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GABRIEL

Environmental Services

OCTOBER 2017

MWRD's Flooding Mitigation Plan Reaches Another Milestone

Since 1975, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) has been constructing the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) system to reduce flooding and sewage overflow in the Chicagoland area.

TARP's main goals are to protect Lake Michigan from raw sewage pollution; improve water quality of area rivers and streams; and provide an outlet for flood waters to reduce street and basement sewage backup flooding.

The first phase of TARP was the completion of the Deep Tunnel, which includes 4 distinct tunnel systems built from 1975 through 2006. The total system capacity is 109.4 miles of deep, large diameter, rock tunnels providing 2.3 billion gallons of storage. The second TARP phase is the completion of several reservoirs to hold stormwater during heavy rainfall events.

This November, MWRD's McCook Reservoir Stage 1 will officially be put into service as an overflow reservoir with a capacity of 3.5 billion gallons. MWRD will be able to control the release of water from this reservoir to a nearby treatment plant, after the rain event ends and area waterways have returned to manageable levels.

This McCook Reservoir joins the 350 million gallon Majewski Reservoir and the 7.9 billion gallon Thornton Composite Reservoir as overflow basins. Stage 2 of the McCook project is expected to be completed in 2029 and provide an additional 6.5 billion gallons of overflow storage.

Gabriel recently toured the McCook Reservoir with MWRD to learn more about the project:

Recipe Corner



Creme de Menthe Brownies

Ingredients:

Bottom:

- 1 c. sugar
- 1/2 c. chopped nuts
- 1/2 c. margarine
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 c. flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 16 oz can Hershey's syrup

Middle:

- 2 c. confectioner's sugar
- 1/2 c. margarine
- 3-4 Tbsp. Creme de Menthe

Top:

- 1.5 c. chocolate chips
- 6 Tbsp margarine

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350*
2. Mix together all of the bottom ingredients. Bake in greased jellyroll pan for 25-30 minutes. Cool completely.
3. Whip together all of the middle ingredients and spread on cooled brownies. Refrigerate until set.
4. Melt the top ingredients and spread on top of brownies. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

*1st Place - Dessert Contest
Nell Rhoades*

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Stage 1 of the McCook Reservoir. The white masts in the center are 150 feet high and will be used to anchor aerators to reduce odor.



Stage 1 of the McCook Reservoir. The blocks on the floor of the reservoir will help reduce erosion from the inflow of stormwater.



Martha's Vineyard, MA



Capetown, South Africa



Amran City, Yemen



Bruges, Belgium

See more on the [Birdhouse Blog](#)



Stage 2 of the McCook Reservoir. Mining of the dolomite limestone is still in



Stage 2 of the McCook Reservoir. Mining equipment ready for action.

Learn more about the TARP system on [MWRD's website](#).



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