



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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New cricket field in Skokie enhanced by MWRD EQ Compost



Skokie Park District President Susan Aberman takes a few swings while learning the rules of cricket after the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Cricketers can now grab their wickets, bats and balls and head out to the pitch at Skokie Sports Park, where a special sports field is now ready for match play, thanks in part to a special turf enhancer produced by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD).

The new Cricket Field was formally opened recently at Skokie Sports Park, 3459 Oakton St., just north of the MWRD's O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant. It was constructed using the MWRD's exceptional quality (EQ) Compost, a sustainable and environmentally beneficial product derived from the MWRD's water reclamation process. Last September, MWRD staff delivered 295 tons of the EQ Compost and shortly thereafter grass started growing on the MWRD-owned site that is leased to the Skokie Park District for a nominal fee.

"We are excited to join in this partnership with the Skokie Park District to grow healthy soil and turn an empty space into a field of play and gathering," said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. "This is a fitting example of resource recovery in which we are eliminating waste, promoting reuse opportunities, cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions and protecting our planet all while improving our water environment."



Skokie Park District President Susan Aberman helps United Cricket Tournament President Adil Azeem Khan cut the ribbon celebrating the opening of the new cricket field on August 19 at Skokie Sports Park in Skokie. Also present were Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen, U.S. Cricket Association Executive Director Akhtar Masood Chik Syed, Executive Director of the Skokie Park District John Ohrlund, Skokie Park District Commissioners Khem Khoen, Moe Yanes, Skokie Trustee Ralph Klein and Skokie Village Clerk Pramod C. Shah.

EQ Compost can be blended with topsoil and potting soil for establishing plants or used as a mulch around already established plants. EQ Compost supplies organic matter and improves the structure and porosity of soils. This allows plants to more effectively utilize nutrients.

The Skokie Park District initially worked with Old Orchard Junior High School to create a cricket pitch a few years ago, but the site was too small for that type of program. The Park District then approached the MWRD about using the property next to Sports Park.

"The Skokie Park District is pleased to open its first full sized cricket field at Sports Park," said John Ohrlund, executive director of the Skokie Park District. "Skokie area cricket enthusiasts have traveled to western suburbs for many years to enjoy their sport and now they can find a field close to home at Sports Park, which is on property leased from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. The synthetic cricket pitch and large field area should provide (*continued*)

New cricket field in Skokie enhanced by MWRD EQ Compost *(continued)*

many hours of healthy recreation, and the park district anticipates heavy use by a wide variety of cricket teams beginning this fall.”

Skokie Park District landscapers and turf specialists working with the MWRD and contractors from Carl Johanson & Son Construction and Perfect Turf spread the compost, then re-graded, over-seeded and irrigated the field. Grass was germinating in about two weeks and was ready to be mowed a few weeks later. When the grounds dried out after a wet spring, they constructed a cricket pitch and now have ample room for four soccer fields when cricket is not being played.

The EQ compost blends MWRD’s EQ biosolids with woodchips. The biosolids used locally in MWRD compost products can replace nonrenewable landscaping resources, reduce carbon emissions and hauling costs, and provide another way for the MWRD to sustain energy. The biosolids have been used to improve soil quality at popular destinations like Maggie Daley Park and the 606 Trail and on golf courses and athletic fields at both public parks and schools in the Chicago area for more than 20 years.

“The new cricket field at Skokie Sports Park is delightful,” said MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore. “It gives Skokie residents and cricket fans a new recreational option, and MWRD’s Exceptional Quality compost enriches the soil and makes for great turf. The Skokie Park District and the MWRD biosolids team can be proud of what they have created here.”

This is the second achievement in the past month to be celebrated between the MWRD, Village of Skokie and Skokie Park District. The partners recently completed a



A cricket field is now ready for action at Skokie Sports Park on land owned by the MWRD and leased to the Skokie Park District. The O’Brien Water Reclamation Plant can be seen to the south.

rain garden at Devonshire Park in Skokie and a naturalized detention area at the Skokie Police Station Headquarters to mitigate area flooding.

Cook County residents interested in sampling the EQ Compost can stop by six MWRD water reclamation plants (WRPs) on Wednesdays from 9 to noon to pick up a free 40-pound bag while supplies last.

- Calumet WRP, 400 E. 130th St., Chicago
- Egan WRP, 550 S. Meacham Rd., Schaumburg
- Hanover Park WRP, 1220 Sycamore Ave., Hanover Park
- Kirie WRP, 701 Oakton St., Des Plaines
- O’Brien WRP, 3500 Howard St., Skokie
- Stickney WRP, 6001 W. Pershing Rd., Cicero

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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