



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

July 30, 2014

CONTACTS:

Molly Poppe

Department of Streets and Sanitation

312-744-2878

[Molly.poppe@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Molly.poppe@cityofchicago.org)

Allison Fore

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

312.751.6633

[Allison.fore@mwrld.org](mailto:Allison.fore@mwrld.org)

**CITY OF CHICAGO TO PROVIDE WOOD CHIPS TO METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION  
DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO FOR REUSE IN CHICAGO COMMUNITIES**

*Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation to Deliver 3,000 Truckloads of Wood Chips  
to Be Used in the MWRD's Biosolids Composting Program*

Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced today an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) and the City of Chicago for the recycling of tree debris to be used as a bulking agent to compost biosolids generated by wastewater processing. Wood chips created from Chicago tree debris will be mixed with the biosolids and then composted into an organic material for use as a substitute for fertilizer and compost. This material will be used for maintaining or establishing turf grass in parks, athletic fields and public access areas throughout Cook County.

“This partnership with MWRD allows the City to recycle the tree debris created by the regular operations of the Bureau of Forestry for the benefit of our neighborhoods and our environment,” said Mayor Emanuel. “This innovative approach for recycling wood chips is one of the many steps we’re taking to create a more sustainable Chicago.”

As part of regular Forestry operations of tree trimming and tree removal, the Department of Streets and Sanitation Bureau of Forestry produces a large and continuous supply of wood chips. These wood chips will be supplied to the MWRD’s biosolids program at the Calumet Solids Management Area regularly with delivery typically constituting two truckloads. The City will provide the MWRD with approximately 3,000 truckloads of wood chips over the next three years. This Agreement

allows the City to efficiently and effectively recycle wood chips for reuse in Chicago and the surrounding areas.

“The MWRD is working toward a zero waste Chicago,” said MWRD President Kathleen Therese Meany. “This is the type of partnership that will make zero waste a reality. We look forward to expanding our opportunities to work with the City in improving our environment.”

Earlier this summer, Mayor Emanuel, the Chicago Park District and Chicago Sculpture International announced the Chicago Tree Project, which will commission local artists to turn dead or dying trees that are infested with Emerald Ash Borer or other bugs and diseases into living public art. The Chicago Tree Project uses art as vehicle for community engagement throughout Chicago parks and creates unique opportunities for citizens to celebrate the beauty of nature.

Established in 1889, the MWRD ([www.mwrd.org](http://www.mwrd.org)) is an award-winning, special purpose unit of local government responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois. Biosolids are an environmentally-friendly alternative to chemical fertilizer and can be used in landscaping, for establishing and maintaining turf at parks and athletic fields, and for growing agricultural crops. The MWRD produces 165,000 tons of biosolids for reuse annually.

###