

In September the MWRD held another ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the completion of the Thornton Reservoir. Part of the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP), the new reservoir adds 7.9 billion gallons of storage capacity for sewage and stormwater to the system and should virtually eliminate combined sewer overflows to the Little Calumet River and provide much more flood protection for over 556,000 people across 14 South Side and south suburban communities. TARP, which will be able to hold 20.5 billion gallons in three reservoirs and 109 miles of tunnel when it is complete, has already had a huge impact on water quality, providing extra capacity to hold and treat polluted water rather than releasing it directly into the Chicago River system, but more must be done, including the development of a watershed wide master plan for green infrastructure, to meet our goals of a healthy and accessible river. *(Photo courtesy MWRD.)*

