



**Metropolitan Water
Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago**

Greetings!

Welcome to the October, 2020 issue of **MWRD 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

"Fitch Affirms Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, IL GO Bonds at 'AAA': Outlook Stable," *Fitch Ratings*

"The District's financial profile is strong..."

<https://www.fitchratings.com/research/us-public-finance/fitch-affirms-metropolitan-water-reclamation-district-il-go-bonds-at-aaa-outlook-stable-23-09-2020>

"After protecting ourselves: The noticeable increase of littered masks and gloves during COVID-19," *North by Northwestern*

As the amount of litter has increased during the pandemic, the MWRD skimmer boats routinely look for debris which can get blown off streets or bridges, and sewers can overflow due to rain storms.

<https://mwrdd.org/after-protecting-ourselves-noticeable-increase-littered-masks-and-gloves-during-covid-19-north>

Goats and sheep are baaack!



Following a successful pilot scale operation in 2019, the MWRD again recruited a hard-working herd to graze on vegetation on the grounds of an MWRD facility and maintain landscaping in an environmentally responsible way.

This summer the MWRD enlisted the services of 65 goats and sheep from Vegetation Solutions in Wisconsin to help trim-or eat up-overgrowth and invasive species and maintain the MWRD's native prairie landscaping (NPL) at the MWRD's Calumet Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) on the Far South Side. To check out the work of the herd and learn more about the process, visit the MWRD's [YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KRQo0A0onBU&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KRQo0A0onBU&feature=youtu.be).

Take a Virtual Tour on Oct. 14 at 2 p.m.



On Wed., Oct. 14 at 2 p.m., join us for our next virtual tour experience. Travel back in time to early Chicago to see how we reversed the Chicago River and developed wastewater treatment technology. Go behind the scenes and under water to see how we transform the water you use everyday. Descend 300 feet into the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan's "Deep Tunnel" system, and watch our electrofishing crew at work sampling fish on the Chicago River. Click this link to sign up:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMkce6sqDwvHdNIWoZMGy2qEptHe9yqb3Be>

8th Annual Sustainability Summit is set for Oct. 21



You're Invited!

8th Annual Sustainability Summit 2020 Intelligent Conversations for a Better Environment

Wednesday, October 21 * 10 a.m. - Noon

Free Registration!

THIS VIRTUAL EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Special video presentation of our EQ Composting operations

Learn the benefits of using sustainable resources like MWRD EQ Compost and EQ Biosolids, green infrastructure, alternative landscaping methods to remove unwanted vegetation, and how you can add sustainable resources into your landscaping projects. Our experts will share their tips, best practices and success stories. You'll even learn how we process our EQ Compost for beneficial reuse. This event is open to the public.

Register online today at mwrdd.org/sustainability-summit-rsvp.

Featured Presentations

Preserving Monarch Butterflies: The Illinois Monarch Project Initiative, Klaudia Kuklinska, Energy Resources Center, University of Illinois at Chicago

Use of Biosolids and Compost for Landscape Management and Vegetation Maintenance, Theresa Johnston, Ph.D., MWRD Senior Environmental Soil Scientist

MWRD Stormwater Management Updates, Paul Jacobs, MWRD Assistant Civil Engineer

Goats and Sheep as a Landscaping Option, Aruch Poonsapaya, MWRD Maintenance Manager, and Ben Robel, Vegetation Solutions

Fish in the Chicago Area Waterways, Dustin Gallagher, MWRD Associate Aquatic Biologist, and Austin Happel, Shedd Aquarium Research Biologist

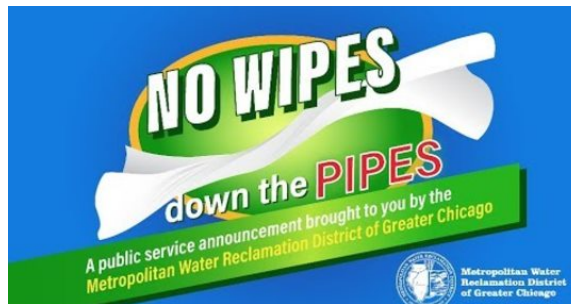
MWRD Sustainable Landscaping and Biosolids Beneficial Reuse Awards

[Click here to register for the Sustainability Summit](#)

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!



[View our videos on YouTube](#)

MWRD Board of Commissioners to meet Thurs., October 1



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, October 1, 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 mwrld.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.

World Water Monitoring Day Recognized

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO
RESOLUTION
SPONSORED by the BOARD of COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZING

WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY and the BLESSING of the WATERS in BLUE ISLAND, ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, September 18th is recognized internationally as World Water Monitoring Day. Established in 2003, World Water Monitoring Day focuses on raising public awareness regarding the health of water resources and encourages monitoring of local water systems; and

WHEREAS, educational events for World Water Monitoring Day are held annually from March 22nd through December 31st. One of the traditional events includes testing local bodies of water to determine if the water meets basic parameters as established by water regulation agencies and comparing previous results; and

WHEREAS, World Water Monitoring Day motivates individuals, organizations, and businesses to invest in ensuring a healthy water environment. It seeks to inspire people to understand how the health of the water system impacts the everyday world that we live in; and

WHEREAS, more than 780 million people lack access to safe water around the world. Since the creation of World Water Monitoring Day, more than 80,000 people have participated in various events in 50 countries worldwide, increasing both awareness and survival; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, sensing the need to emphasize protecting the health of the water systems in Cook County, citizens from Blue Island and the

Beverly neighborhood united with others from the far South Side in recognition of the importance of our local waterways; and

WHEREAS, since that time, it has become an annual tradition to gather at the Cal Sag Channel in Blue Island to encourage public awareness and involvement. This year's gathering on September 20th marks the 14th annual ceremony; and

WHEREAS, it is of critical importance that people understand, recognize, and commit to the safety of the planet. While water is an abundant resource, clean water is an endangered one. Thus, events such as the Blessing of the Waters in Blue Island is instrumental in the fight to mobilize the world; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, on behalf of ourselves and staff, do hereby recognize the celebration of World Water Monitoring Day and the Blessing of the Waters in Blue Island, Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread upon the permanent Record of Proceedings of the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and that a copy of same, suitably engrossed, be presented to Tom Shepherd.

DATED THIS 17TH DAY of SEPTEMBER, 2020.

BOARD of COMMISSIONERS

KARI K. STEELE PRESIDENT	BARBARA J. MCGOWAN VICE PRESIDENT	FRANK AVILA CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE
CAMERON DAVIS	KIMBERLY DU BUCLET	MARCELINO GARCIA
JOSINA MORITA	DEBRA SHORE	MARIYANA T. SPYROPOULOS

Our Board of Commissioners honors World Water Monitoring Day on Sept. 18 each year to raise international awareness for the health of our water resources. In keeping with that tradition to encourage stewardship for our waters, organizers held the 14th Annual Blessing of the Waters in Blue Island at the MWRD's SEPA Station along the Cal-Sag Channel.

For his long-standing commitment to our water environment and role in the Blessing of the Waters, a resolution was virtually presented to Tom Shepherd, director of Environmental and Recycling for the Village of Robbins.

Remember to complete the census.
Visit [My2020census.gov#CookCountyCensus#MakeILCount](https://my2020census.gov#CookCountyCensus#MakeILCount)



Visit [My2020Census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) to complete the census by September 30.

#CookCountyCensus
#MakeILCount



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BRIAN A. PERKOVICH Executive Director		



Visite [My2020Census.gov](https://www.my2020census.gov)
para completar el censo
a más tardar el 30 de Septiembre.

#CookCountyCensus
#MakeILCount



KARI K. STEELE
PRESIDENT
CAMERON DAVIS
JOSINA MORITA

JUNTA DIRECTIVA

BARBARA J. MCGOWAN
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BRIAN A. PERKOVICH
DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO

FRANK AVILA
PRESIDENTE
MARCELINO GARCIA
MARIYANA T. SPYROPOULOS

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](https://www.mwrdd.org).