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MEDIA ADVISORY

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MSD Waterway Protection Tunnel work requires River Road closure

Portion of River Road, West Washington and Seventh streets to close until March 2020

LOUISVILLE, KY — Beginning on May 9, a section of River Road, West Washington Street and Seventh Street will be closed to traffic through approximately March 2020. The closure is for a construction project with MSD's Waterway Protection Tunnel.

MSD will build a connection point deep in the ground to the tunnel. Called a "drop shaft," this vertical structure, similar to a manhole, will be approximately 200 feet. When complete, the drop shaft will move wastewater and rainwater from the sewer system into the tunnel during heavy rain events. This greatly reduces the combined waters from overflowing into Beargrass Creek and the Ohio River.

MSD will build the shaft in the grassy median at Seventh and Washington streets. The construction effort requires the closure of the roadway for the safety of the public and the workers. The project should be complete in March 2020.

MSD has worked with local businesses for alternate routes, and to keep parking lots open. The public can keep up to date on the project at LouisvilleMSD.org/tunnel or Twitter with #MSDtunnel.

Background

The Waterway Protection Tunnel is part of MSD's larger effort to prevent sewage from overflowing into Louisville's waterways. MSD's basins and the tunnel will capture rainwater and sewage during rain events. The underground storage areas keep the mixture of rainwater and sewage until the rain subsides. Then, the mixture is gradually released back into the sewer system for treatment.

The Waterway Protection Tunnel will eliminate 22 combined sewer overflow points that put 351 million gallons of sewage and rainfall in a typical year into the South Fork of Beargrass Creek and 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 will then total only 343 million gallons in a typical year. That is substantially less than the two- to nearly six-billion gallons of combined sewer overflows per year that MSD has reported in recent years.

Learn more about the Waterway Protection Tunnel

Visit LouisvilleMSD.org/tunnel.

Sign up to receive regular updates on the project at LouisvilleMSD.org/tunnel/newsletter

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.