



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## Space to Grow transforms campuses at three Chicago Public Schools

**WHO:** Partners behind the award winning Space to Grow program, including the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), Healthy Schools Campaign, Openlands, Chicago Department of Water Management and Chicago Public Schools (CPS) officials will join students, teachers and school communities.

**WHAT:** Ribbon cuttings will be held at three schools to formally celebrate the completion of three schoolyard transformation projects that work to improve school grounds and retain water.

**WHERE:** Corkery Elementary School, 2510 S. Kildare Ave., Chicago, Ill.; Gunsaulus Scholastic Academy, 4420 S. Sacramento Ave., Chicago, Ill.; Wadsworth Elementary School, 6650 S. Ellis Ave., Chicago, Ill.

**WHEN:** All ribbon cuttings start at 3:00 p.m. Corkery's event will be held on Thurs., November 10. Gunsaulus' will be held on Mon., November 14. Wadsworth will be held on Tues., November 29.

**TIME LAPSE VIDEO:** To view Part 1 of the Wadsworth Elementary School construction time-lapse video, visit <https://youtu.be/Nckr52yTdpG>.

Three more Space to Grow schoolyards are complete, and it's time to put these campuses on display and available to the communities that will use them. There will be a brief ceremony and remarks followed by schoolyard activities to celebrate the occasion. Space to Grow transforms Chicago schoolyards into community spaces for physical activity, outdoor learning, environmental literacy and engagement with art, while addressing neighborhood flooding issues. In addition to providing community members in low-income neighborhoods with safe outdoor spaces to play and stay active, Space to Grow schoolyards help CPS meet daily recess and physical education requirements for elementary schools.

A joint venture operated through the financial and technical support of the MWRD, the Chicago Department of Water Management, and CPS, Space to Grow is managed by the Healthy Schools Campaign and Openlands organizations. The partners have worked to design and install the new playgrounds utilizing green infrastructure. The projects will reduce flooding, reduce the load on the combined sewer system, and educate students and neighbors about green infrastructure techniques and purpose.

Space to Grow has already won a number of awards, including the 2016 National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies' first place Green Infrastructure award and the 2016 Best of Green School Award for Collaboration by the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) in collabo-



*Wadsworth Elementary School construction.*

ration with the Green Schools National Network. The partnership has also received the Chapter Mission Award from the USGBC Illinois Chapter, the Sustainability Award from the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management and a "New Champions" award from the National Physical Activity Plan Alliance. For more information about Space to Grow, visit [www.spacetogrowchicago.org](http://www.spacetogrowchicago.org) or [www.mwr.org](http://www.mwr.org). To view Part 1 of the Wadsworth Elementary School construction time-lapse video, visit <https://youtu.be/Nckr52yTdpG>.

### Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

*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.*