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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Ribbon cutting and tour — MSD Logan Street CSO Basin

MSD will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Logan Street Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Basin on Tuesday, December 19 at 2 PM at the basin site — 935 Logan Street.

The Logan Street CSO Basin will capture 11 combined sewer overflow points that discharge 15,400,000 gallons of a mixture of sewage and rainwater in a typical rainfall year into the South Fork of Beargrass Creek. The basin will allow capture of 98 percent of these overflows for a typical design year of rainfall resulting in a safer, cleaner area and South Fork Beargrass Creek.

What: Ribbon cutting and tour of basin

When: Tuesday, December 19, 2 PM

Where: MSD Logan Street CSO Basin, 935 Logan Street (near E. Caldwell Street)

Who: Tony Parrott, MSD Executive Director

Greg Fischer, Louisville Metro Mayor

Barbara Sexton Smith, Metro Councilwoman, District 4

John Phelps, MSD Board, Infrastructure Committee Chair

Dr. F. Bruce Williams, Pastor Bates Memorial Baptist Church

More: Media will have access inside the basin at the conclusion of speeches and ribbon cutting.

Close-toe shoes required to enter the basin.

Background

The Logan Street CSO Basin is a concrete underground structure with a storage capacity of 16.7 million gallons. It has an above ground operations building and an access ramp to allow service vehicles to enter for periodic maintenance. There are 10,000 feet of 24- to 96-inch sewer pipes that collect flow from 11 overflow points and convey it to the basin. The sewer water is stored in the basin until capacity is available in the sewer system. At that time, the water is conveyed to Morris Forman Water Quality Treatment Center, treated and released into the Ohio River.

The original design of the basin included a brick one-story structure over the basin. During construction in Spring 2016, the Smoketown neighborhood requested changes to the design. They proposed replacing the one-story building with a grassy top. MSD revised the plans during construction to accommodate the request. The result is a green-space addition to the neighborhood.

MSD will transfer the site to the Louisville Metro Housing Authority to better accommodate public use and maintenance of the site. The Housing Authority will partner with the local community to develop and implement a plan for public use of the property. MSD will retain an easement to allow maintenance of the basin.

The basin and its interceptor sewer lines will be substantially complete on December 20, 2017, meeting all requirements for certification with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for MSD's Consent Decree deadline of December 31, 2017.

MSD's Additional Work in the Community

Underground storage basins — like the Logan Street CSO Basin — and the Ohio River Tunnel Project are part of MSD's larger endeavor to prevent sewage overflows into our waterways. The basins and tunnel are designed to capture rainwater and sewage, which otherwise can overwhelm the sewer system during rain events and flow untreated into local streams and the Ohio River. These underground storage areas retain the mixture of rainwater and sewage until the rain subsides and capacity is available, and then gradually release it back into the sewer system. At that point, the water is conveyed to a water quality treatment center, treated and returned to the Ohio River.

By 2020, MSD will capture and treat 98 percent of the combined sewer overflow volume in a typical year of rain. Combined sewer overflows would total 343 million gallons in a typical year, down from the two- to nearly six-billion gallons of combined sewer overflows per year that MSD has reported in recent years.

About MSD

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) works to achieve and maintain clean, environmentally safe waterways for a healthy and vibrant community. The organization's more than 600 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro. In addition to operating and maintaining Louisville Metro's sewer system, floodwall system, water quality treatment centers and flood pumping stations, MSD invests in hundreds of infrastructure improvement projects each year, plants more than 1,000 trees and other vegetation annually to enhance water filtration and reduce runoff, and provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.