



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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MWRD work on Tinley Creek takes Crestwood residents and businesses out of harm's way



Before and after images of Tinley Creek illustrate the dramatic upgrades the MWRD provided to restore the streambank by improving conveyance and capacity and mitigating erosion, overgrowth and flooding.

Crestwood homes near Tinley Creek will be removed from the floodplain and protected from overbank flooding thanks to a project recently completed by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD).

The flood control and streambank stabilization project provides protection from the 100-year flood event for approximately 173 homes and businesses, and it will protect an existing pedestrian path and a commercial building from streambank erosion. The MWRD widened and reshaped approximately 2,300 linear feet of Tinley Creek from the Cal Sag Road/127th Street intersection southwest to Central Avenue in Crestwood. New native grasses, shrubs and trees were installed along the reach, as well as nine in-stream rock structures. Three new pedestrian bridges were installed spanning the creek.

“We are happy to provide relief, peace of mind and savings on insurance costs for those homeowners directly impacted by the former floodplain,” said MWRD Mariyana Spyropoulos. “We thank our partners with the village of Crest-

wood for their collaboration and bringing this needed work to our attention, and we look forward to many years of resiliency to come.”

Work completed in 2017 on the \$7.2 million project improved conveyance and capacity in the creek, but it was not until additional review that the lower flood profile was established. Following a lengthy appeal and public comment period through which the MWRD worked with the Illinois State Water Survey, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), revised flood mapping became effective on May 18.

As a result of the project, the flood profile of Tinley Creek downstream of the Elizabeth A. Conkey Forest Preserve to the intersection of 127th Street and Cal-Sag Road will be lowered, and the floodplain maps revised to reflect this improved condition.

“This is a great day for Crestwood homes and businesses living along Tinley Creek,” said Crestwood (*continue*)

MWRD work on Tinley Creek takes Crestwood out of harm's way *(continued)*

Mayor Lou Presta. "Not only are these properties protected from flooding and free of insurance costs, but now we have an improved stream to meander through our community with new bridges and landscaping providing a scenic benefit for neighbors to enjoy."

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) underwrites flood insurance coverage only in communities that adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations through an ordinance that meets or exceeds NFIP criteria. Floodplain management, according to FEMA "is a decision-making process that aims to achieve the wise use of the nation's floodplains."

"These improvements make Tinley Creek a desired community amenity for Crestwood residents and not a distraction to their quality of life," said MWRD Commissioner Kari K. Steele. "With Mother Nature as an unpredictable source of rainfall, we believe this investment is a major step in the right direction to keep basements dry and water flow confined to the creek."



A new pedestrian bridge extends across the restored Tinley Creek in Crestwood. The MWRD restored the waterway with in-stream rock vanes, which provide streambank protection and grade control.

For additional information about removing your property from the floodplain, please call Crestwood Village Hall at (708) 371-4800.

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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