



**Metropolitan Water  
Reclamation District  
of Greater Chicago**

# Small Streams Maintenance Program

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WPC Meetings



## Small Streams Maintenance Program

- The Small Streams Maintenance Program (SSMP), conceived and established in 2006, follows MWRDGC's stormwater management mission to relieve flooding in urbanized areas through immediate and relatively simple remedies.
- The objective of the program is to remove obstructions and debris in the waterways that could slow down natural drainage in small streams and rivers throughout Cook County.



*Before and After: SSMP work on the North Branch of the Chicago River in the Miami Woods area of the Cook County Forest Preserves in Morton Grove.*



*Before and After: SSMP work on the Des Plaines River at Dundee Rd in Wheeling.*



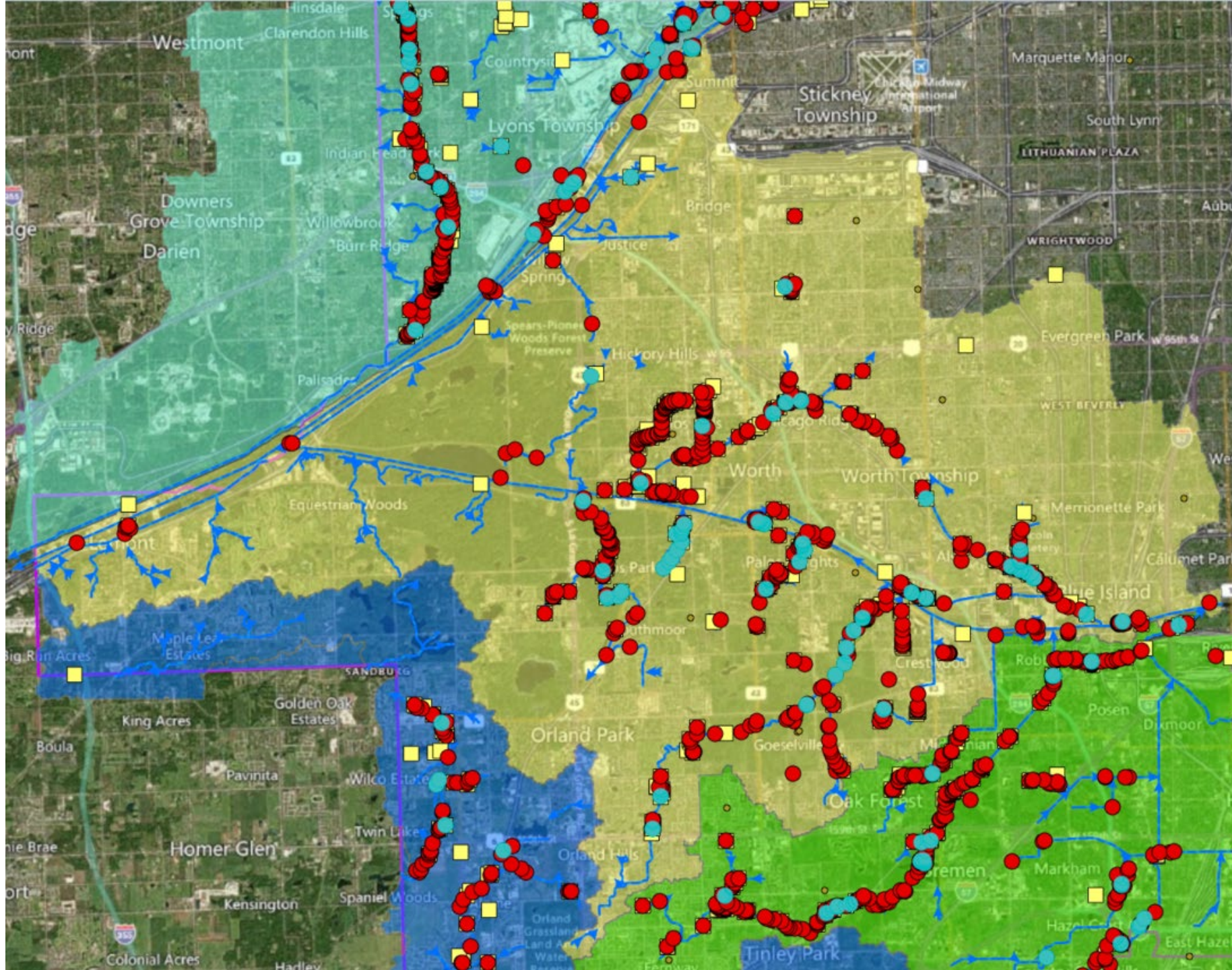
# Small Streams Maintenance Program

- Average cost per cubic yard of debris removed of \$146.
- Goals: standardizing procedures, identifying critical stream areas, improving methods, scheduling critical inspections, and increasing the public's awareness of MWRD's presence and execution of the program.

## TOTAL DEBRIS REMOVED BY WATERSHED (CUBIC YARD)

Watershed	2024
Little Calumet River	4,337
Hickory Creek	345
Cal-Sag Channel	1,801
Lower Des Plaines River	3,709
North Branch Chicago River	1,255
Upper Salt Creek	329
Poplar Creek	10
Upper DuPage River	375
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,161</b>

*Debris amounts removed in each watershed for 2024*

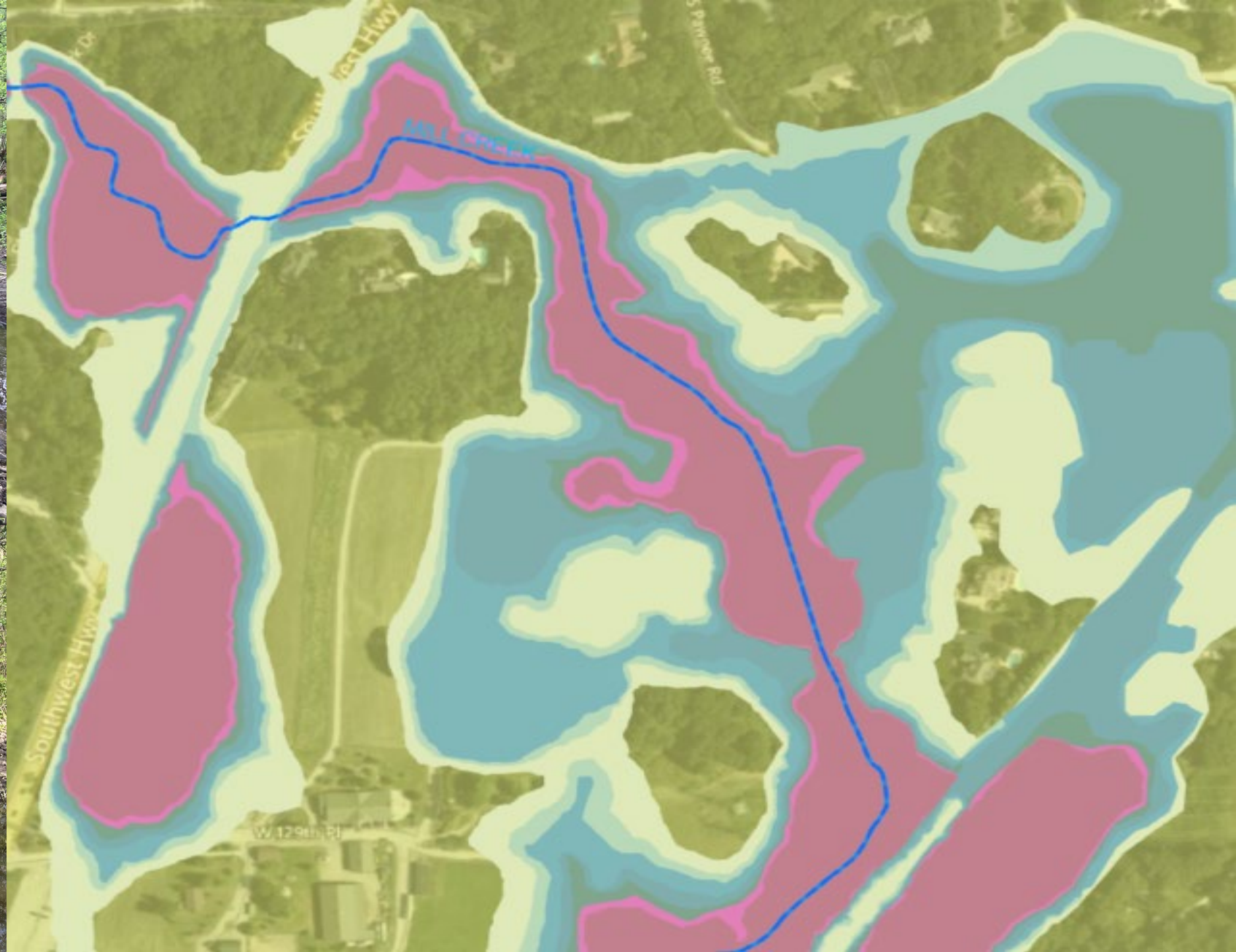


*Locations of work orders in Cal-Sag in 2024*



*Before and After: 2024 SSMP work on the Navajo Creek from Cal-Sag Rd to 125<sup>th</sup> St. in Palos Heights near Trinity Christian Collage*





*2024 SSMP work on the Mill Creek near 127th St. in Palos Park*



# Equipment

- Multi-Terrain Skid Steer
- Mini Skid Steer (Boxer)
- Chipper
- Additional Resources





## How you can help with waterway blockages

- Report waterway blockages,
- Don't leave yard waste near streams,
- Don't litter! Properly dispose of trash,
- If you live on a stream, consider landscaping with native plants and removing invasive plants such as buckthorn. Many native plants have a strong root structure that resists erosion.





## Small Streams Maintenance Program – Reporting Waterway Issues

### Website

mwrdd.org > Contact Us > [Report](#) blockages and debris in streams

### Call/Email

Arturo Hernandez  
Maintenance & Operations, SSMP  
Ph: 708-588-3171  
[hernandez@mwrdd.org](mailto:hernandez@mwrdd.org)

Or

Fabio Monteiro  
Maintenance & Operations, SSMP  
Ph: 708-588-3386 / 708-981-4797  
[monteirof@mwrdd.org](mailto:monteirof@mwrdd.org)

**Notify us immediately if you see an issue!**



# Contact Us

[Home](#) / [Contact Us](#)

## Address

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
100 East Erie Street  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-751-5600

## Citizen's Incident Reporting

To report odors, water pollution, waterway blockages, or other incidents, visit our [Citizen's Incident Reporting page](#).

## Citizen Emergencies or Complaints Regarding Facilities:

Call 24/7 System Dispatcher and Waterways Center: **312-787-3575**

Or

Call the plant if you have a concern or complaint about a specific facility. These numbers are also answered 24/7.

[Calumet Water Reclamation Plant](#): 773-256-3538

[Kirie Water Reclamation Plant](#): (Des Plaines) 847-375-2507

[Hanover Park Water Reclamation Plant](#): 630-736-4200

[Lemont Water Reclamation Plant](#): 630-257-7371

[Egan Water Reclamation Plant](#): (Schaumburg) 847-584-5410

[Terrence J. O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant](#): (Skokie) 847-568-8380

[Stickney Water Reclamation Plant](#): 708-588-4079

**Report** blockages and debris in streams

Small Stream Maintenance 312-787-3575

## Small Streams Maintenance Program (SSMP)

Use this application to report a waterway blockage and request removal of debris from a small creek or waterway in Cook County, IL.

The stream that flows through your neighborhood is more than just a scenic part of the landscape or habitat for wildlife. It serves the vital function of draining stormwater and preventing flooding. In order to function effectively, the stream must be maintained.

The MWRD's SSMP works to keep our streams functioning by removing debris that can restrict their flow. Minor blockages can build up quickly as floating debris piles up and creates a dam. In our flat landscape, obstructions in one spot can contribute to flooding upstream.

Besides removing existing obstructions, the MWRD crews and engineers also work to identify and fix potential problems before they can cause flooding. Dead and dying trees, which can eventually fall into streams and can float down and cause damage to bridge culverts or create a log jam, are removed from the banks.

### 1. Enter Information

Email Address

Agency Name

First Name

Last Name

Phone Number

Comments

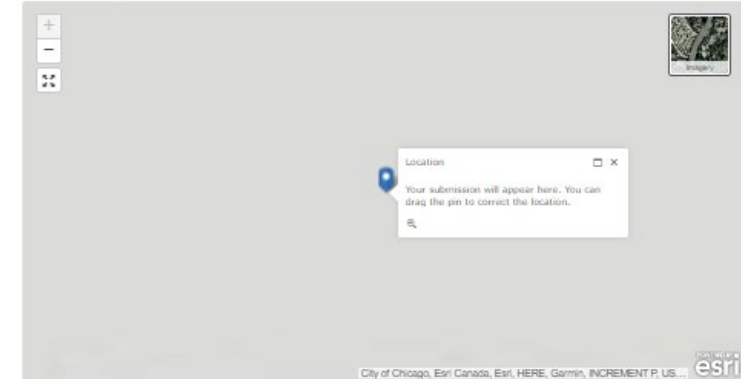
### 2. Select Location

Specify the location for this entry by clicking/tapping the map or by using one of the following options.

Search  Lat/Lon

Find address or place

Latitude: 41.82073, Longitude: -87.77178



### 3. Complete Form

Add this information to the map.



## Website

[mwrdd.org](http://mwrdd.org) > Stormwater-management > Stream-maintenance

## Questions

Arturo Hernandez  
Maintenance & Operations,  
SSMP

Ph: 708-588-3171

[hernandez@mwrd.org](mailto:hernandez@mwrd.org)



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

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# Stream Maintenance

[Home](#) / [Stormwater Management](#) / Stream Maintenance

[Report a waterway blockage](#)

## Small stream maintenance

The MWRD's Small Stream Maintenance Program (SSMP) removes obstructions and debris that could slow natural drainage in small streams and rivers throughout Cook County. Blockages in rivers and streams can cause standing or slow water upstream and contribute to flooding. The Small Stream Maintenance Program also removes invasive plants, downed trees, low hanging branches, dense weeds, and addresses eroding stream banks. We remove thousands of yards of debris from local streams each year.



*Before and After: SSMP work on the North Branch of the Chicago River in the Miami Woods are of the Cook County Forest Preserves in Morton Grove.*



*Before and After: SSMP work on the Des Plaines River at Dundee Rd in Wheeling.*

## Stormwater Management

[Program Mission and Achievements](#)

[Projects](#)

[Watershed Planning Councils](#)

[Stormwater Partnerships](#)

[Green Infrastructure](#)

**[Stream Maintenance](#)**

[Stormwater Plans and Reports](#)

[Stormwater Planning](#)

[Watersheds](#)

[Debris Blockage Removal on the Des Plaines River at Dundee Rd: Before and After - Video](#)



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# Rain Barrel Program

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# How to Purchase

## Website

[mwrld.org](http://mwrld.org) > Community Action > Rain Barrels

## Cook County Resident Pricing

\$43.00. Delivery included!

\*Please note that while orders are still being accepted,  
delivery will resume in **April 2025**

## Info & Installation

[mwrld.org/rain-barrels](http://mwrld.org/rain-barrels)

## Questions

Office of Public Affairs

(312) 751-6633

[public.affairs@mwrld.org](mailto:public.affairs@mwrld.org)





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# Restore the Canopy Program

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## Website

[mwrdd.org](http://mwrdd.org) > Community Action > Native Landscaping > Trees/Restore The Canopy

- Free native tree saplings through our “Restore the Canopy, Plant a Tree” program.
- Native trees can help reduce flooding by soaking up rainwater.
- Since our tree program began in 2016, we have distributed more than 100,000 free native trees!

## Questions

Office of Public Affairs  
(312) 751-6633

[public.affairs@mwrdd.org](mailto:public.affairs@mwrdd.org)



# TREE PICKUP DAYS

Pick up your free trees on Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon at the following MWRD water reclamation plants (WRPs):

- Calumet WRP • 400 East 130th St., Chicago
- Egan WRP • 550 South Meacham Rd., Schaumburg
- Hanover Park WRP • 1220 Sycamore Ave., Hanover Park
- Kirie WRP • 701 West Oakton St., Des Plaines
- O'Brien WRP • 3500 Howard St., Skokie
- Stickney WRP • 6001 West Pershing Rd., Cicero



## For more information:

- \* Call the MWRD Office of Public Affairs at 312.751.6633
- \* visit our website at [mwrdd.org](http://mwrdd.org)
- \* email [public.affairs@mwrdd.org](mailto:public.affairs@mwrdd.org)

Post a selfie with your tree on Facebook or Twitter and tag us @mwrddgc with #MyMWRDTree. You can also email pictures to [public.affairs@mwrdd.org](mailto:public.affairs@mwrdd.org).

     #myMWRDTree

*Restore the Canopy trees are not for resale.*





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# Thank you

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