

## Protecting Our Water Environment

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## Public Safety a Priority in Watershed Projects

### *Calumet-Sag Channel and Little Calumet River Watersheds First Up for MWRD Repair Projects*

Chicago – Six sites in the Calumet-Sag Channel and Little Calumet River Watersheds are the first locations to be approved for stream bank stabilization and erosion control by the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD). Projects will be designed and constructed to prevent further deterioration along the banks of Tinley Creek, Melvina Ditch, Oak Lawn Creek, Midlothian Creek and the Calumet Union Drainage Ditch. Each site is recommended under the MWRD's Detailed Watershed Plans as a priority to protect public safety, property and structures in imminent danger of failure due to extreme erosion of the banks of the waterways. The projects will be paid for through MWRD's Stormwater Management Fund.

Prior to MWRD being granted authority for local stormwater management by the Illinois general assembly in late 2004, the MWRD was limited to projects that kept the waterways navigable. It was prohibited by statute from expending taxpayer funds on erosion control.

"The approval of these projects heralds a new era in stormwater management for MWRD and its constituents," said MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore, Stormwater Management Committee chair. "Each of these projects has been selected through an extensive review to protect residents' homes and businesses," she said.

The next steps are the selection of engineering firms that will provide the detailed project designs and then award of the construction contracts. The locations for each project are:

- Tinley Creek - between 160<sup>th</sup> Street and 86<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 151<sup>st</sup> and Oriole Court
- Midlothian Creek - between Oak Park Avenue and Hickory Street
- Melvina Ditch - between 95<sup>th</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup> Streets
- Oak Lawn Creek – between Mayfield and Central Avenues
- Calumet Union Drainage Ditch – Sunset to Central Park Avenues

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