



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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New Lathrop Riverfront Group, Friends of Chicago River host inaugural canoe outing



Approximately two dozen people participated in a pre-canoe ride talk as the newly established Lathrop Riverfront Group held an inaugural paddle from Clark Park to view the restored riverbank in Horner Park.



An area of the Chicago River previously overlooked received special attention recently as a newly formed community group held a kick-off paddle for local residents, community members, and partners. The group is called the “Lathrop Riverfront Group,” and its purpose is to support the new Lathrop Development by activating and developing programs dedicated to the emerging riverfront area.

Friends of the Chicago River (Friends) helped establish the group and coordinate the inaugural outing. Metro-

politan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Public Affairs Specialist Dan Wendt participated to support the engagement and outreach process.

“Our hope for this group is that they foster stewardship, restoration, and engagement along their stretch of the riverbank,” said Joann So Young Dill, Friends’ Director of Strategic Initiatives.

“It’s great to see the Chicago River appreciated as a natural and cultural and economic resource,” *(continued)*

New Lathrop Riverfront Group, Friends host inaugural canoe outing, *cont.*

said Margaret Frisbie, Friends' Executive Director. "It's an amenity that the Lathrop community can enjoy and must protect."

The inaugural paddle brought together residents, educators, and community leaders with Lathrop Partners which includes Heartland Housing, Bickerdike Redevelopment Corp. and Related Midwest. About two dozen people paddled north from the Chicago Park District's WMS boathouse at Clark Park, 3400 N. Rockwell St., to Horner Park to view the restored riverbank and to discuss models of local stewardship that communities can adopt, such as the successful Riverbank Neighbors that worked to see improvements in Horner Park.

"We are thrilled anytime we see stakeholders working together to improve access and recreational use of area waterways," said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. "This use accentuates the work that the MWRD, Friends of the Chicago River and so many others have been doing to showcase our water environment."

One of the participants was Joan Bradbury, a nearby resident who has lived on the river since 2006. "I am not new to canoeing. In the early 1960s I taught canoeing in summer camps. My love for canoeing continues! We love the river and look forward to help bring others out to the river."

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