



## Hanover Park Water Reclamation Plant



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The Hanover Park Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) is one of seven wastewater treatment facilities owned and operated by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD). The MWRD is the wastewater treatment and stormwater management agency for the City of Chicago and 125 Cook County communities. We work every day to mitigate flooding and convert wastewater into valuable resources like clean water, phosphorus, biosolids and methane.

If you live within our service area, the water that goes down your toilet, sinks and drains eventually comes to us to be cleaned. We treat wastewater from homes and businesses throughout our 883-square-mile service area in addition to stormwater from some communities. All of this wastewater and stormwater flows through local sewers into our interceptors before flowing to WRPs where we clean the water and recover resources using a combination of physical, biological, and sometimes chemical, treatment processes.

The MWRD provides this service for over 5 million people. Nearly 450 billion gallons of wastewater is treated by our seven facilities every year.

In service since 1963, the Hanover Park WRP serves residents in northwestern Cook and DuPage County communities, including Hanover Park, Bartlett, Schaumburg and

Hoffman Estates. The Hanover Park WRP serves 56,532 people within an 11.2 mile area and cleans an average of 12 mgd, with the capacity to clean 22 million gallons per day. In 1969 the MWRD purchased the Fischer Farm (200 acres adjacent to the Hanover Park WRP) and built the Upper DuPage reservoir which holds approximately 75 million gallons of stormwater overflow. The farmland also includes 100 usable acres for growing corn and soybeans. All of the solids produced at the Hanover Park WRP are recycled as soil conditioner for the farm fields. The harvested corn and soybeans are used for feedstock, ethanol and biodiesel.

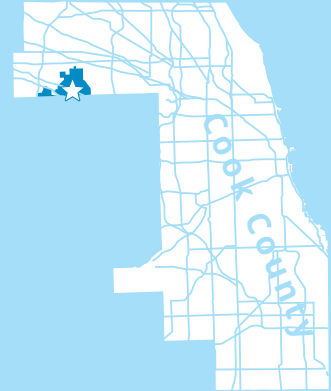
### Wastewater treatment

Wastewater treatment works using the same processes that occur naturally in rivers to clean water, incorporating physical and biological processes with a combination of air, gravity and microorganisms. In a WRP, cleaning is sped up dramatically, so a process that could take weeks in a river happens over the course of hours.

The goal of wastewater treatment is to reduce contaminants in water, such as suspended solids, biodegradable organic matter, pathogenic bacteria and nutrients. Contaminants are removed during three major phases of treatment: primary, secondary and tertiary. All MWRD WRPs use primary and secondary treatment. Some of our facilities also apply tertiary treatment due to the nature of the waterways into which they release water.

**Primary treatment:** Wastewater arrives at the plant and passes through coarse screens to filter out large debris. Then it is pumped up from sewer level and flows by gravity throughout the treatment plant. In primary treatment, aerated grit tanks and settling tanks use physical and mechanical means to remove fats and oils and to separate solids from the water. The separated solids are

### Hanover Park WRP Service Area



The Hanover Park WRP serves 56,532 people within an 11.2-mile-area in northern Cook County, Illinois.

### Hanover Park WRP Communities

- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Bartlett     | Hoffman Estates |
| Hanover Park | Schaumburg      |

### About Hanover Park WRP

- 1200 Sycamore Avenue  
Hanover Park, IL 60133
- 20 employees
- 12 buildings on 289 acres (includes farmland, 8 wells and storm retention reservoir)
- In operation since July 19, 1963

### Receiving Stream

- DuPage River

### Treatment Volume

- 12 million gallons/day (avg.)
- 22 million gallons/day (max.)

pumped away to undergo their own treatment process and eventually become biosolids, a sustainable alternative to chemical fertilizers. By the end of primary treatment, 60-80% of the solids have been removed.

**Secondary treatment:** In secondary treatment, a community of microorganisms help remove organic material from the wastewater. The microbes need oxygen to thrive, so air is pumped through the water in secondary aeration tanks. Next, the water enters the final settling tanks where remaining solids settle to the bottom and clean water flows out the top.

**Tertiary treatment:** Tertiary treatment includes any additional processes used to further clean the water after it passes through secondary treatment, including ultraviolet light disinfection, sand filters and chemical treatments like chlorination. At Hanover Park, water passes through sand filters and is then disinfected using chlorination and de-chlorination. Clean water that has passed through the Hanover Park WRP treatment processes is released from the Hanover Park WRP into the DuPage River. It only takes 12 hours for wastewater to be converted from raw sewage to clean water. The same transformation would require several weeks in a natural waterway.

**So the water is clean; what happens to all the solids?** Solids, also known as sludge, removed from the wastewater during primary and secondary treatment are sent to temperature-controlled digesters where microorganisms break them down in a process similar to composting. As with compost, the digestion process converts nutrients to forms that plants can use, kills pathogens, and reduces odors.

After digestion, the Hanover Park WRP sludge is stored in lagoons before being

used to fertilize the adjacent farm fields. The sludge removed from wastewater at other WRPs is digested and then hauled to solids management areas for additional treatment and drying. The resulting biosolids are a sustainable alternative to chemical fertilizers and are used at golf courses, athletic fields, parks and recreational facilities, agricultural fields, forests, and for restoration of strip mines and other disturbed lands.

**Resource recovery:** In addition to primary, secondary and tertiary treatment processes, we're also testing innovative technologies and methods of recovering nutrients, such as phosphorus, from wastewater. Nutrient pollution is harmful to waterways and aquatic life and poses a threat to healthy drinking water supplies. Phosphorus is a non-renewable resource that is in dwindling supply and is essential for high-yield agriculture and a myriad of industrial uses. The MWRD has the means to recover up to 10,000 tons per year of phosphorus and convert it into a usable, marketable product.

**How do we know we're doing a good job?** Wastewater treatment facilities are regulated under the Environmental Protection Agency's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. NPDES permits set rigorous standards that the water from the plant must meet. The National Association of Clean Water Agencies has given the Hanover Park WRP the association's highest awards for compliance with these standards. We also see the benefits of our work resulting in increased recreation on the waterways, such as kayaking and canoeing, a rebounding aquatic habitat and increases in fish species. We're reducing energy use at our facilities with a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and we're recovering valuable resources and expanding the use of biosolids throughout the region.



Microbes such as these stalked ciliates help remove bacteria and organic material from the water in secondary treatment.



**If you flush a toilet in Bartlett, it takes less than an hour to reach Hanover Park WRP (in dry weather) and about 12 hours to go through the treatment process before it is released as clean water to the West Branch of the DuPage River.**

**Coarse screens catch large objects and debris in water as it enters a wastewater treatment plant.** Some of the things that have turned up in the coarse screens of our plants over the years include:

- ✓ A 14" diameter snapping turtle
- ✓ Car wheels and tires
- ✓ 2x4 studs
- ✓ Super balls
- ✓ Parking blocks
- ✓ Money
- ✓ A huge ball of rope
- ✓ A 50 foot extension cord
- ✓ Mop heads
- ✓ Tree branches
- ✓ Two opossums
- ✓ ID card of a man from Argentina
- ✓ A bowling ball (with no pins)
- ✓ Fish
- ✓ A prosthetic leg



MWRD biosolids, a sustainable alternative to chemical fertilizers, help beautify the Chicago Park District's Ping Tom Park.

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Email [tours@mwr.org](mailto:tours@mwr.org) or call 312.751.6633 to schedule tours.

 [mwr.org](http://mwr.org)