

See where your water goes

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) has multiple facilities open for tours, including the largest wastewater treatment plant in the world (Stickney Water Reclamation Plant) and the lowest structure in Cook County (Mainstream Pumping Station, 350 feet below ground).

Facility tours are offered for groups of up to 25. Tours may begin between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. and are available Monday through Friday, scheduled on an as-needed basis. Please allow approximately two hours. All tours must be scheduled at least one month in advance and are open to adults of all ages and students in 7th grade or higher.

Can't come to us? We'll come to you! We are available to participate in community events and to give presentations at schools, neighborhood organizations and government meetings. We look forward to showing you how we improve water quality and prevent flooding.

Contact the MWRD Office of Public Affairs to schedule a tour or presentation. Tours can also be requested on our website, mwrdd.org.

email: tours@mwrdd.org

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Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

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MWRD Tours & Presentations



The Stickney WRP is the largest wastewater treatment facility in the world, capable of cleaning 1.4 billion gallons of water per day. Located on 570 acres of land in Cicero, it is one of seven WRPs open for tours. Nearly 2,000 visitors toured MWRD facilities in 2014.



MWRD Associate Civil Engineer Amjad Kawash explains the wastewater treatment process to students from Unity Junior High School at the Stickney WRP in November 2013.

Tours

Water Reclamation Plants

Get a fascinating behind-the-scenes view of wastewater treatment and resource recovery processes at one of our award-winning water reclamation plants (WRPs). See how sewage is converted into clean water and other valuable resources.

Tours are available at all seven WRPs:

Calumet WRP, Chicago, IL

Stickney WRP, Cicero, IL

Terrence J. O'Brien WRP, Skokie, IL

John E. Egan WRP, Schaumburg, IL

James C. Kirie WRP, Des Plaines, IL

Hanover Park WRP, Hanover Park, IL

Lemont WRP, Lemont, IL

Mainstream Pumping Station

Take an elevator down 350 feet to the largest pumping station in the world and the lowest structure in Cook County: our Mainstream Pumping Station in Hodgkins. Learn how the MWRD leads the world with the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP), also known as the "Deep Tunnel," and how it has improved water quality in our region.

Lockport Powerhouse

Completed in 1907 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Lockport Powerhouse and Controlling Works in Lockport is used to control levels in the Chicago Area Waterway System and to generate electricity. Learn how the facility generates more than \$1 million worth of hydroelectricity every year and how the waterway system helps prevent flooding.

Presentations

MWRD staff are available to discuss our areas of expertise and responsibility to all age groups. Our speakers can present information about TARP, wastewater treatment and resource recovery processes, how sewers work, green infrastructure and stormwater management. We can also provide guidance on what you can do to improve water quality and prevent flooding.