

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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First truckloads of MWRD biosolids delivered to Maggie Daley Park



In the photo: (L-R) MWRD Chairman of Finance Mariyana Spyropoulos, Vice Pres. Barbara McGowan and Commissioners Frank Avila, Kari Steele, Cynthia Santos and Patrick D. Thompson stopped by the future Maggie Daley Park to watch MWRD staff deliver the first truckloads of biosolids recently. Biosolids are nutrient-rich, organic material developed through extensive treatment and are a superior, yet less expensive alternative to chemical fertilizers.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Commissioners were on hand as the first truckloads of MWRD biosolids were delivered to the future Maggie Daley Park in downtown Chicago recently.

Biosolids are the nutrient-rich, organic material developed through the extensive wastewater treatment process. They are a superior, yet less expensive alternative to chemical fertilizers. They are used in landscaping and for fertilizing turf grass at parks and athletic fields and row crops in farmers' fields.

Chicagoland soil can be too compacted for good root development, and it can lack the vital nutrients and organic matter that plants need to thrive. Heavy summer rains can wash fertilizers away, and long dry spells can leave grass parched. Using biosolids can help create a beautiful landscape.

With improved soil quality, turf grass at the park will be healthier, more durable and will require less maintenance. Biosolids provide nutrients but also improve soil structure, help retain moisture and prevent erosion. MWRD biosolids will be mixed with soil to improve the quality of the fields at Maggie Daley Park.

"Maggie Daley was a passionate advocate for the children of Chicago," said Commissioner Patrick D. Thompson. "The park will be a wonderful place for children and families to enjoy. It is an honor to play a part in the creation of this very special tribute to an amazing person."

Maggie Daley Park's total acreage is 25.2 acres, of which 16.9 acres will serve as a green roof to parking facilities. This will be the second largest green roof in the country, with the 24.5 acres of Millennium Park the largest. The park will provide 85,580 cubic foot of detention volume storage across the green roof site and another 19,863 cubic foot of detention volume storage in the area known as Peanut Park.

Additional information about Maggie Daley Park can be found at http://maggiedaleyparkconstruction.org/. Additional information about MWRD biosolids can be found at www.mwrd.org or by calling (312) 751-6633.

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