



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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For immediate release

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Storm Summary July 24, 2016

Operating around the clock to provide flood control and protection of the waterways of Cook County, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) opens control structures to move as much water as possible out of the system to provide as much capacity for stormwater as possible.

On Sunday, July 24, at 12:01 a.m. the MWRD opened the control gates at Wilmette Harbor during a severe rain event, redirecting water flow into Lake Michigan. During the time the gates were opened, 2.75" of precipitation had fallen at Wilmette. The gates at Wilmette were closed at 3:40 a.m.

Presently, the tunnels of our TARP or "Deep Tunnel" for the Des Plaines and Mainstream systems are at full capacity. The entire tunnel system can hold up to 2.3 billion gallons.

We operate seven wastewater treatment plants throughout the region, which clean a combined flow of over three billion gallons a day. When it rains, we maximize the flow to our plants to ensure we are moving the maximum amount of water through our system. We will be pumping all the water from the TARP system to our plants for full treatment.

We encourage the public to minimize their use of water in their homes to reduce the amount of water flowing into the sewer system during rain storms. This will provide maximum capacity for combined stormwater flows.

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrdd.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.