



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

Allison Fore  
Public Affairs Specialist  
312.751.6633  
public.affairs@mwr.org  
100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

For immediate release **October 23, 2012**

## U.S. Senator Durbin, officials inspect Heritage Park Flood Control Facility construction site

Construction is underway at the Heritage Park Flood Control Facility in Wheeling, and last week, U.S. Senator Richard J. Durbin and Illinois State Representative Elaine Nekritz toured the area. Staff from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) were also present, along with representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, Wheeling Park District, Village of Wheeling, Village of Mt. Prospect and City of Prospect Heights.

Once complete, the complex will provide compensatory floodwater storage upstream of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Levee 37 flood control structure in Mount Prospect and Prospect Heights along the Des Plaines River. Together with the Heritage Park Flood Control facility, the levee project will help alleviate flooding for approximately 600 homes and businesses.

"It is gratifying to see this project underway," said Rep. Nekritz. "The flood protection for constituents along the Des Plaines River in Prospect Heights and Mount Prospect will not only save millions of dollars but will also provide peace of mind."

The complex includes six stormwater storage areas that will have a total capacity to store more than 49 million gallons of rain water. Additional improvements to the park include new walkways, a pavilion by the lake, a band shell, soccer fields and baseball diamonds.



*Joe Kratzer, MWRD engineer, explains elements of the Heritage Park Flood Control construction site to U.S. Senator Richard Durbin and Rep. Elaine Nekritz (on the right) during a visit to the site recently.*

The MWRD Board of Commissioners and representatives from the Wheeling Park District and the Village of Wheeling signed an Intergovernmental Agreement in 2010 for the design, construction, and operation of the stormwater and related additional improvements to Heritage Park.

The MWRD Commissioners retained AECOM Technical Services to design the project and awarded a contract to F.H. Paschen/Lake County Grading Joint Venture to construct the facility, which will be completed in under two years.

"The Heritage Park Flood Control Facility is a great example of how we

can work together to provide stormwater management facilities along with public recreational amenities," said MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore.

"The Heritage Park project represents a fine example of intergovernmental cooperation for the betterment of the region, and we salute MWRD and the Wheeling Park District for their vision and initiative," said Wheeling Village President Judy Abruscato.

***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.*