



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## MWRD's Cherry Creek flood control project in Flossmoor progressing



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Commissioner Kari K. Steele (third from right), toured the Cherry Creek East Branch flood control project with engineers from the MWRD and Flossmoor earlier this year.

Construction is progressing on a Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) project that will improve water conveyance in a local creek in Flossmoor and replace restrictive culverts to alleviate flooding for a local high school and neighboring residents. Crews have made significant headway on the \$3.3 million Cherry Creek East Branch flood control project that will reduce flooding. The project is slated for completion in 2018.

The project is located along Governors Highway, south of 183rd Street and north of Flossmoor Road. Construction plans include a new 940-foot flood relief channel west of Governors Highway on Homewood-Flossmoor High School property, increasing culvert capacity under Governors Highway, improving conveyance from the Homewood-Flossmoor High School pond with a new 48-inch culvert, and constructing flood shelf storage adjacent to Cherry Creek East Branch on property purchased from the Calvary Assembly of God Church. The MWRD is anticipating 16 structures and an additional six parcels will be removed from the regulatory flood plain, and flooding of portions of Governors Highway and Braemar Road will be alleviated.

"We are proud to partner with the Village of Flossmoor and



Gravel riffle stones pile up in front of Homewood-Flossmoor High School as a part of the Cherry Creek East Branch flood control project that includes the construction of an overflow channel. The stones provide instream habitat for aquatic organisms.

Homewood-Flossmoor High School to deliver this important infrastructure that will protect the high school and provide flood relief for 16 residential structures," said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. "Managing today's stormwater requires proficient civil engineering and also the vigilance of neighbors to ensure we take the best approach to address flooding."

The MWRD studied the Little Calumet River watershed and published a detailed watershed plan to identify flood-prone areas within south Cook County, including Cherry Creek. Under terms of an intergovernmental agreement between the MWRD, the Village of Flossmoor, and Homewood-Flossmoor School District 233, the MWRD is tasked with overseeing the construction and covering the cost of the project, while the village and the school district will take over long-term ownership and maintenance once construction is complete.

"This project will reduce flood elevations and remove homes from the flood plain, increase the values of neighborhood homes, and ease homeowners from the burden of flooding and costly flood insurance," said MWRD Commissioner Kari K. Steele, who toured the construction site with *(continued)*

## MWRD's Cherry Creek flood control project in Flossmoor *(continued)*

project managers. "In addition, we can protect a vibrant community of academic excellence at Homewood-Flossmoor High School that will provide an education on the importance of stormwater management."

Work on Homewood-Flossmoor High School property was completed this summer to minimize impacts to the high school. Construction is now progressing on creek restoration and landscaping work west of the Calvary Assembly of God Church. Once the project is completed, the contractor will continue to maintain native landscaping for an additional three years.

"The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's construction of the Cherry Creek East Branch flood control project is an important step forward in improving water drainage and flooding in the Village," said Flossmoor Mayor Paul Braun. "This infrastructure project will provide numerous property

owners with relief from flooding, which has been an ongoing goal of the Village for a long period of time. This project will also result in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood plain map change, which will remove several homes from the regulatory flood plain. The project is a cooperative effort with Homewood-Flossmoor High School District 233 and the Village of Flossmoor assuming ownership and sharing the cost of future maintenance for this flood control improvement. The residents of Flossmoor appreciate and thank the MWRD for investing in the safety of our community."

The Illinois State Water Survey has reviewed and approved a Conditional Letter of Map Revision for the improvements that will remove the properties from the regulatory flood plain. After additional review upon project completion, the map revisions will be sent to FEMA for additional review and processing before becoming official.

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### 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 used water treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.*