



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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MWRD and Northbrook unveil unique stormwater facility to prevent flooding and protect area homes

WHO: Village of Northbrook, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) and Northbrook Park District

WHAT: A ribbon cutting will be held to announce the completion of the Wescott Park Stormwater Storage Facility in Northbrook.

WHERE: Wescott Park, Northbrook, Ill. The ribbon cutting will take place at the southwest corner of Farnsworth Lane and Western Avenue, directly in front of the park sign.

WHEN: 10 a.m., Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Officials will formally open the new Wescott Park Stormwater Storage Facility to help reduce flooding and shelter Northbrook from future storms. A joint effort between the MWRD, village of Northbrook and Northbrook Park District, the \$9.65 million project will help alleviate flooding along Farnsworth Lane and adjacent streets in the vicinity of Wescott Park. The project consists of a new storm sewer along Farnsworth to supplement the existing sewer, as well as construction of a stormwater chamber underneath the north half of the park. The chamber will hold about 7.5 million gallons of stormwater, equivalent to the volume of more than 11 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

The stormwater chamber, one of the largest of its kind in Illinois, includes a rainwater harvesting system that will enable both the village and the park district to reuse water captured during rain storms. The

MWRD is funding this stormwater reuse component at the cost of \$475,000. The new lawn irrigation system for Wescott Park will use the stormwater to irrigate the ballfields, and the stored water can also be pumped into truck-mounted tanks for watering new parkway trees or cleaning streets and sewers.

In addition to the stormwater reuse and detention components, the project includes several park improvements. The north ballfield and the bike path along the west side of the park were completely reconstructed, and minor improvements were made to the landscaping around the perimeter of the park. Although several trees were removed as part of the construction to install the storage chamber, restoration of the park involved the planting of nearly 70 trees and 50 shrubs.

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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.