

# SEND DIRTY WATER TO BE CLEANED

The MWRD is the wastewater treatment and stormwater management superhero (agency) for the City of Chicago and 128 suburban communities throughout Cook County. The MWRD owns and operates seven water reclamation plants that treat (clean) wastewater from homes and businesses throughout our 882.1-square-mile service area, as well as stormwater from combined sewer communities. We work every day to reduce flooding and transform wastewater into valuable resources like clean water, phosphorus, biosolids and natural gas.

Water from your drains and faucets, as well as water after a storm, goes into the sewer system. This wastewater and stormwater drain through local municipal sewers and down into our interceptors before flowing to water reclamation plants. The MWRD cleans the water and recovers resources using a combination of physical, biological, and sometimes chemical treatment processes.

The MWRD prides itself on protecting the waterways and improving the quality of water in its service area.

This worksheet is included the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission's Clean Water University curriculum courtesy of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. To learn more about the MWMC's treatment processes, visit [mwmcpartners.org](http://mwmcpartners.org).

CONGRATULATIONS!

YOU MADE IT TO THE LOCAL WATERWAYS!



CLEAN ME UP AND GET ME TO THE LOCAL WATERWAYS!



## HI, MY NAME IS GINELLA.

As a microbiologist at the MWRD, I monitor and research water quality to support wastewater treatment operations and protect public health. Our wastewater is mostly cleaned by good microbes (tiny microscopic "bugs") who like to eat the organic waste (poop!) from our sewage.

I monitor the treatment process with microscopes and other laboratory instruments that help me view the microbes up close. If I find the cleaned water still contains harmful bacteria, I identify the adjustments needed to improve the wastewater treatment process.



**Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago**

