



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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For immediate release

October 12, 2018

## Flossmoor homes to be removed from flood plain after MWRD construction



*From L to R: Calvary Assembly of God Church Lead Pastor Rev. John Husbands, H-F High School Principal Dr. Jerry Lee Anderson, H-F High School District #233 Supt. Dr. Von Mansfield, Flossmoor Mayor Paul Braun, MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos, MWRD Commissioner Ken Dunkin and MWRD Commissioner Kari K. Steele officially unveil the completed Cherry Creek East Branch flood control project that will relieve neighbors from flooding and improve stormwater conveyance in the creek.*

Representatives from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), Village of Flossmoor, Homewood-Flossmoor (H-F) High School District #233 and Calvary Assembly of God Church held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 11 to celebrate the completion of the \$3.3 million Cherry Creek East Branch flood control project.

Located along Governors Highway south of 183rd Street and north of Flossmoor Road, the project included a new 940-foot flood relief channel west of Governors Highway on Homewood-Flossmoor High School property, increased culvert capacity under Governors Highway, improved conveyance from the H-F High School pond with a new 48-inch culvert, and construction of channel improvements on Cherry Creek East Branch on property purchased from the Calvary Assembly of God Church.

This project will result in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood plain map change effective



*Channel improvements on Cherry Creek East Branch include a new meandering alignment as well as pools, riffles, and in-stream structures west of Governors Highway.*

Oct. 26, as 16 homes and an additional six parcels are removed from the regulatory flood plain. Flooding of portions of Governors Highway and Braemar Road will also be alleviated.

“Managing stormwater requires proficient civil engineering and the vigilance of neighbors to ensure we take the best approach to address flooding,” said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. “We are proud to partner with the Village of Flossmoor and Homewood-Flossmoor High School to deliver this important infrastructure that will protect the high school and provide flood relief for 16 residential structures.”

“The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District’s construction of the Cherry Creek East Branch flood control project was an important step forward in improving water drainage and flooding in the Village,” said Flossmoor Mayor Paul Braun. “This infrastructure project has provided numerous property owners with relief from flooding, which has been an ongoing goal of the Village for a long period of time. This project also resulted in a Federal Emergency Management Agency flood (continued)

## Flossmoor homes to be removed from flood plain, *cont.*



*Participants in the ribbon cutting ceremony pause in front of the Cherry Creek East Branch channel. Pictured From L to R: MWRD Commissioner Kari K. Steele, Flossmoor Mayor Paul Braun, MWRD Commissioner Ken Dunkin, H-F High School Principal Dr. Jerry Lee Anderson, MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos, H-F High School District #233 Supt. Dr. Von Mansfield, and Calvary Assembly of God Church Lead Pastor Rev. John Husbands.*

plain map change, which removed several homes from the regulatory flood plain. The project was a cooperative effort with H-F High School District #233, and the Village of Flossmoor will be 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 MWRD studied the Little Calumet River watershed and published a detailed watershed plan to identify flood-prone areas within southern Cook County, including Cherry Creek. Under terms of an intergovernmental



*The flood control project at Cherry Creek will improve channel conveyance and protect homes and H-F High School (in the background) from flooding.*

agreement between the MWRD, the Village of Flossmoor, and H-F School District #233, the MWRD was tasked with overseeing the construction and covering the cost of the project.

“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 project managers last year. “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.”

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