



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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For immediate release

October 16, 2012

## MWRD Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos explains flood prevention methods during environmental panel

Having a general understanding about how sewer systems work in conjunction with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (MWRD's) Tunnel and Reservoir Plan, or Deep Tunnel, provides an important foundation for understanding what specific actions residents can take to help prevent basements backups and community flooding.

MWRD Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos discussed water conservation and actions Arlington Heights residents can take to make their homes more environmentally-friendly during a panel discussion held at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library recently.

Other participants included Patricia Weikersheimer, Argonne National Laboratories, Diane Bolash, Master Gardener, and Mike Sidor, Arlington Heights Village Trustee.

"It is important to understand the impact each of us has on the water environment," said Commissioner Spyropoulos. "We all have a role to play to help prevent basement backups in our homes and flooding in our streets." She explained the work that the MWRD has been doing over its 123 year history to protect the water environment.

"We started constructing the Deep Tunnel system in the early 1970s," explained Commissioner Spyropoulos. "The system is already helping to prevent flooding in many areas of the county."

In addition to building the massive structures to control combined sewer overflows and protect water quality in the Chicagoland area, the MWRD is simultaneously exploring green infrastructure options which also offers opportunities for homeowners to join in the effort to prevent flooding.

There are 10 green infrastructure options for homeowners: rain barrels and rain gardens, trees, porous pavement, native landscaping, green roofs, greenways, wetlands, green alleys, streets and parking lots.

"For those of you who have a rain barrel, you know they definitely came in handy during this past summer's drought," Commissioner Spyropoulos said.

The MWRD sells rain barrels to Cook County residents for \$58, which includes delivery.

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**Our Water Environment: Take It Personally!**

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



*Commissioner Mariyana T. Spyropoulos*