

Protecting Our Water Environment



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

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November 1, 2023

Dear Addison Creek Residents,

Subject: Upcoming Addison Creek Channel Improvements Project

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is pleased to inform you of an important project that will soon be underway in your community. The Addison Creek Channel Improvements project will stabilize over 3 miles of channel banks, improve conveyance, and is part of the MWRD's ongoing efforts to reduce flooding throughout Cook County. Judlau Contracting, Inc. (Judlau) has entered into a contract with MWRD to perform the improvements described below.

Project Overview:

The Addison Creek Channel Improvements project aims to reduce overbank flooding to communities along Addison Creek, including Northlake, Stone Park, Melrose Park, Bellwood, Westchester, and Broadview. In conjunction with the Addison Creek Reservoir, the project is designed to reduce flooding for approximately 2,200 properties along Addison Creek. The project will feature a blend of natural design elements and structural improvements to improve conveyance of floodwaters. Enclosed with this letter is a project fact sheet that will provide additional information about this important flood control project.

Project Timeline:

The project is scheduled to commence in November 2023, and we anticipate completion of the entire project by August 2026. The project has been divided into 9 reaches. The work in the reach closest to your property is reach 9, which is on Addison Creek between 19th Street and Cermak Road. The vegetation clearing is currently scheduled to commence in November 2023, and we anticipate vegetation clearing to be completed by January 2024. The construction of the channel improvements is currently scheduled to commence in December 2023, and we anticipate the channel improvements to be finished by May 2024. The channel improvement work in reach 9 will include gabion mattresses and rip rap.

Potential Impact:

During the construction period, residents may experience inconveniences such as noise, increased construction traffic, and temporary detours. We assure you that every effort will be made to keep these inconveniences to a minimum. We kindly request your cooperation and understanding during this time as these improvements will benefit the entire community.

Stay Informed:

To keep residents informed and updated throughout the project, we have established a dedicated website for the project. Regular updates, including any significant developments or changes to the project schedule, will be shared through the project website, which can be found at <https://judlau-addisoncreek.com>. For more information about the MWRD, please visit our general website at <https://mwrld.org>.

Your Feedback:

We value your input and encourage you to share any concerns, questions, or suggestions related to the construction of the Addison Creek Channel Improvements project. Please feel free to submit all project questions to AddisonCreek@ohla.com and we will be happy to assist you. We thank you in advance for your understanding and support as we work to make our community a better place to live. Together, we can ensure that these improvements alleviate flooding and provide aesthetic enhancements to the community for all to enjoy.

Very truly yours,



Catherine A. O'Connor
Director of Engineering

KMF:JK:JMK:MC:BO
Enclosure



Addison Creek Reservoir and Channel Improvements

Project Overview

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (MWRD's) Addison Creek Reservoir and Channel Improvements will provide flood relief in Chicago's western suburbs. These critical stormwater management projects will reduce flooding to approximately 2,200 properties along Addison Creek.

The Addison Creek Reservoir is located at 2795 Washington Blvd. in Bellwood, Illinois. The MWRD constructed a 600-acre-foot reservoir, which includes a control structure, inlet structure, spillway and pumping station.

The Addison Creek Channel Improvements will be constructed through Northlake, Stone Park, Melrose Park, Bellwood, Westchester and Broadview. The channel improvements project will include a mix of natural design, gabion baskets, soldier pile walls, concrete, riprap, articulated concrete blocks, vegetation clearing and removal of three bridges.

Background

In 2011, the MWRD completed the Lower Des Plaines River Detailed Watershed Plan (DWP) to identify stormwater related problems and develop alternative solutions to regional flooding issues. Several alternatives were developed for the Addison Creek subwatershed. The Addison Creek Reservoir and Channel Improvements were the most beneficial and cost-effective solutions to address overbank flooding along Addison Creek.

Intergovernmental Collaboration

Partners:

Addison Creek Reservoir

- The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD)
- Village of Bellwood
- U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Cook County

Addison Creek Channel Improvements

- MWRD
- City of Northlake
- Village of Bellwood
- Village of Broadview
- Village of Melrose Park
- Village of Stone Park
- Village of Westchester
- Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Several entities were involved during the planning of the project. The MWRD worked closely on the design of the reservoir and channel improvements with Northlake, Melrose Park, Stone Park, Bellwood, Westchester, Broadview, the Illinois Department of Transportation, various railroads and several utility companies. The MWRD was required to obtain permits and approvals from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Office of Water Resources, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Soil and Water Con-



The Addison Creek Reservoir provides 195 million gallons of storage capacity and connects with the Addison Creek Channel (at bottom). Photo taken October 2022.

servation District and Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. The MWRD and Bellwood have an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for the construction and perpetual maintenance of the Addison Creek Reservoir. The IGA stipulates that the MWRD was to design and construct the reservoir, and the Village of Bellwood and MWRD will share the maintenance responsibilities of the reservoir.

The MWRD has also entered into IGAs for the construction and perpetual maintenance for the Addison Creek Channel Improvements. The IGAs stipulate that MWRD will design and construct the channel improvements, and the six benefiting communities will be responsible for the long-term maintenance of the channel improvements within their communities.

Benefits

Of the 2,200 properties that will benefit from reduced overbank flooding, it is estimated that 1,700 properties will be removed from the floodplain, and the projects will provide approximately \$116 million in flood benefits. When the channel improvements project is completed, the MWRD will submit a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Upon approval of the LOMR, some property owners may be eligible to obtain lower cost premiums on their annual flood insurance policies.

Benefiting Communities

- Northlake
- Stone Park
- Melrose Park
- Bellwood
- Westchester
- Broadview

Benefits

- Reduces flooding for approximately 2,200 properties
- Removes approximately 1,700 properties from floodplain
- Provides \$116 million in flood benefits
- Adds more than 195 million gallons of reservoir storage

Completion Dates

- Addison Creek Reservoir 2023
- Addison Creek Channel Improvements 2026

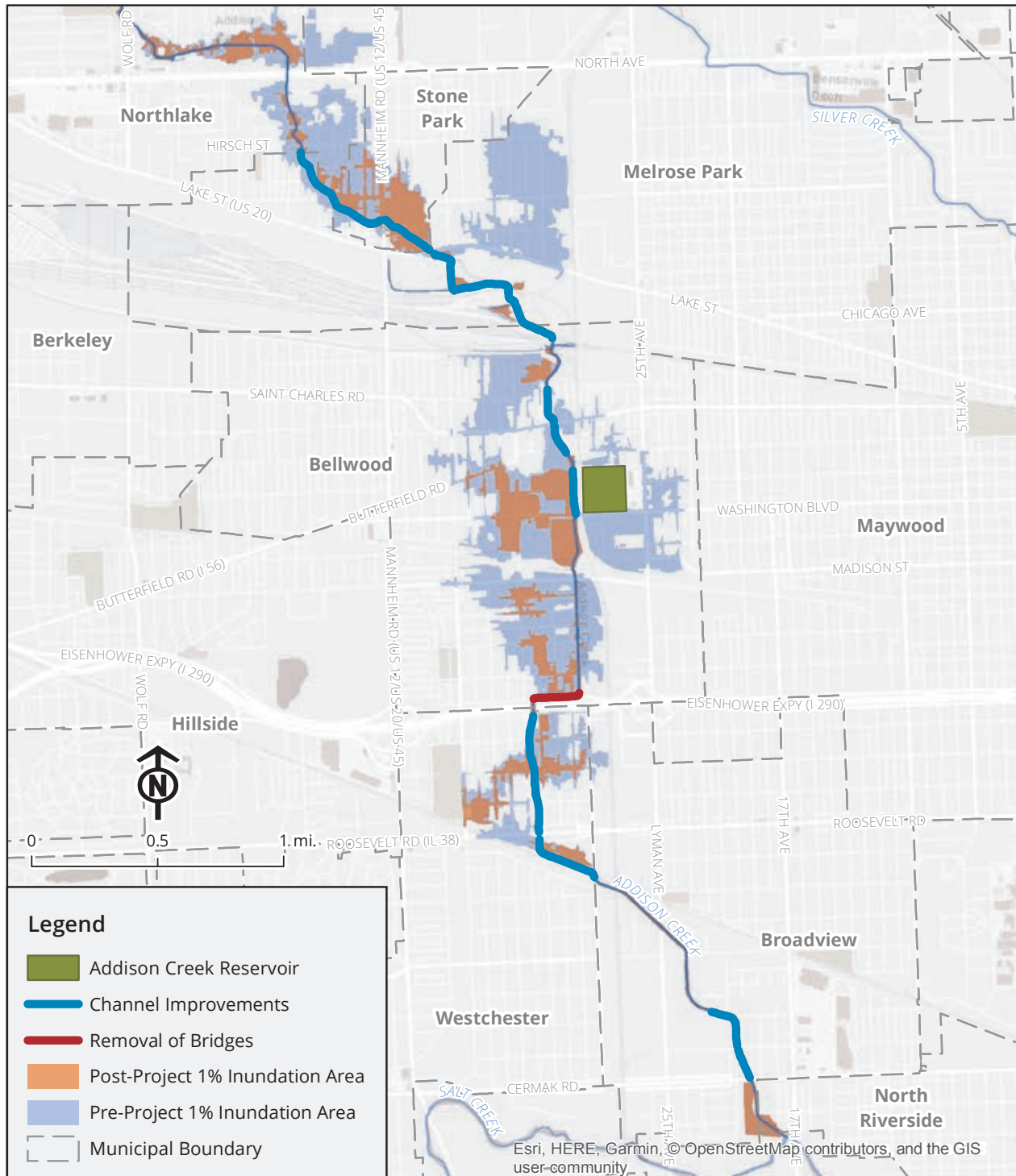
Addison Creek Reservoir and Channel Improvements, *cont.*

Construction and Status

Construction of the Addison Creek Reservoir started in 2019 and was completed in 2023. The construction for the Addison Creek Channel improvements began in summer of 2023, with anticipated completion in summer 2026. Flood reduction benefits will be fully achieved when both projects are completed. The MWRD was able to advance these projects thanks to critical funding from several partners. The reservoir received

\$5 million in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development via Cook County. The channel improvements received a \$9.9 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program through the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security.

Addison Creek Reservoir and Channel Improvements Map



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For more information, please contact the MWRD at public.affairs@mwr.org or call (312) 751-6633.