 2017, the District received 47 project submittals and selected 19 partnerships to help fund GI installations. Due to the positive response to the program, the District again solicited project submittals in 2018, and

received 48 applications, and selected another 20 project partnerships. In 2019, 41 more applications were submitted, with the District selecting another 20 additional projects. In 2020, 32 more applications were submitted, with the District selecting another 16 additional projects. While the DRC figures have not yet been finalized for all the projects yet to be constructed, the total DRC for those projects selected in the four years of "Call for Green Infrastructure Projects" is estimated to be 6.7 million gallons.

Green Infrastructure Comprehensive Land Use Policy (Appendix E.II.C)

As part of the GI Plan, the District has also developed a Comprehensive Land Use Policy.

The District's Comprehensive Land Use Policy was approved by the District's Board of Commissioners on August 6, 2015 and approved by the USEPA on October 7, 2015 (see [Appendix B of the GIPP](#) on the enclosed thumb drive). The Comprehensive Land Use Policy requires public entities leasing property at a nominal fee from the District to provide GI based on the size of the leasehold and the desired use. For any new/renewed lease, the public lessee must now pay for and include GI on its leasehold. Private entities leasing District land are provided incentives to implement and maintain GI for development projects based on the size and type of use of the property. Private entities installing GI will receive a credit equal to \$0.50 on the \$1.00 up to 10% of the leasehold cost, capped at 10 years, for GI improvements in excess of WMO requirements. The District will seek credit towards the DRC requirements outlined in Section III of this plan for any GI installed by leaseholders of District property due to GI installed as a result of the requirements of the Comprehensive Land Use Policy.

In 2020, the District's Board of Commissioners authorized four leases with public entities requiring the installation of Green Infrastructure as required by the Comprehensive Land Use Policy. These leases are as follows:

- ✓ City of Evanston- Lease of 16.4 acres located at Dempster St. and McDaniel Avenue in Evanston, IL known as District North Shore Channel Parcel 4.01. This lease commenced on May 7, 2020.
- ✓ Village of Lemont/Lemont Park District- Lease of 27.19 acres located south of the Main Channel, west of Stephen Street in Lemont, Illinois known as District Main Channel Parcel 23.04. This lease commenced on October 1, 2020.
- ✓ Village of Stickney- Lease of 71 acres located at Pershing Rd. and Ridgeland Ave. in Stickney, IL known as District Main Channel Parcels 38.01, 38.02, 38.04, 38.05, 38.06, and 38.08. This lease commenced on November 20, 2020.
- ✓ Village of Lemont- Lease of approximately 170 acres along the Main Channel in Lemont, IL known as District Main Channel Parcels 20.01, 21.01, 21.03 and 21.04. Although authorized, this lease has not yet commenced.

An update on the green infrastructure component of these Leases will be contained in future Annual Reports.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination
System Permits Consent Decree
2020 Annual Report Referenced Resources



The Space to Grow Program provides opportunities for students to learn about Stormwater Management.

Green Infrastructure Project Log (Appendix E.III)

Watershed Management Ordinance Permits

1,080 WMO Permits issued requiring Green Infrastructure

Construction Status	Capacity
GI Permitted Yet to Begin Construction	10,654,024 gallons
GI Permitted Under Construction	31,925,252 gallons
GI Permitted Construction Complete	48,213,827 gallons
Total WMO GI Permitted	90,793,103 gallons

Summary of Green Infrastructure Capture Volume 2014–2020

Installed Design Retention Capacity (Gallons)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Totals
CPS School Retention	731,004	364,504	388,648	0	1,287,651	881,416	827,003	4,480,226
District Partnership Projects	0	392,784	1,482,823	1,093,788	205,453	1,297,697	1,523,563	5,996,078
WMO Projects (Installed)	247,647	8,083,484	9,836,953	12,503,066	9,536,518	5,871,835	2,134,324	48,213,827
Total DRC Installed	978,651	8,840,742	11,708,424	13,596,854	11,029,622	8,050,948	4,484,890	58,690,131



Space to Grow Schools

Year Completed	Name of School	Address	Design Retention Capacity (Gallons)
2014	Virgil I. Grissom Elementary School	12810 S. Escanaba Ave.	253,902
2014	George Leland Elementary School	512 S. Lavergne Ave.	128,197
2014	Morrill Elementary School of Math & Science	6011 S. Rockwell St.	118,098
2014	Theophilus Schmid Elementary School	9755 S. Greenwood Ave.	230,807
2015	Willa Cather Elementary School	2908 W. Washington Blvd.	56,152
2015	Orozco Fine Arts & Science Elementary School	1940 W. 18 th St.	308,352
2016	Daniel J. Corkery Elementary School	2510 S. Kildare Ave.	102,738
2016	Frank W. Gunsaulus Elementary Scholastic Academy	4420 S. Sacramento Ave.	152,517
2016	James Wadsworth Elementary School	6650 S. Ellis Ave.	133,393
2018	John W. Cook Elementary School	8150 S. Bishop St.	217,978
2018	Nathan S. Davis Elementary School	3014 W. 39 th Pl.	197,422
2018	Fernwood Elementary School	10041 S. Union Ave.	138,222
2018	Eugene Field Elementary School	7019 N. Ashland Ave.	422,169
2018	Morton School of Excellence	431 N. Troy St.	155,783
2018	James B. Farnsworth Elementary School	5414 N. Linder Ave.	156,077
2019	Arthur R. Ashe Elementary School	8505 S. Ingleside Ave.	244,771
2019	Ninos Heroes Elementary Academic Center	8344 S. Commercial Ave.	179,432
2019	Henry H. Nash Elementary School	4837 W. Erie St.	152,841
2019	Daniel Webster Elementary School	4055 W. Arthington St.	151,742
2019	Oliver S. Wescott Elementary School	409 W. 80th St.	152,630
2020	John Barry Elementary School	2828 N. Kilbourn Ave.	151,367
2020	Daniel Boone Elementary School	6710 N. Washtenaw Ave.	186,241
2020	Genevieve Melody Elementary School	3937 W. Wilcox St.	154,000
2020	Jesse Sherwood Elementary School	245 W. 57th St.	184,454
2020	Harold Washington Elementary School	9130 S. University Ave.	150,941
Total			4,480,226

Thumb Drive Table of Contents

Attachments for Item 1 – TARP Reservoirs

Total McCook Reservoir CSO Capture Volume 2018-2020.pdf
Total Thornton Composite Reservoir CSO Capture Volume- 2016-2020.pdf

Attachments for Item 2 - CSOs

O'Brien (North) CSO M&R Plan Rev. February 2018.pdf
Stickney (Central) CSO M&R Plan Rev. February 2018.pdf
Calumet (South) CSO M&R Plan Rev. February 2018.pdf
IEPA Quarterly Report Jan-Mar 2020.pdf
IEPA Quarterly Report Apr-June 2020.pdf
IEPA Quarterly Report July-Sept 2020.pdf
IEPA Quarterly Report Oct-Dec 2020.pdf

Attachments for Item 3 - Water Quality

Appendix_A_AWQM QAPP.pdf
Attachment_1_CAWS_AWQM_2020.xlsx
Appendix_B_CDQM QAPP.PDF
Attachment_2_CAWS_CDQM_2020.xlsx
Appendix C Continuous Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring in the Service Area of the MWRDGC during 2019.pdf
Appendix D Post Construction Monitoring Plan for Calumet TARP System.pdf
USEPA Approval Letter PCMP for Calumet TARP System October 7, 2016.pdf
Post Construction Monitoring Plan for Mainstream/Des Plaines TARP System.pdf

Attachments for Item 4 - Floatables

Summary of 2020 Floatable Control Activities.pdf
2020 Floatable Control Logs.pdf
USACE Letter of No Objection – Debris Boom.pdf
IDNR Approval Letter - Debris Boom.pdf
Executed Easement Agreement No. 1.pdf
Executed Easement Agreement No. 2.pdf
Executed Easement Agreement No. 3.pdf
Addison Creek Debris Boom Photo

Attachments for Item 5 - Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure Program Plan.pdf
MWRD Rain Barrel Brochure.pdf
MWRD Rain Barrel Instructions.pdf
Rain Barrel Install Storyboard.pdf
GI Design Retention Capacity Accomplishments through 2020.pdf
GI Permits 2014-2020.pdf

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Established in 1889, the MWRD is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.



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Front cover: The Space to Grow partnership addresses localized flooding and serves to educate students, parents, school staff and neighbors about the benefits of green infrastructure.