



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

Allison Fore

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6633

public.affairs@mwr.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

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## Flood relief from MWRD to help shelter Niles from storms

### *The Cleveland Avenue Sewer Improvements Project will reduce flooding in Niles*

Officials with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) joined the city of Niles to break ground on a new sewer project that will help protect the surrounding community from flooding.

The Cleveland Street Relief Sewer Construction Project in Niles will benefit approximately 140 structures by providing capacity to convey surface water away from the community into the North Branch of the Chicago River. The project will minimize surface water flood damages and improve local river water quality by reducing the amount of surface water discharging to the existing combined sewer system in this area. The project consists of approximately 11,200 feet of new storm sewer to provide relief and reduce storm-related access issues for the area generally bounded by Main Street to the north, Harlem Avenue to the east, Monroe Street to the south, and Oketo Avenue to the west.

Since a devastating storm occurred in 2008, the village's Stormwater Commission has worked to develop and implement flood mitigation projects to improve the quality of life in Niles. They identified the Cleveland Street Relief Sewer Construction Project as the community's highest priority project in the 2012 Stormwater Relief Program and worked to make it a reality. Originally planned for completion in 2018, the project will now be finished sooner due to Mayor Andrew Przybylo's efforts to accelerate the schedule and also due to cooperation from project partners, such as the MWRD, the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Under the terms of the project, the MWRD will commit up to \$2 million toward the overall construction cost of \$8.67 million. The village of Niles was responsible for the design, construction, operation and maintenance going forward.

*(continued)*



*Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago President Mariyana Spyropoulos and village of Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo stand before some of the giant storm sewer infrastructure that will be installed to provide flood relief to Niles.*

## Flood relief from MWRD to help shelter Niles from storms *(continued)*

“With extreme weather events and a population that has grown exponentially on a flat topography that was former swampland, it is more important than ever that we all work together to address stormwater,” said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. “I commend Mayor Przybylo, the Niles Stormwater Commission and area residents for making stormwater management a priority. By investing in this critical infrastructure, you are improving the quality of life for your community and helping your neighbors by improving area water quality and lessening the impacts of flooding.”

The flood relief project is one of many partnerships the MWRD and village have established to combat flooding. In March, Niles and the MWRD entered into an intergovernmental agreement to participate in the MWRD’s free rain barrel program. By early May, residents of Niles had already ordered 167 rain barrels. Rain barrels are a type of green infrastructure that capture rainwater from roofs and save the water it for reuse. By keeping this water out of the sewer system, rain barrels can work as a form of green infrastructure that prevents sewer overflows and flooding. To learn more, visit [mwrld.org](http://mwrld.org) or contact the village of Niles at (847) 588-8040.



*Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago President Mariyana Spyropoulos joined officials with the village of Niles, the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to break ground on a 11,200 feet of new storm sewer that will minimize surface water flood damages in Niles and improve water quality in the North Branch of the Chicago River.*

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### Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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