

Calendar of Events

April 22, 2026

Sustainability Committee Webinar: Space to Grow

Zoom

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM CST

Fay Costa,

CostaF@mwrdd.org

Sustainability Committee Webinar: MWRD Space to Grow Program - Greening Chicago Schoolyards

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Noon to 12:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

Since 2014, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) has partnered with Chicago Public Schools (CPS), the Chicago Department of Water Management (CDWM), Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC) and Openlands to transform CPS schoolyards into dynamic places to learn and play, while also educating them on the importance of green infrastructure to manage stormwater. This program, known as Space to Grow, gives students and their neighbors living in low-income communities improved outdoor spaces to play. These permeable surface areas are equipped with new playgrounds, turf fields, rain gardens and other features designed to collect more rainfall and keep it out of the sewers. The permeable surfaces will reduce flooding, reduce the load on the combined sewer system, and encourage the use of green infrastructure techniques that soak up more stormwater by using natural solutions.

Speaker: Ky Ochsner, MWRD, Assistant Civil Engineer

Hosted by IWEA's Sustainability Committee

Members \$10 | Nonmembers \$20

.5 PDH/TCH

Zoom webinar link will be forwarded by separate email the morning of April 22.

May 2, 2026

RESCHEDULED: IWEA/IWWSG Kayaking Social

Aurora Athletic Club

550 Clearwater Drive

North Aurora, IL 60542

09:30 AM - 02:00 PM CST

Tom Parkinson,

tparkinson@eeiweb.com

Join IWEA and Industrial Water, Waste, & Sewage Group (IWWSG) for a downriver social boating excursion on the Fox River! Our journey starts in Batavia, passes through Glenwood Park Forest Preserve, and stops for lunch near the dam in North Aurora.

General info:

The shuttle will depart from Aurora Athletic Club (550 Clearwater Drive) promptly at 10 a.m.

Check in and take shuttle transportation upriver. Paddle downriver and end back at Aurora Athletic Club.

Duration

Total: 3 - 4 hours

Paddling: 2 - 3 hours

Rental from Howling Wolfe includes: boat (single/tandem kayak or canoe), paddle, personal flotation device, and shuttle transportation.

This is a self-guided trip.

The entire trip is downstream. The river current is slow to moderate depending on weather and river stage. Map available at: <https://howlingwolfe.com/maps/>

Lunch:

The group will stop at the North Aurora Dam for lunch. Buy lunch at one of the following restaurants or bring your own:

Juquilita Tacos

Bruno's Cheesesteaks

Harner's Bakery

Requirements:

All attendees must watch safety videos (about 16 minutes altogether), complete a short online quiz and submit certificate.

No alcohol.

All attendees must wear personal flotation device (provided with rental).

Guests are permitted for this event. All attendees must be 18+ or with a parent or guardian.

Cost is \$69 per person to rent. You may alternately bring your own boat and shuttle it yourself. Stage your boat at 1644 S River St, Batavia, IL 60510, prior to 9:40 a.m. Those bringing their own boat still must follow all safety rules.

Registration deadline: April 22 | Cancellation deadline: April 28 (no refunds after the cancellation deadline)

Hosted by IWEA's Students and Young Professionals and Sustainability Committees

May 3, 2026
- May 9, 2026

Chicago Water Week
12:00 AM - 11:45 PM CST
Chicago Water Week
May 3 - 9, 2026

Experience a Week of Water Innovation, Collaboration, and Celebration!

Current's 6th Annual Chicago Water Week returns May 3-9, 2026 with dozens of water-focused events.

Partnering organizations will independently host a variety of events throughout the week, from indoor and outdoor experiences to virtual and in-person gatherings.

Participate in this event to:

Explore Water's Impact: Learn about the essential role water plays in our environment, communities, and economy.

Engage with Water Stewards: Hear from water leaders, policymakers, innovators, researchers, and advocates on how our region is addressing pressing today's most pressing water challenges.

Build Connections: Network with industry, business, regulatory, and community professionals who are passionate about water innovation and advocacy.

May 7, 2026

Research and Innovation Committee Webinar: Acceleration of Midwest Reuse Opportunities

Zoom

12:00 PM - 01:00 PM CST

Arun Mande,
mandeas@cdmsmith.com

*Research and Innovation Committee Webinar:
Acceleration of Midwest Reuse Opportunities Driven by Economic Development
Thursday, May 7, 2026
Noon to 1 p.m.
Zoom Webinar*

This event is affiliated with Chicago Water Week, presented by Current.

Water reuse is accelerating across the Midwest, driven by economic development, industrial growth, population shifts, and water scarcity. Surging data center construction is reshaping regional water demands and highlighting the need for innovative water management strategies. Learning objectives for this presentation include key drivers for reuse and emphasizing the impact of evolving water efficiency trends from hyperscale data centers on planning and operations.

Central Ohio case studies illustrate market analysis approaches to identifying customers and determining water demand and quality needs. Proximity to existing sources, water quality, and opportunities for future potable reuse are critical planning factors. The session will help utility leaders in Indiana recognize that effective planning is possible amid regulatory uncertainty. By collaborating with regulatory agencies and sharing lessons learned from other states, utilities can anticipate challenges and shape solutions.

Emerging challenges include water quality criteria gaps, total dissolved solids (TDS) management, regulatory considerations, and opportunities for municipal and industrial collaboration. This discussion highlights the value of stakeholder engagement and regulatory awareness in developing resilient, future-ready water strategies that support compliance and innovation.

Speaker: John Sheets, PhD, PE

John Sheets, PhD, PE, is CDM Smith's Midwest Water Reuse Discipline Leader, focused on supporting utilities in water supply planning, water reclamation and reuse system design. He has over 14 years of experience in the water and wastewater sector, serving as project technical leader on strategic projects including water reuse planning, drinking water and water reclamation facility expansions, and emerging contaminant evaluations throughout the Midwest Region. He serves as the Chair of the Potable Committee for WaterReuse Ohio's state section.

Hosted by IWEA's Research and Innovation Committee

Free of charge to all!

1 PDH/TCH

Zoom webinar link will be forwarded by separate email the morning of May 7.

May 11, 2026
- May 14, 2026

WEF: Residuals, Biosolids and Treatment Technology Conference
Kansas City Convention Center
08:00 AM - 08:00 PM CST
Residuals, Biosolids and Treatment Technology Conference
May 11 - 14, 2026
Kansas City Convention Center (Kansas City, MO)

Hosted by the Water Environment Federation
For more information and to register, click
here: <https://www.wef.org/events--education/conferences/RBITT/>

May 25, 2026

Memorial Day
IWEA
12:00 AM - 11:45 PM CST

June 8, 2026
- June 10, 2026

WEF: Industrial Water Solutions 2026
McCormick Place
08:00 AM - 08:00 PM CST
Industrial Water Solutions 2026
June 8 - 10, 2026
McCormick Place (Chicago, Illinois)

Hosted by the Water Environment Federation
For more information and to register, click
here: <https://www.wef.org/events--education/conferences/iwsconference2026/>

June 9, 2026

23rd Annual IWEA Golf Outing
Silver Lake Country Club
14700 S 82nd Ave
Orland Park, IL 60462
09:00 AM - 04:00 PM CST
Doug Armstrong,
darmstrong@addison-il.org

The 23rd Annual IWEA Golf Outing will be on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park. This event is the largest fundraiser of the year for the IWEA Scholarship and Charitable Giving Fund.

This is an excellent opportunity for members to get together and for businesses to market their company through hole sponsorship, interact with other professionals and meet potential clients.

Learn more about IWEA Scholarship Programs [here](#).

June 30, 2026

Sustainability Committee Webinar: Envision Case Studies and New Tools

Zoom

12:00 PM - 01:00 PM CST

Chris DeSilva,
cdesilva@fehrgraham.com

Sustainability Committee Webinar: Envision Case Studies and New Tools

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Noon to 1 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

A brief overview of ISI and the Envision Sustainable Infrastructure Framework will be covered and then several project case studies of verified projects that illustrate how Envision supports decision-making across the project lifecycle and helps project teams evaluate and improve environmental, social, and economic outcomes will be presented. The presentation will also highlight new tools and resources available to those using Envision and interested in sustainable infrastructure.

Speaker: Jennifer Ninete, Director of Research and Engagement, ISI

Hosted by IWEA's Sustainability Committee

Members \$20 | Non-members \$30

1 PDH/TCH

Zoom webinar link will be forwarded by separate email the morning of June 30.

July 4, 2026

4th of July

IWEA

12:00 AM - 11:45 PM CST

July 8, 2026

- July 11, 2026

WEF: Collection Systems and Stormwater Conference

Oregon Convention Center

08:00 AM - 08:00 PM CST

WEF: Collection Systems and Stormwater Conference

July 8 - 11, 2026

Oregon Convention Center (Portland, OR)

The Collection Systems & Stormwater Conference brings together the people responsible for keeping water moving, safely and sustainably, through our communities. From collection system operators and engineers to stormwater managers, regulators, and solution providers, this event is where the practical realities of wet weather, aging infrastructure, and climate-driven risk meet real-world solutions.

Hosted by the Water Environment Federation

For more information and to register, click

here: <https://www.wef.org/events--education/conferences/collectionsstormwater2026/>

September 7, 2026

Labor Day

IWEA

12:00 AM - 11:45 PM CST

September 26, 2026
- September 30, 2026

WEFTEC 2026

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center

08:00 AM - 08:00 PM CST

WEFTEC 2026

September 26 - 30, 2026

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (New Orleans, LA)

WEFTEC, the Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference, is the largest annual water quality exhibition in North America and offers water quality professionals the best water quality education and training available.

WEFTEC is more than just a conference—it's an immersive experience that empowers attendees to positively impact the future of water quality and environmental sustainability.

Join us to explore cutting-edge solutions, connect with sector leaders, and drive sustainable change. With expert insights, unparalleled networking opportunities, and groundbreaking innovations, WEFTEC empowers you to tackle today's challenges and shape the future of water and the environment.

Hosted by the Water Environment Federation

For more information and to register, click here: <https://www.weftec.org/>

October 12, 2026

Columbus Day

IWEA

12:00 AM - 11:45 PM CST

November 11, 2026

Veteran's Day

IWEA

12:00 AM - 11:45 PM CST

November 26, 2026

Thanksgiving

IWEA

12:00 AM - 11:45 PM CST

December 25, 2026

Christmas

IWEA

12:00 AM - 11:45 PM CST

Widely celebrated around the world...