



**Metropolitan Water
Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago**

Greetings!

Enjoy our inaugural issue of the MWRD's **For The Love of Water** (MWRD FLOW), a monthly summary of news and notes from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

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MWRD in the News

"Fish flock to cleaner Chicago River: 60 species identified," *WBBM Chicago*
<https://wbbm780.radio.com/articles/fish-flock-to-cleaner-chicago-river>

"Nearly 60 different types of fish found in Chicago waterways, study shows. 30 years ago, there were fewer than 10," *Chicago Tribune*
<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/environment/ct-chicago-river-more-fish-20200803-eexmbargkvcmfhjkqypqyp23e-story.html>

"The Chicago River keeps getting wilder, and that's a good thing," *WTTW*
<https://news.wttw.com/2020/08/23/chicago-river-keeps-getting-wilder-and-s-good-thing>



Sustainability Summit award applications available

The MWRD is accepting applications from Cook County individuals, organizations and businesses for its 2020 Biosolids Beneficial Reuse and Sustainable Landscaping Awards until September 15.

The awards recognize the activities and innovations from entities, such as park districts, villages, schools, golf courses and athletic clubs in two separate categories: Sustainable

Landscaping and Beneficial Use of Exceptional Quality (EQ) Biosolids and EQ Compost. EQ Biosolids and EQ compost are products of the MWRD's water treatment process that are used as soil amendments and sustainable alternative to other materials.

The beneficial use of EQ Biosolids and EQ Compost may be demonstrated through any one or a combination of the following:

- Continuous commitment to maximize the use of EQ Biosolids or compost to improve the cost-effectiveness of landscape management.
- Promotion such as, but not limited to, referrals and field demonstrations of EQ Biosolids or EQ Compost.
- Educational efforts on the environmental/economic benefits of using EQ Biosolids or EQ Compost.

Qualifications for the Sustainable Landscaping award may be demonstrated through the innovative use of green infrastructure, capital investment, and how an individual or organization promotes green landscaping to educate the community. The goal is to present an award to an individual or community that integrates sustainable practices in the environment that manages stormwater. For the purpose for the award, green infrastructure includes:

- Rainwater Harvesting, i.e. through rain barrels
- Rain Gardens
- Native Landscaping
- Stormwater Trees
- Porous Pavement
- Bioswales
- Green Roofs
- Greenways
- Wetlands
- Green Alleys, Streets, and Parking Lots

Activities completed after January 1, 2015 are eligible for an award, and an individual or organization is eligible once every five years. Submittals should include figures, illustrations, narrative, and photos to help further explain the efforts. The evaluation process may include a site visit.

This year's awards applications will be accepted electronically. They are available now at <https://mwrdd.org/sustainability-summit-2020-awards-applications>.

Submit application packages by September 15, 2020, to TianG@mwrdd.org or mail to:
Guanglong Tian
Biosolids Utilization and Soil Science
Monitoring & Research Department
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
6001 W. Pershing Road
Cicero, IL 60804

Awards will be presented at the MWRD's eighth annual Sustainability Summit later this year. For more information about the program, awards or Sustainability Summit, contact **(312) 751-6633**. This year's Sustainability Summit will be held virtually using Microsoft Teams on October 21, 2020.

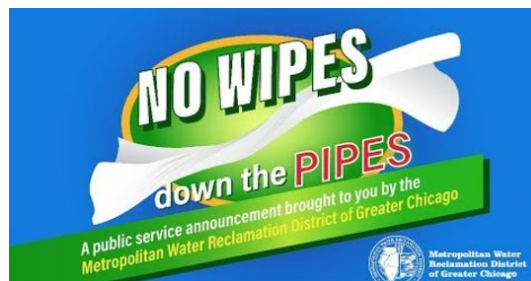
Click [here](#) to register for the Summit. This event is open to the public.

[Apply Now](#)

No Wipes Down the Pipes!

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for household cleaning items, including disinfecting wipes, paper towels and toilet paper which have sometimes been hard to find. As a result, some have turned to alternatives such as "flushable" wipes and other paper products.

In this educational video, MWRD President Kari K. Steele demonstrates how various products do not break down or dissolve sufficiently in water, and as a result, those materials can clog pipes and cause sewer backups in homes and neighborhoods. Remember, only flush pee, poop and toilet paper!



Dam removal allows fish migration to new upstream habitat



A largemouth bass recently caught in the Skokie River is giving new optimism and understanding for fish migration in the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS). Read all about it from [Water Online](#).

[Read All About It](#)

MWRD Board of Commissioners to meet Thurs., September 3



Due to Illinois Governor J. B. Pritzker's Disaster Declaration and pursuant to Public Act 101-0640, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago will hold its Board of Commissioners' Regular Board Meeting by video conference at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept 3, 2020.

The MWRD Board Room and building will remain closed to protect the health and safety of the public and staff; only essential personnel will be allowed entry. The public is encouraged to view the proceedings via live stream at mwr.org. Public comment may be made during the public comment period by calling (312) 751-3299, enter Bridge 90500#. Public comment may also be made by submitting an electronic comment by registering under the eComment link during the meeting. Electronic comments will not be read during the meeting. Electronic comments will be distributed to the Board and will be available online.

MWRD Board of Commissioners Recognize Juneteenth as Holiday Option for Employees

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO
RESOLUTION
 SPONSORED by the BOARD of COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZING
JUNE 19th as JUNETEENTH

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19th, is an annual holiday which commemorates the anniversary of the date that slaves in Galveston, Texas were informed that they were free; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as Emancipation Day, is the oldest known celebration of the emancipation of slaves in the United States; and

WHEREAS, during the Civil War, as many slave owners from Louisiana, Mississippi, and other southern states moved with their slaves to Texas due to its relative isolation and lack of monitoring by the Union Army. Thus, by the end of the Civil War, the number of slaves in Texas had greatly increased; and

WHEREAS, while General Robert E. Lee of the Confederate Army surrendered on April 9, 1865, marking the official end of the Civil War, news regarding the War traveled slowly to isolated areas of the South. Texas was the last state in the Confederacy to receive notice of the end of the War; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Union soldier Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and announced an end to the war. In reading "General Order No. 1," he effectively announced that slavery no longer existed in the state of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the announcement officially gave effect to the Emancipation Proclamation, which had been issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863. While the Emancipation Proclamation ended slavery in states that had seceded from the Union, slavery as an institution in the United States did not end until the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment on December 6, 1865; and

WHEREAS, the first celebrations of Juneteenth can be traced back to Galveston, Texas as early as 1866. As former slaves moved north from Texas in search of a better life, they took with them the history of June 19th. As such, Juneteenth celebrations became widespread throughout African American communities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1980, due to the efforts of State Representative Al Edwards of Houston, Texas became the first state to proclaim Juneteenth a holiday. To date, 46 states and the District of Columbia have recognized Juneteenth either as a state holiday or a day of observance. Additionally, in recent years, many companies have begun to acknowledge Juneteenth as a formal company holiday; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth symbolizes freedom, achievement, and racial equality not only for the descendants of former slaves, but for all Americans; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago recognizes June 19th as Juneteenth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be signed upon the premises; and

that the Proceedings of the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and that a copy of same, suitably engrossed, be prepared.

DRAFTED for ADOPTION on the 16th DAY of JULY 2020.

BOARD of COMMISSIONERS

KARI E. STEELE PRESIDENT	BARBARA J. MCGOWAN VICE PRESIDENT	FRANK AVILA CHIEF OF FINANCE
CAMERON DAVIS	KIMBERLY DU BUCLET	MARCELINE GARCIA
JOSINA MORITA	DEBRA SHORE	MARLENA T. SPYROPOULOS

On June 19, the MWRD joined the state of Illinois in lowering our flags to celebrate Juneteenth to mark the 155th anniversary of the ending of slavery in the United States. It was on this day in 1865 when Major General Gordon Granger and his Union soldiers marched into Galveston, Texas with the news that the Civil War had ended and proclaimed "absolute equality of rights" to liberate the country's last remaining enslaved people. Juneteenth is recognized as a state holiday in 47 states. Current events demonstrate that the struggle for equality continues and that the past must not be forgotten.

In recognition of the importance of Juneteenth as the oldest known celebration of emancipation of slaves in the United States, MWRD officials sought a way to more fully

recognize the day. Although Juneteenth is observed each year on June 19, the occasion is officially celebrated in Illinois on the third Saturday in June. With this change, the MWRD gives employees the choice to use June 19 as their one additional holiday selection each year. In addition to Juneteenth, the additional holiday choices for MWRD employees include the days preceding or following Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day or New Year's Day. [Read more here](#)

Small Streams maintenance crew cleans up after August 10 derecho

Our Small Streams Maintenance Program crew has been busy clearing trees that came down during storms from the derecho on Aug. 10. If left unattended, this debris could cause stream blockages and lead to flooding. Report blockages and debris in streams by calling (312) 787-3575 or by visiting [this link](#).



IEPA grant boosts MWRD with energy efficiency lighting

A generous grant is now yielding major energy savings for one of the world's largest wastewater treatment plants. Thanks to a \$1.5-million grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Office of Energy, the MWRD's Stickney Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) was able to upgrade its lighting and HVAC controls for maximum energy efficiency. The upgrades are reducing lighting energy consumption by more than 50 percent for approximately 7,474 fixtures that were replaced or retrofitted.

The Stickney WRP serves 2.3 million people living in Chicago and 46 suburban communities within 260 square miles of Cook County. The plant can treat up to 1.44-billion gallons of water per day, or 1-million gallons per minute, making it one of the largest treatment plants in the world to provide full secondary treatment by volume. In 2019, the plant treated more than 800 million gallons per day, which required considerable energy to pump and convey water. The energy efficiency upgrades provide critical savings to plant operations and benefit taxpayers.

Pedway lighting at the Stickney WRP, before and after.



Read more about it [here](#).



KARI K. STEELE
*President of the
Metropolitan Water Reclamation
District of Greater Chicago*



YOU MATTER. BE COUNTED.

<https://2020Census.Gov/en.html>

■ **COMPLETE YOUR CENSUS**

- Return the Census ASAP
- Your participation helps direct funding to local communities
- Be part of the community that is counted



See what's happening on our social media sites



Established in 1889, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois. Learn more at mwrdd.org.