



Neighborhood Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2020 Edition



Hi Neighbor!

Do you know what takes place at 6001 W. Pershing Road? The hardworking men and women of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) work around the clock to treat wastewater, manage stormwater, and protect the source of the region's drinking water, Lake Michigan, to help safeguard the environment and public health. We want to make you aware of the latest information and MWRD resources that strengthen our community.

Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

We are continuing to monitor the breaking information about the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). We are following the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Illinois Department of Public Health as we continue to provide water reclamation operations and stormwater management services 24 hours a day. Our Stickney plant is able to clean up to one million gallons of wastewater per minute before sending it to the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.

Odor Control Update

Reducing odors from the wastewater treatment process is one of our top priorities. Our strategies include odor monitoring controls, misting systems, chemical dosing, and four new odor control projects that represent a total investment of \$228 million. However, we also need to hear from you if you notice an odor in the community. Please call us immediately at (800) 332-3867 to report odors so we may investigate. You may also find our Incident Reporting system on our website, mwrdd.org, or by downloading the app on iTunes. You may also report other issues such as waterway blockages or suspicious dumping into sewers or waterways.



Visit mwrdd.org and click on the "Incident Reporting" icon to report odor, water pollution, waterway blockages, or other incidents.

No Wipes Down the Pipes!

Please only flush pee, poop and toilet paper. Toilet paper is designed to break down easily in your plumbing and in the sewer system. Other materials don't do this. Paper towels, tissues, and wipes, can potentially clog your plumbing or the municipal sewer in your neighborhood and contribute to basement backups and area flooding. Watch as MWRD President and chemist, Kari K. Steele, demonstrates what's flushable and what isn't.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CbnYdRetD4&feature=youtu.be>



Stormwater Management Update

Managing our region's stormwater can be a tremendous challenge given changing weather patterns and intense storms that can flood our basements and streets. Every year we reach out to local governments so we may partner in green infrastructure projects that capture water before it enters the sewer pipes. These water management projects store, infiltrate, and/or evaporate stormwater, thereby mimicking the natural water cycle.

We are happy to announce that our Board of Commissioners approved plans to enter into an agreement with the Town of Cicero to share in the funding of construction on two permeable alleys, following a similar project we helped complete recently in the City of Berwyn. The project, estimated to cost \$415,000, is expected to provide 43,813 gallons of stormwater storage, mitigate local flooding in the Cicero area by reducing runoff into the local sewer system and educate the public on the benefits of green infrastructure. These improvements will take place on the 1400 block between 59th Avenue and 58th Court and on the 2100 block between 49th Court and 49th Avenue.



While we work on these important projects, we have a new resource available to help you manage stormwater at home. The "Green Neighbor Guide" features tools and ideas that can help you get started on stormwater management projects that you can install on your property. Whether it's a rain barrel or a rain garden, you can reduce flooding and basement backups at home. To access a copy of the publication, please visit <https://mwrdd.org/stormwater-management-1> or call (312) 751-6633.

You may also reduce flooding and basement backups by reducing your water use before and during rain storms. Be on the lookout for our "Overflow Action Alerts" on our website and social media and help us protect our water quality. Please avoid running your dishwasher, washing machine, or even taking a shower if you know there is an impending storm. This helps to reduce the amount of water flowing down drains and provides the sewage collection system with as much capacity as possible. This will also help protect our local waterways.

Community Use of MWRD Land

The MWRD leases large parcels of land to local park districts for a nominal fee. As a large landowner, the MWRD prides itself on developing meaningful land use opportunities that promote recreational opportunities, like that at Veterans Memorial Park in Stickney. While we know many of our community events were placed on hold this year, we want to be sure that when life returns to normal, we provide an accessible park space from which everyone can benefit.

Jobs at the MWRD

Did you know that we have over 1,800 employees and over 200 job classifications? Find the job that's right for you! Explore career opportunities and sign up to receive future examination notifications at <https://mwrdd.org/careers>

Free EQ Compost: Bring your own bucket and shovel

Stickney WRP

6001 W. Pershing Rd., Cicero

Pick up free compost anytime.

Pickup outside of the gated area at Lombard Ave. on Pershing Rd.



Are you looking for compost to enhance your garden this year? Look no further than Lombard Avenue just south of Pershing Road! Bring your own shovel and bucket to pick up free EQ Compost for all of your yard projects. Learn more at <https://mwrdd.org/eq-compost>

Despite these uncertain times, our employees are working for you to make our community a better place to live. Please keep in touch by calling (312) 751-6633 or via email public.affairs@mwrdd.org. You may also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

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