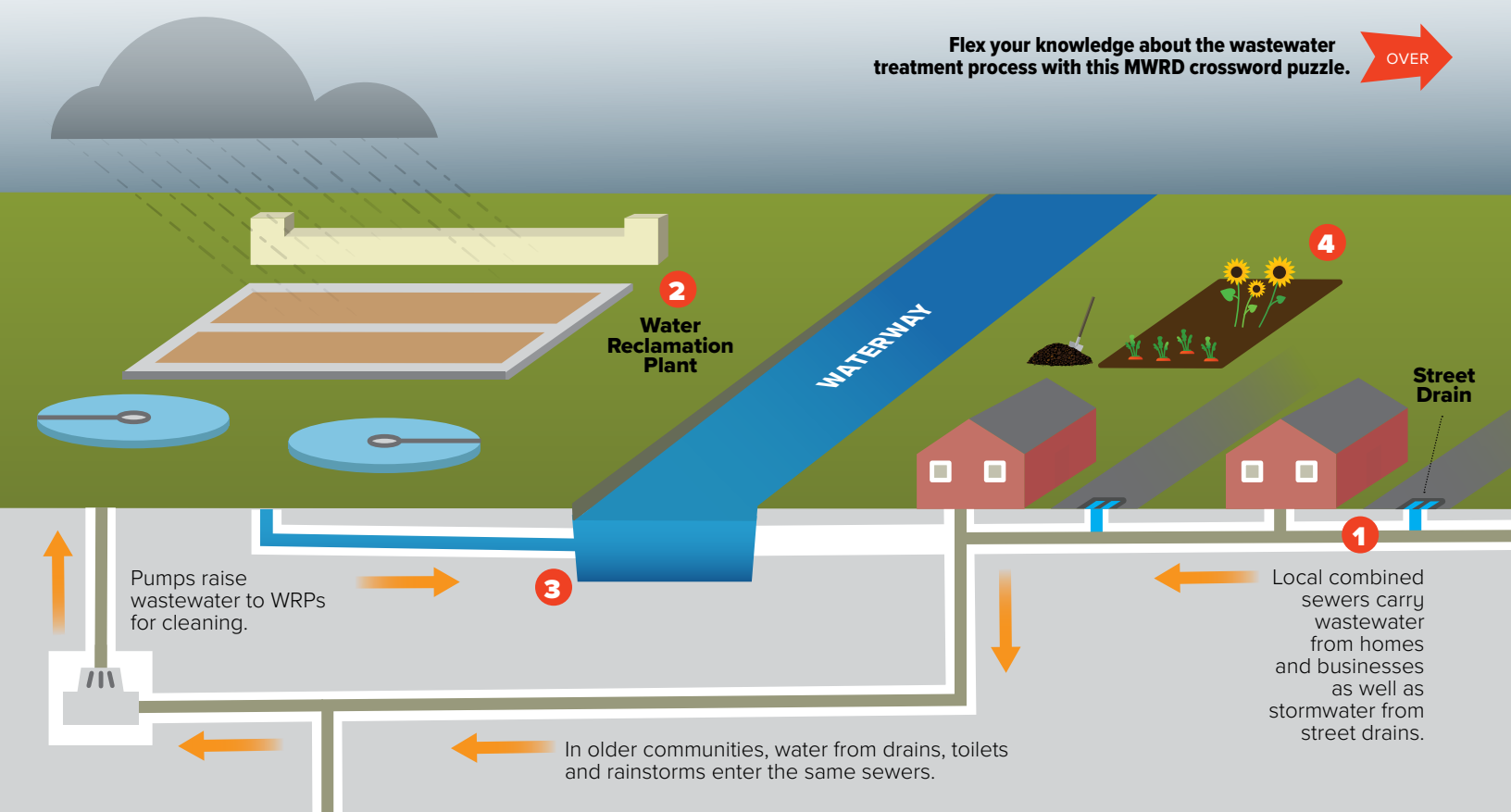




WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU FLUSH THE TOILET?

Flex your knowledge about the wastewater treatment process with this MWRD crossword puzzle.



1 Water from your drains and faucets, as well as water after a storm, goes into the sewer system.



2 Wastewater is treated (cleaned) at one of seven Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) water reclamation plants (WRPs).



3 After water is treated at a WRP, the clean water is sent to downstream waterways which eventually flows into the Mississippi River.



4 Solid materials removed from the water at the WRP are processed to kill harmful bugs then dried. This product is called "biosolids." Biosolids enrich soil and enhance plant growth. We use biosolids to make compost.



MWRD'S SEVEN WATER RECLAMATION PLANTS

Stickney Water Reclamation Plant
Cicero

O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant
Skokie

Egan Water Reclamation Plant
Schaumburg

Hanover Park Water Reclamation Plant
Hanover Park

Calumet Water Reclamation Plant
Chicago

Kirie Water Reclamation Plant
Des Plaines

Lemont Water Reclamation Plant
Lemont

Puzzle Instructions Use the clues below to fill in the correct answers for the boxes going across and down. There is one letter for each box.

Across

- 1** Wastewater treatment works using the same processes that occur naturally in rivers to clean water, incorporating physical and biological processes with a combination of air, gravity and _____.
- 2** In secondary treatment, a community of microorganisms help remove _____ material from the wastewater.
- 3** We see the benefits of our work resulting in increased recreation on the _____, such as kayaking and canoeing, a rebounding aquatic habitat and increases in fish species.
- 4** _____ treatment adds a final layer of treatment before water is released into neighboring waterways. The Calumet WRP uses a chlorination/de-chlorination application process and the O'Brien WRP uses an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system.

Down

- 5** In primary treatment, aerated grit tanks and settling tanks use physical and _____ means to remove fats and oils and to separate solids from the water.
- 6** If you live within our service area, the water that goes down your toilet, sinks and _____ eventually comes to us to be cleaned.
- 7** We treat wastewater from homes and businesses throughout our 882.1-square-mile service area, in addition to _____ from some communities.
- 8** Wastewater and stormwater flows through local sewers into our _____ before flowing to WRPs where we clean the water and recover resources.
- 9** The goal of wastewater treatment is to reduce _____ in water.

Word Bank

stormwater
interceptors

microorganisms
waterways

drains
tertiary

contaminants
mechanical

organic



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [v](#) [in](#) [mwr.org](#)

ANSWERS