



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Media Advisory

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For immediate release

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Water reclamation tours offer insight into water transformation

Who: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

What: Tours of six water reclamation plants

Where: Calumet Water Reclamation Plant, 400 E. 130th St., Chicago
Egan Water Reclamation Plant, 550 S. Meacham Rd., Schaumburg, IL
Hanover Park Water Reclamation Plant, 1220 Sycamore Ave., Hanover Park, IL
Kirie Water Reclamation Plant, 701 Oakton St., Des Plaines, IL
O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant, 3500 Howard Street, Skokie, IL
Stickney Water Reclamation Plant, 6001 W. Pershing Road, Cicero, IL

When: 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 20, 2017

If you have ever been curious about what happens to the water after you flush the toilet, take a shower or wash dishes, a chance to quell that curiosity is just ahead. On Sat., May 20 from 9 a.m. to noon, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) will offer facility tours at six water reclamation plant (WRP) locations.

Visitors will watch as MWRD staff recover resources and transform water at these fascinating and important facilities. The Stickney WRP treats more than 1.4 billion gallons of water per day and has the capacity to treat more than 2 billion gallons per day. It's one of the largest such facilities in the world. The MWRD serves 10.35 million people in an 883.6-square-mile area of Cook County, which includes Chicago and 128 suburban communities.

The free open houses and tours are part of the Value of Water (VOW) Campaign's Infrastructure Week which sheds light on the importance of maintaining and modernizing the nation's infrastructure. Across the country, water treatment agencies and VOW members host tours to explain why water infrastructure matters to their communities and the nation.

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Visitors tour the MWRD's O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant in Skokie in 2016 and took home 50 oak tree saplings to help restore the canopy and collect stormwater.

Water reclamation tours offer insight into water transformation *(continued)*

Besides offering visitors an exclusive look at its plant operations, the MWRD is promoting its efforts in improving regional stormwater management by giving away potted oak tree saplings to restore the region's depleted canopy and help reduce flooding. Tree distributions also occur every Wednesday at MWRD plants. For more information about obtaining free tree saplings, visit www.mwrld.org.

Year round, private facility tours are offered for groups of up to 25 at MWRD's seven Cook County treatment plants and the Mainstream Pumping Station in Hodgkins, IL, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All tours must be scheduled at least one month in advance to accommodate background checks and are open to adults and students in seventh grade or higher. Please contact the MWRD Office of Public Affairs for more information at (312) 751-6633 or email public.affairs@mwrld.org.

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrld.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.