

2023 Budget in Brief



**Metropolitan Water
Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago**

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The District is committed to water stewardship and incorporated strategies that maintain a high level of performance in the Strategic Plan.



2023 Budget in Brief

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

This 2023 Budget in Brief provides an overview of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (District) formal budget book and provides an overview of the organization's core mission, operations, and budget appropriations. The annual budget is the principal planning device for carrying out the mission of the District and accomplishing our operational goals. As a key communication tool, the budget shows how resources are acquired and allocated for current operations, long-range planning, and financing.

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January 3, 2023

To the Residents of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago:

I am pleased to present the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's 2023 Budget, a \$1.4 billion fiscally responsible spending plan that leverages federal funding to address regional and localized flooding, invests in public infrastructure, and responds to current inflationary cost increases. Without increasing the Property Tax Levy from the 2022 Budget, the District continues to address demanding operational needs and maintain a strong capital improvement plan.

The District serves 129 communities covering nearly all of Cook County, treating an average of 1.3 billion gallons of water each day, with a total treatment capacity of 2.0 billion gallons per day at seven water reclamation plants. The District controls 76.1 miles of navigable waterways and owns and operates 33 stormwater detention reservoirs to provide regional flood protection. Additionally, the District maintains a AAA bond rating from Fitch Ratings and a AA+ bond rating from Standard & Poor's.

The District has a long history of proactive and responsible financial management. The 2023 Corporate Fund Budget is \$475.1 million, an increase of \$36.6 million from the 2022 Budget, reflecting strong revenue performance. In 2023, the District will invest \$7.5 million in capital equipment purchases and technology infrastructure. The District's funding policies for both the Retirement Fund and Other Postemployment Benefits Fund demonstrate the District's commitment to long-term fiscal management.

Climate change and changing weather patterns with intense bursts of precipitation can quickly overwhelm systems throughout the region. The District has been proactive addressing climate changes and successful in obtaining grant funding. Over 2022 and 2023, the District anticipates \$27.6 million and \$37.9 million, respectively, with additional funding to be received over the next four years.

The District will continue to be a world-leading wastewater and stormwater management utility focused on flooding mitigation, resource recovery, sustainability, resilience, and innovation. The 2023 Budget was prepared within the framework of the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan which concluded its first year in June 2022 and will allow the District to remain true to our mission of protecting our water environment and the health of the residents of Cook County. For the complete budget document, please visit mwrdd.org/finances.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kari K. Steele". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kari K. Steele
President of the Board of Commissioners

2021 - 2025 Strategic Plan

The 2021-2025 Strategic Plan concluded its first year in June 2022 and is approximately 15 percent completed. The District's mission, vision, and values serve as a high-level framework for the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. By comparison, the specific goals, strategies, and success measures included in the Strategic Plan provide a detailed roadmap for the MWRD moving forward.

MISSION: The MWRD will protect the health and safety of the public in its service area, protect the quality of the water supply source (Lake Michigan), improve the quality of water in watercourses in its service area, protect businesses and homes from flood damages, and manage water as a vital resource for its service area.

VISION: We will continue to be a world-leading wastewater and stormwater management utility focused on flooding mitigation, resource recovery, sustainability, resilience, and innovation.

VALUES: Excellence, Respect, Innovation, Safety, Equity and Diversity, and Accountability

2021-2025 Strategic Goals

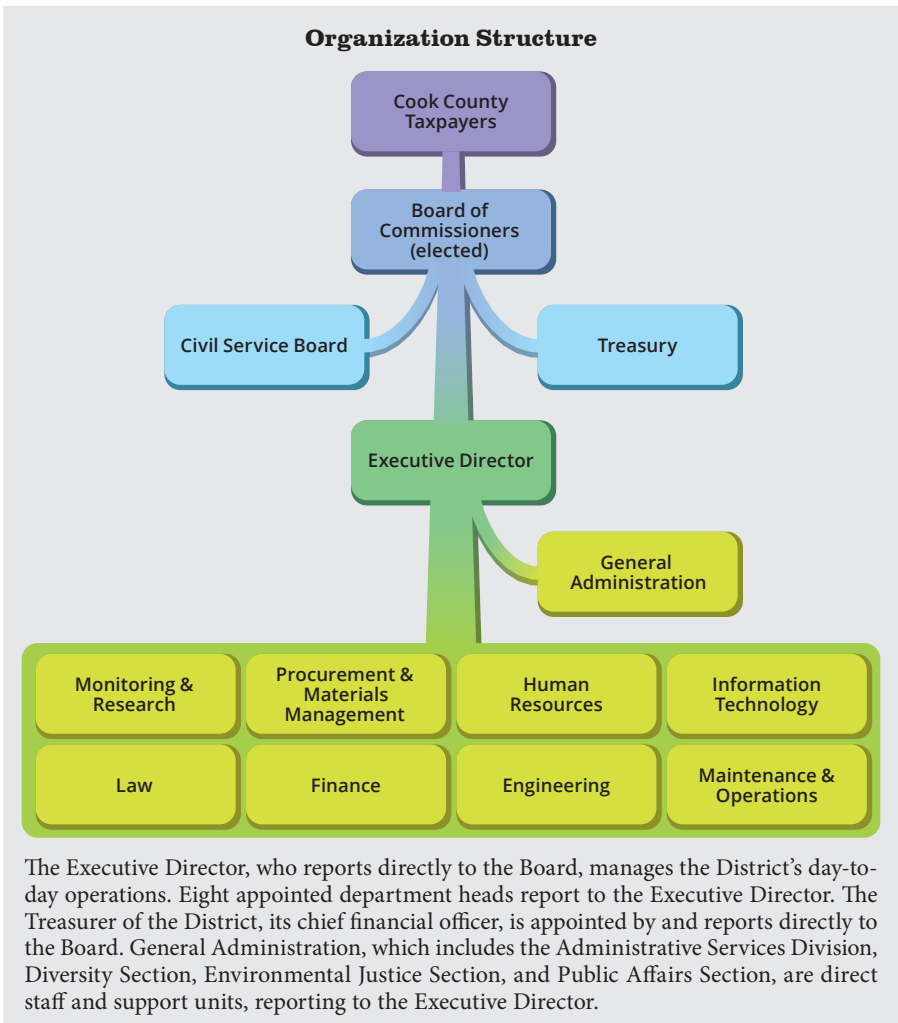


A review of the Strategic Plan is required on an annual basis and its first update was completed in September 2022. A high-level review of the published Plan was performed in light of trends and changes that occurred during the past year. No changes to the five main Strategic Goals were required, but revisions were needed to their Strategies, Success Measures, and associated Targets.


The updates to the Strategic Plan as well as the newly launched Strategic Plan Hub, can be found at mwrdd.org/strategic-plan-0.

Mission & Governance

The District is governed by a nine-member Board of Commissioners (Board). Each commissioner is elected at large and serves on a salaried basis. Three Commissioners are elected every two years for six-year terms. The Board biannually elects from its membership a President, Vice President, and Chairman of the Committee on Finance. The District is an independent government and taxing body operating primarily within the boundaries of Cook County, Illinois. The agency serves an area of 882.1 square miles, including the City of Chicago and 128 surrounding communities. Wastewater is collected from municipalities by the District and conveyed to one of seven water reclamation plants for full treatment. Clean water is then discharged to local waterways. The District is also responsible for Stormwater Management, which includes administering its Watershed Management Ordinance and implementing capital improvement projects with communities to address regional and local flooding issues. The District's commitment to the environmental quality of the region involves protecting Lake Michigan from pollution, maintaining public health and safety, protecting homes and businesses from flooding, and managing water as a vital resource.




District Fast Facts




Communities Served:

- 129 communities
- 5.19 million individuals
- A commercial and industrial equivalent of 5.3 million people
- A combined sewer overflow equivalent of 2.2 million people



Wastewater Treatment:

- An average of 1.3 billion gallons treated per day
- Treatment capacity of over 2.0 billion gallons per day



Laboratory Analyses:

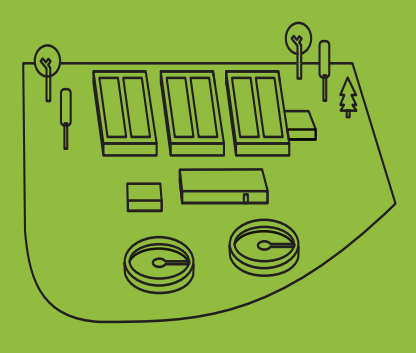
- 496,000 analyses per year



MWRD STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2025

In 2023, \$12,108,700 is allocated to new projects that support one of the five Strategic Plan Goals:

- Stormwater Management \$4,510,000
- Resource Management \$3,735,000
- Enterprise Resilience \$2,022,900
- Community Engagement \$1,023,300
- Workforce Excellence \$ 817,500




Infrastructure:

- Seven water reclamation plants
- 560 miles of intercepting sewers and force mains
- 23 pumping stations
- 33 stormwater detention reservoirs
- Three Tunnel and Reservoir Plan reservoirs
- Controls 76.1 miles of navigable waterways

2023 Tax Rate
36.35 cents per \$100 of assessed property value, a 1.46 cent decrease from the 2022 Adjusted Tax Rate

2023 Tax Levy
\$679.2 million
Remains flat from the 2022 Adjusted Levy



2023 Estimated District Tax
\$120.78 for a \$100,000 home

Description of Funds

The District uses the following funds to control its financial activities:

CORPORATE FUND: Accounts for property tax levies and other revenues used for the operations and payments of general expenditures of the District not specifically chargeable to other funds.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BOND FUND: Accounts for bond sale proceeds authorized by the Illinois General Assembly, government grants, and other revenues used for improvements, replacements, and additions to the District's facilities.

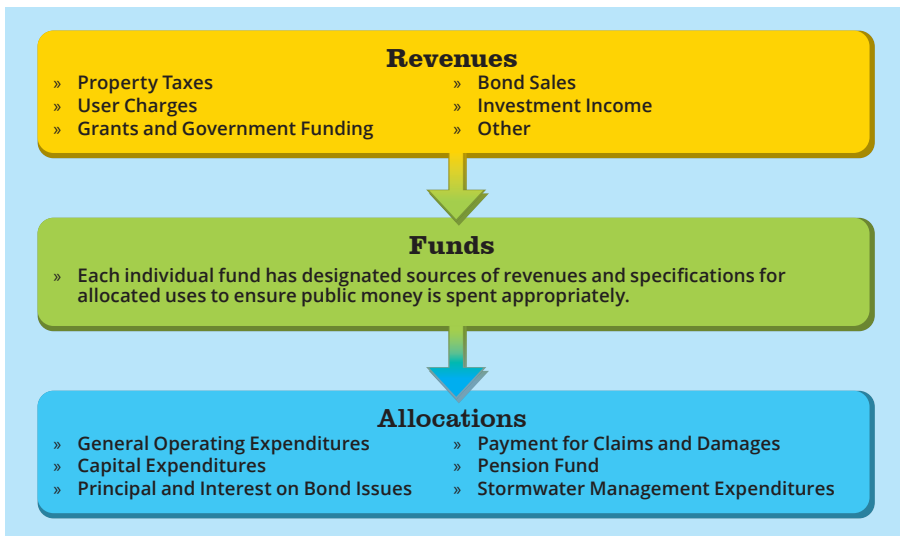
CONSTRUCTION FUND: Accounts for a specific property tax levy and other revenues used as a pay-as-you-go capital fund for the acquisition of infrastructure assets or the rehabilitation of existing structures, increasing the efficiency, or extending the useful life of the structure.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FUND: Accounts for property tax levies and other revenues, such as interest on investments and permit fees, used for pay-as-you go capital projects and for planning, implementing, and financing stormwater management activities throughout all of Cook County, including stream maintenance in areas that currently lie outside the District's boundaries.

RETIREMENT FUND: Accounts for a specific property tax levy to fund pension costs in accordance with statutory provisions. The taxes are collected by the District and paid to the MWRD Retirement Fund, a pension trust fund.

BOND REDEMPTION & INTEREST FUND: Accounts for property tax levies and interest on investments for the payment of principal and interest of general obligation bond issues. A subfund is created for each bond issue.

RESERVE CLAIM FUND: Accounts for a specific property tax levy and other revenues and pays for claims, awards, losses, judgements, or liabilities that might be imposed against the District and for the emergency replacement or repair of damaged property. The accounts of the Reserve Claim Fund are included in the General Corporate Fund for financial reporting purposes.



Sources of Revenue

Tax Sources

All District funds, with the exception of the Capital Improvements Bond Fund, derive their revenues primarily from property taxes. Approximately 74.1 percent of the 2023 appropriation is supported by property taxes. Taxes levied in one year are collected in the next year. Working Cash Funds for the Corporate, Construction, and Stormwater Management Funds provide temporary financing while awaiting property tax receipts.

A personal property replacement tax provides tax revenue from corporations, partnerships, and the invested capital of public utilities to replace the personal property taxes that were once received from these sources. These revenues, received directly from the State of Illinois, ended the year at \$144.9 million and are estimated at \$100.0 million for 2023. The 2023 Budget includes a \$30.0 million equity transfer from the Corporate Fund to the Retirement Fund and is a result of over performance of personal property replacement tax revenue in 2022.

Bonds, Grants, & Loans

The District's Capital Improvement Program is financed through a combination of funding methods, including general property tax revenues, State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans, federal grants and reimbursements, and general obligation or alternative revenue bond sale proceeds. State law provides authority to issue debt, but also limits the amount that the District can borrow.

Currently, the District's statutory debt limit is estimated at \$9.9 billion. Actual net outstanding debt applicable to the debt limit totals \$2.7 billion. The debt margin, the difference between issued debt applicable to the debt limit and the statutory limit, is \$7.3 billion, or 73.2 percent of the limit. In 2022, the District prepaid \$43.0 million in State Revolving Fund loans at a taxpayer savings of \$12.7 million over 15 years. In 2023, the District anticipates receiving \$50.0 million in low-interest SRF loans based on the current capital project schedule and will pursue the option for Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act funding for future projects to provide a lower-cost borrowing option.

The District is partnering with Cook County to invest \$20.0 million over four years to support local stormwater management projects, utilizing American Rescue Plan funding. In 2022, the District secured \$12.0 million as a reimbursement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is pursuing an additional \$7.2 million in reimbursements. In 2023, the District will also receive \$1.5 million through Forging Resilient Communities funding. We continue to pursue Community Development Block Grant funding and Federal Emergency Management Agency funding through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities and Hazard Mitigation Grant programs. Over 2022 and 2023, the District anticipates \$27.6 million and \$37.9 million, respectively, with additional funding to be received over the next four years.

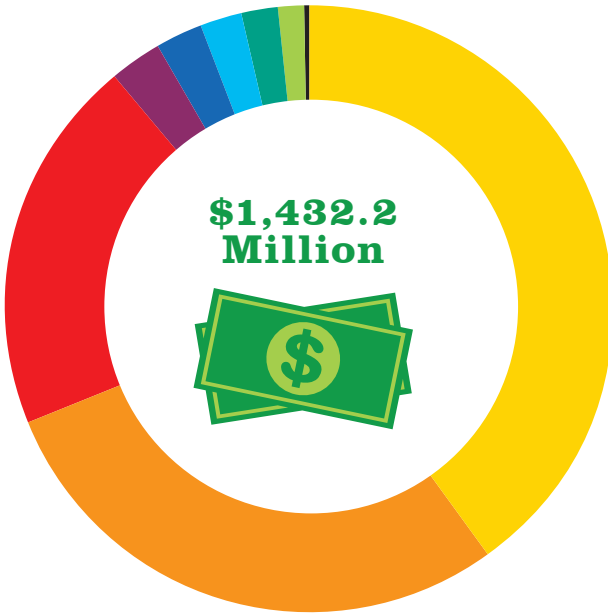


A barge passes the MWRD's Sidestream Elevated Pool Aeration (SEPA) Station 5 along the Cal-Sag Channel near the confluence of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. The SEPA Station pumps up to 372 million gallons of water per day to aerate the river water and enhance the aquatic environment by improving and protecting fish populations and eliminating odors.

User Charges, Property, Services, & Miscellaneous

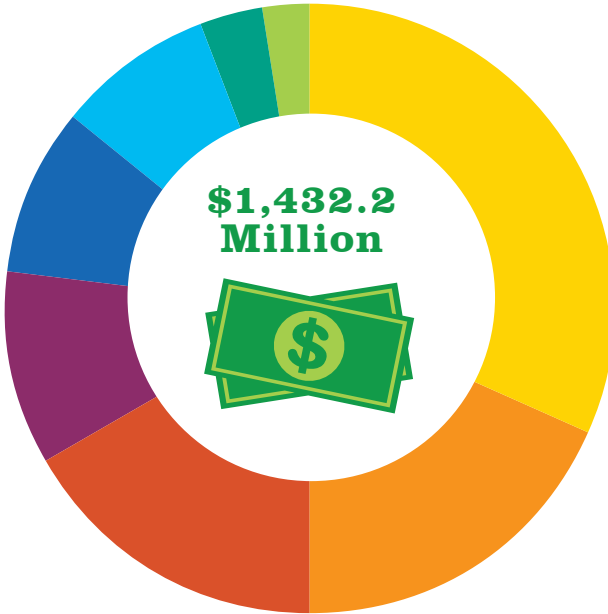
A major revenue source for the District is the user charge system, which imposes a surcharge above property tax payments for commercial, industrial, and tax-exempt users of the sewerage systems. Estimated user charge revenues in 2023 are \$37.0 million. Land rentals, investment income, sewer permit fees, connection impact fees, and other revenues will provide an estimated \$80.5 million in 2023.

Where District Money Comes From



\$574.4 M	40.1%	● Net Assets Appropriated
\$412.6 M	28.8%	● Net Tax Sources
\$289.7 M	20.2%	● State Revolving Fund Loans & Future Bond Sales
\$37.9 M	2.6%	● Grants and Reimbursements
\$37.0 M	2.6%	● User Charge Income
\$30.7 M	2.1%	● Miscellaneous
\$28.0 M	2.0%	● Land Rentals
\$20.8 M	1.5%	● Investment Income
\$1.1 M	0.1%	● Sewer Permit Fees
\$1,432.2 M	100.0%	TOTAL

Where District Money Goes



\$454.5 M	31.7%	● Construction & Design
\$264.2 M	18.5%	● Plant Operation & Maintenance
\$238.1 M	16.6%	● Bond Redemption & Interest Fund
\$146.8 M	10.3%	● Staff Services
\$129.0 M	9.0%	● Stormwater Management
\$117.9 M	8.2%	● MWRD Retirement Fund
\$46.0 M	3.2%	● Claims & Judgments
\$35.7 M	2.5%	● Monitoring & Research
\$1,432.2 M	100.0%	TOTAL

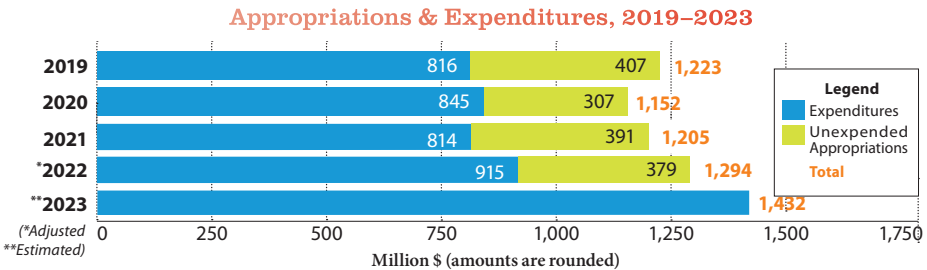


Construction on the District's Addison Creek Reservoir in Bellwood moved closer to completion in 2022. The reservoir and Addison Creek Channel Improvements will benefit communities along Addison Creek, including Bellwood, Northlake, Stone Park, Melrose Park, Westchester, and Broadview. The 600-acre-foot Addison Creek Reservoir will hold close to 200 million gallons of storage capacity and connect with the Addison Creek.

2023 Appropriations

The 2023 Budget is a \$1.4 billion spending plan that prepares the District for the future while reflecting current economic volatility, increasing inflationary pressures, and shifting weather patterns. The budget invests in the District's Water Reclamation Plants (WRPs) and addresses flooding, while prioritizing sound fiscal management. The 2023 Corporate Fund Budget is \$475.1 million, an increase of \$36.6 million, or 8.3 percent, from the 2022 Adjusted Budget, reflecting strong revenue performance. The operating budget reflects inflationary cost increases in processing chemicals, electrical energy and natural gas, supply chain issues, and demand for construction materials. Additionally, the District continues to address future regulatory permit requirements that will impact future costs.

Appropriations are allocated to seven separate funds. Each fund maintains a self-balancing set of accounts that are reported separately in their own financial statements. The funds are created to account for the different types of activities and legal restrictions associated with a particular function. In 2023, there is an increase of \$80.7 million planned in the Capital Improvements Bond Fund, which is appropriated on an obligation basis and based on project schedules. There are also increases in the Stormwater Management Fund of \$32.0 million, the Construction Fund of \$31.6 million, and the Reserve Claim Fund of \$1.5 million. The Bond Redemption & Interest Fund will decrease by \$43.1 million. In 2022, the District prepaid five State Revolving Fund loans at a taxpayer savings of \$12.7 million over 15 years. The Retirement Fund appropriation will decrease by \$0.8 million and again includes a \$30.0 million advance funding payment.



In 2022, the Governor signed Public Act 102-0707 allowing the District to issue up to \$600.0 million of Pension Obligation Bonds. Providing the District can secure favorable interest rates, a \$249.2 million Pension Obligation Bond sale is planned for 2023 and reflected as a transfer to the Retirement Fund in the appropriation.

Summary by Fund	2023 Budget	2022 Adjusted Budget	Dollar Increase (Decrease)	Percent Change
Corporate Fund	\$475,066,000	\$438,501,500	\$36,564,500	8.3%
Construction Fund	51,500,400	19,932,000	31,568,400	158.4%
Capital Improvements Bond Fund	374,610,900	293,943,500	80,667,400	27.4%
Stormwater Management Fund	128,982,400	96,981,700	32,000,700	33.0%
Retirement Fund	117,915,000	118,754,000	(839,000)	(0.7)%
Reserve Claim Fund	46,014,200	44,465,300	1,548,900	3.5%
Bond Redemption & Interest Fund	238,064,783	281,145,736	(43,080,953)	(15.3)%
SUBTOTAL	\$1,432,153,683	\$1,293,723,736	\$138,429,947	10.7%
Pension Obligation Bond Proceeds	249,204,500	—	249,204,500	—%
TOTAL	\$1,681,358,736	\$1,293,723,736	\$387,634,447	30.0%

Appropriations by Program Objective

The District has a long history of proactive and responsible financial management. The graph below displays the allocation of the 2023 appropriation and the personnel assigned to each operational objective across all funds. In 2023, a total of 1,957 positions are budgeted across all operational objectives. The District’s mission is achieved daily through six main operational functions:

Collection \$232,967,233 • 278 Personnel

Operation and maintenance of pumping stations, force mains, and intercepting sewers.

Treatment \$260,872,096 • 445 Personnel

Treatment of influent at water reclamation plants.

Solids Processing \$93,610,795 • 253 Personnel

Processing of primary, secondary, and tertiary sludge.

Flood & Pollution Control \$246,761,422 • 448 Personnel

Programs for the design and construction of flood and pollution control projects and waterways control.

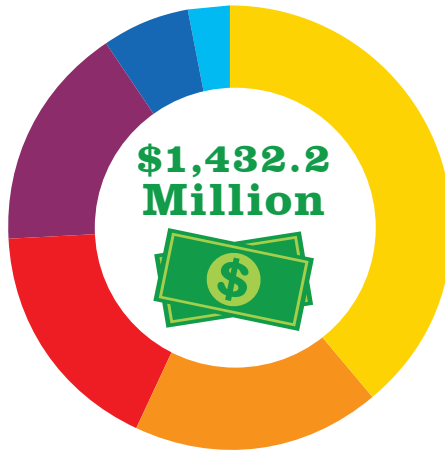
Solids Utilization \$40,335,656 • 42 Personnel

Drying and beneficial utilization of secondary and tertiary solids from the treatment process.

General Support (Debt Service, Retirement, Reserve Funds, & Support Departments) \$557,606,481 • 491 Personnel

Indirect costs essential for achieving operational goals.

2023 Appropriations by Program Objective



\$557.6 M	38.9%	● General Support
\$260.9 M	18.2%	● Treatment
\$246.8 M	17.2%	● Flood & Pollution Control
\$233.0 M	16.3%	● Collection
\$93.6 M	6.6%	● Solids Processing
\$40.3 M	2.8%	● Solids Utilization
\$1,432.2 M	100.0%	TOTAL

Water Reclamation Plant Operations

The District treats an average of 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater per day, with a total treatment capacity of over 2.0 billion gallons per day. In 2023, the District expects to collect and treat approximately 462.6 billion gallons of wastewater at its seven water reclamation plants. The District's reclaimed wastewater, along with runoff from rainfall, is returned to the Chicago Area Waterway System, which includes local canals, rivers, and streams that serve as headwaters of the Illinois River system.

The District provides reclamation for residential and industrial wastewater, meeting permitted discharge limits virtually at all times. The water reclamation process is protected by a pre-treatment program to guard against hazardous substances and toxic chemicals. These are strictly regulated pursuant to federal and state requirements. The District routinely monitors all industry and non-residential sources to ensure that those wastes are disposed of in an environmentally responsible and lawful manner.

The collection and treatment processes are performed in compliance with discharge permits issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, which regulates the quality of the effluent as it leaves the treatment plants. The District's high level of compliance produces consistently excellent results. This is reflected in a 100 percent overall compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements in 2021 (latest year for which figures are available) resulting in six Platinum Peak Performance awards, a distinction given to WRPs that have achieved 100 percent permit compliance for five consecutive years.

As regulatory requirements continue to evolve and permit requirements limiting the levels of phosphorus discharged from wastewater become progressively more stringent, the District is implementing innovative technologies and processes in order to maintain its record of compliance.



Locally owned municipal sewers carry wastewater from 129 municipalities to the District's 560 miles of large intercepting sewers, which carry wastewater to one of seven water reclamation plants across Cook County. Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) tunnels located 150-300 feet underground capture and store excess flow during severe rain events.

Industrial Waste Monitoring & Pollution Control

The District effectively eliminates offensive or dangerous discharges into the public sewer system through the administration of the Sewage and Waste Control Ordinance. It specifies limits on the quantity and quality of wastes discharged by industrial users with the potential to significantly impact the District's treatment facilities as required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The discharges, unless properly controlled and treated, could interfere with the District's treatment processes and adversely impact waterways. Industries and non-residential sources are routinely monitored by the District to ensure wastes are disposed of in an environmentally responsible and lawful manner. The District also operates a user charge system based on ad valorem taxes which directly charges commercial, industrial, and tax-exempt facilities for their discharge to the sewerage systems.

The District is designated by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency as an official response unit for chemical and hazardous waste spills in Cook County and in that capacity is expected to respond to approximately 140 calls in 2023 from fire and police officials, citizens, and other federal and state agencies. The Citizen Incident Reporting Application, found on the District's website or via a mobile application, allows citizens to report incidents of odors, stream blockages, and other environmental-related issues. Dispatchers monitor both the online reporting system and a telephone hotline 24 hours per day. In addition, boat patrols are routinely conducted to locate pollution sources to the Chicago Area Waterway System.

The District also conducts chemical and biological monitoring of District service area waterways and has developed, through collaborators in academia, water quality models of portions of the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) to assess the operation of the waterway to continually improve water quality and protect aquatic life. On a daily basis, the District monitors multiple critical control points of the liquid and solids process trains at each of the seven WRPs to improve operations and the quality of effluents and biosolids to protect water quality in the CAWS and ensure safety for public recreation. Nutrient enrichment of the water environment is an increasing national concern and in 2023 the District will complete a four-year CAWS phosphorus assessment and reduction study to guide future phosphorus reduction planning at the District's three largest water reclamation plants.



Floater and safety volunteers in canoes enjoyed the water, scenery, and celebrated improvements in local water quality at the Friends of the Chicago River's Summer Float Party on the North Branch.

Tunnel and Reservoir Plan

The District's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan, which celebrated its 50th birthday in 2022, is one of the country's largest public works projects for pollution and flood control. The Tunnel and Reservoir Plan has been successful in preventing flooding and pollution caused by combined sewer overflows, by capturing and storing combined stormwater and sewage that would otherwise overflow into waterways in rainy weather.

Phase I, completed in 2006, consists of four tunnel systems totaling 109.4 miles of deep rock tunnels, eight to 33 feet in diameter and 150 to 300 feet underground. The tunnels provide crucial protection and can capture up to 2.3 billion gallons of the first flush of sewage contaminated stormwater from combined sewers that previously flowed into area waterways.

Phase II, the reservoir component, provides an additional 15.0 billion gallons of storage of combined sewer overflows for flood damage reduction and additional pollution control. This phase is composed of three separate reservoirs:

The Gloria Alitto Majewski Reservoir, located in Elk Grove Village, was built by the Army Corps of Engineers and finished in 1998. It provides 350.0 million gallons of storage. The reservoir was constructed for \$45.0 million, and since its completion has yielded over \$655.9 million in flood damage reduction benefits to three communities. In 2022, one in a series of projects was completed to rehabilitate the Gloria Alitto Majewski Reservoir.

The Thornton Composite Reservoir was completed in 2015. It provides 7.9 billion gallons of storage and through December 2022, has captured approximately 54.1 billion gallons of polluted water. It is projected to provide more than \$40.0 million annually in benefits to the residents of 14 communities. In 2022, the District received \$12.0 million from the Army Corps of Engineers as a reimbursement for its work on the design and construction of the Thornton Composite Reservoir. This funding will be used for a flood control project on Midlothian Creek in Robbins.

The McCook Reservoir is comprised of two stages. The first stage was unveiled on December 4, 2017 and provides an estimated 3.5 billion gallons of storage. The second stage, expected to be completed in 2029, will provide an estimated 6.5 billion gallons of storage. The McCook Reservoir is projected to bring more than \$143.0 million per year in flood control benefits to the 3.1 million residents of 37 communities. Through December 2022, approximately 98.9 billion gallons of combined sewer overflow have been captured.

A new 20-foot diameter inflow tunnel and gate shaft was constructed to connect the existing Des Plaines Tunnel system directly to the McCook Reservoir. The new tunnel will provide a greater benefit to the communities served by the Des Plaines Tunnel than using the inflow/outflow tunnels.



Work progresses on the MWRD's construction of the Thorn Creek Connection Tunnel that will convey overbank flooding from Thorn Creek via a 22-foot diameter tunnel. Crews blasted out rock and a 26-foot rock plug and lined the tunnel with rebar and concrete, so that the excess stormwater can now be diverted from the Thornton Transitional Reservoir to the MWRD's Thornton Composite Reservoir in South Holland. The reservoir has a total storage capacity of 7.9 billion gallons.

Stormwater Management

The District's Stormwater Management Program has completed Detailed Watershed Plans for all six major watersheds in Cook County, initiated a Stormwater Management Capital Improvement Program, initiated a Small Streams Maintenance Program (SSMP), and adopted and implemented the Watershed Management Ordinance. Through both green and gray engineered solutions, and flood-prone property acquisitions, the District's Stormwater Management Program addresses flooding problems throughout Cook County.

Some of the program's initiatives include to advance stormwater partnerships for Green Infrastructure, local stormwater projects, and flood-prone property acquisitions with local communities and other agencies and provide technical guidance to property owners interested in constructing offsite stormwater detention and volume control facilities in accordance with an ongoing pilot study. The 2023 Budget includes \$30.8 million in the Stormwater Management Fund for Intergovernmental Agreements for stormwater improvements.

Through the management of the SSMP, the District works to reduce flooding in urbanized areas. The SSMP's top priorities are removing blockages such as log jams, beaver dams, and other material and debris from the streams and preventing future blockages by removing dead and unhealthy trees and invasive species, such as buckthorn and honeysuckle, which choke out native vegetation from the streambanks.

Many Stormwater Capital Improvement Program projects focus on regional waterways in highly urbanized areas and on using natural methods for addressing streambank erosion, including vegetated geogrids, geocells, turf reinforcing mats, and native vegetation. This program uses various financing methods, including grants. In 2022 and 2023, the District expects to receive \$38.8 million in grants and reimbursements, including \$12.0 million received in 2022 and \$7.2 million requested for 2023 from the Army Corps of Engineers as a reimbursement for work completed on the Thornton Composite Reservoir. This funding will be used to fund a project on Midlothian Creek in Robbins. Partnering with Cook County, \$20.0 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to address localized flooding will be received over four years, including an estimated \$4.6 million in 2023.

The District's statutory authority for Stormwater Management in Cook County allows for the acquisition of flood-prone properties. The District entered into intergovernmental agreements with five communities to acquire 52 flood-prone residential structures. Some of these acquisitions were completed in 2022 and will continue through 2023.



The MWRD is working with the Village of Robbins to help mitigate local flooding, restore Midlothian Creek, and create recreational and economic development opportunities to strengthen and revitalize Robbins.

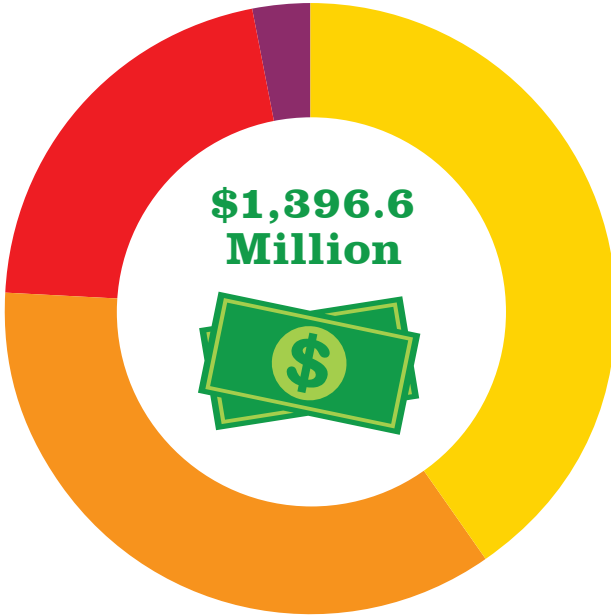
Capital Improvement Program

Capital improvements preserve the useful life or increase the capacity or efficiency of District facilities. Capital projects involve the acquisition, improvement, replacement, remodeling, completion, alteration, construction, and enlargement of District facilities.

Funding for the Capital Improvement Program consists of the sale of capital improvements bonds, general property tax revenues, SRF loans, and federal grants and reimbursements. The 2023 Capital Improvement Program appropriation, which includes capital projects funded by the Construction, Stormwater Management, and Capital Improvements Bond Funds, is \$536.3 million. The District's ambitious 2023 Capital Improvement Program modernizes aging infrastructure, prepares for changing effluent permit conditions, and addresses flooding and stormwater management concerns.

The District's overall Capital Improvement Program includes 2023 project awards, land acquisition, support, future projects, and the construction value remaining on projects currently under construction and includes 147 projects, with a total cost of approximately \$1,396.6 million, as displayed in the graph below.

Overall Capital Improvement Program



\$566.2 M	40.5%	● Future Project Awards
\$497.0 M	35.6%	● 2023 Project Awards
\$294.2 M	21.1%	● Projects Under Construction
\$39.2 M	2.8%	● Support & Land Acquisition
\$1,396.6 M	100.0%	TOTAL



Since 2019, the MWRD has enlisted the services of goats and sheep each summer to maintain its native prairie landscaping at various MWRD grounds. The herd provides an environmental alternative for landscape maintenance compared to herbicides that can harm the water environment or mowers and other equipment that rely on fuel or non-renewable energy.

Front cover: A primary settling tank and the Process Control Building at the O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant in Skokie, IL on a crisp October morning.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

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