



**Metropolitan Water
Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago**

Blue to Green Initiative:

Advancing Equity, Protecting Open Space, and
Generating Revenue

MWRD Commissioner Cameron Davis



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- **MWRD & Stormwater Management**
- **Blue to Green (B2G)**
- **Next Steps**
- **Questions**





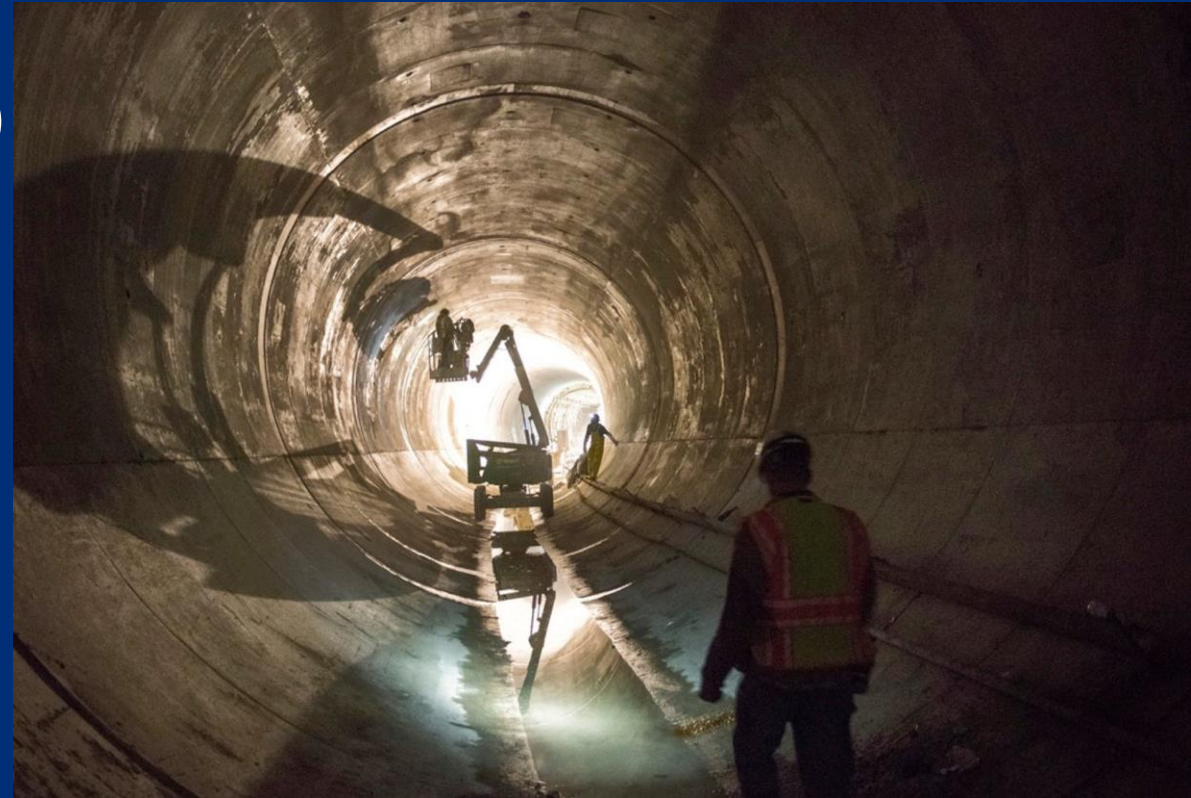
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MWRD & Stormwater Management



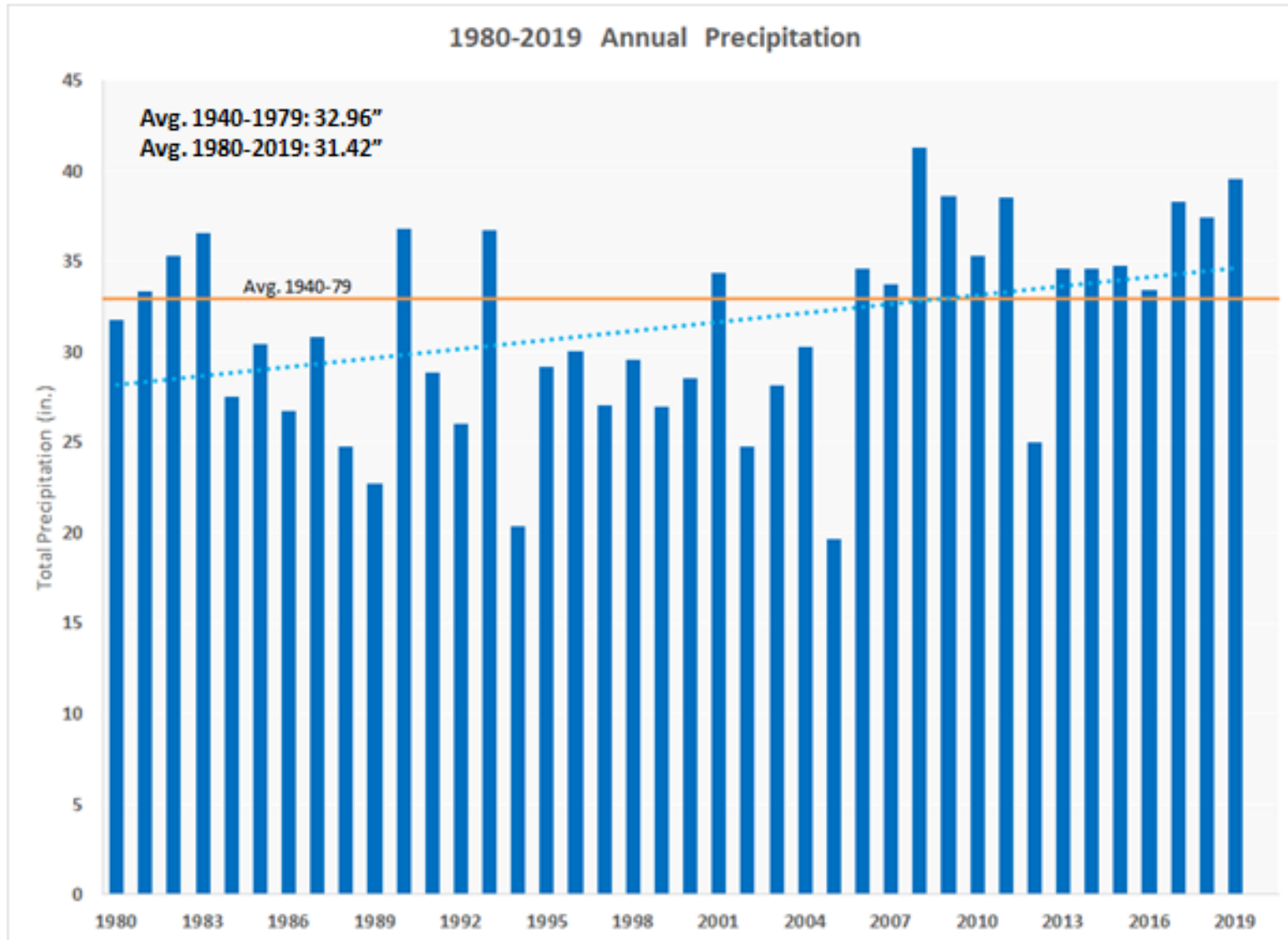
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- **TARP (Deep Tunnel System)**
- **2004 State Legislation**
 - Watershed Plans and Planning Councils
 - Stormwater Partnership Program
 - Stormwater Master Planning
 - Small Streams Maintenance Program
 - Flood-prone Property Acquisition
 - Green Infrastructure/Space to Grow
- **Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO)**





Cook County Precipitation

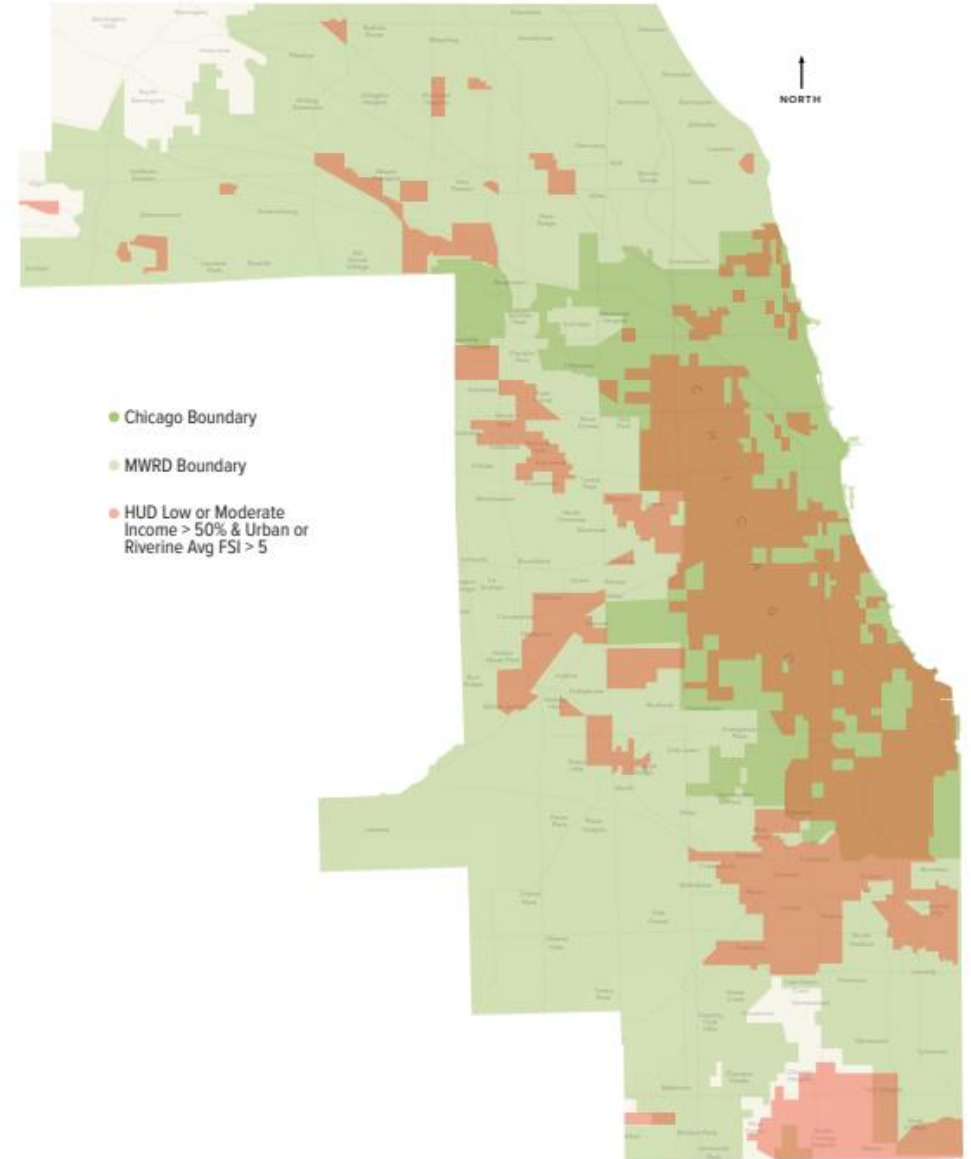




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- **WMO Section 208 Pilot Study**
 - Stormwater detention and volume control trading program
 - Watershed release rate impacts on disproportionately impacted communities
- **Stormwater Credit Trading Examples**
 - Washington D.C.
 - Grand Rapids, MI
- **Blue to Green could be the next evolution of stormwater trading at MWRD and help the agency lead the nation in stormwater management innovation**

Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIAs) in Cook County





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Blue to Green (B2G) Overview



**PROPOSED
DEVELOPMENT**

- 1.** Development proposed without adequate stormwater detention space on property.
- 2.** To obtain Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO Permit) developer must buy stormwater credits.
- 3.** MWRD uses its property selling stormwater credits.

MWRD PROPERTY

WATERWAY



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Why is B2G needed?

- **MWRD is the second largest public landowner in Cook County, yet many current leases are not consistent with the MWRD's mission to manage stormwater, for example impermeable parking lot leases**
 - **A significant portion of MWRD leases are in Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIAs)**
 - **While many leases do not conform with the MWRD's mission, the leases generate revenue that is critical to the agency**
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What are B2G benefits?

- **Consistency between the MWRD actions and its mission**
 - **More shoreline area as green space, not grey space**
 - **Revenue from compatible, not incompatible, uses**
- **Assistance to DIAs via directed revenue stream and increased green space with co-benefits**





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Next Steps



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- **Gather feedback**
 - **Amend WMO Section 208 Pilot**
 - **The pilot is scheduled to be completed in 2025, it would be beneficial to guide the process to drive specific outcomes.**
 - **Build demand**
 - **Ultimately, several ordinances, plans, and laws (WMO, CCSMP, and the MWRD Act) will need to be amended in order to fully implement a credit trading system, including B2G.**
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Questions?

**Don't be a stranger! Please
contact us with any
questions or feedback.**

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