# Chicago kicks off St Patrick's Day celebrations with iconic river dyeing



Chicago welcomed the early onset of St Patrick's Day celebrations on Saturday, 15 March, with the annual tradition of dyeing its river bright green. The festivities commenced ahead of the official holiday, which will be observed on Monday, 17 March.

The river dyeing took place along a stretch of the Chicago River between Columbus Drive and Orleans Street, creating a vibrant scene that attracts many locals and visitors alike. Following the dyeing, the St. Patrick's Day Parade proceeded in downtown Chicago, further enriching the festive atmosphere within the city.

This iconic event dates back to 1962 when it was first initiated by the Plumbers Local Union. The original purpose for using the green dye was to assist in tracing sewage in the water and detecting leaks in the city's infrastructure. Over the years, this practical application has evolved into a symbol of celebration, marking the cultural significance of St Patrick’s Day within the city.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/watch-live-follow-along-chicago-river-dyeing-turns-waters-green-for-st-patricks-day/3698550/> - This URL supports the claim that the Chicago River dyeing is an annual tradition that marks the beginning of St. Patrick's Day celebrations in the city. It also provides details on how to watch the event live.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZ200NWQ6Gc> - This YouTube video shows the Chicago River being dyed green for St. Patrick's Day, visually corroborating the event's occurrence and festive atmosphere.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/chicago-river-dyed-green-st-patricks-day-b2331119.html> - This article from The Independent explains the history and cultural significance of the Chicago River dyeing, including its origins with the Plumbers Local Union.
* <https://www.choosechicago.com/events/st-patricks-day-parade/> - This URL provides information on the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Chicago, which follows the river dyeing, highlighting the city's festive activities.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_River#Dyeing> - This Wikipedia entry details the history and purpose of dyeing the Chicago River green, including its evolution from a practical use to a celebratory tradition.