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MSD's cIAIRity Update – August 14, 2026

Updates on MSD's ongoing work to mitigate the natural odor related to wastewater treatment and management:

Behind the Grates

Most people don't think twice about the catch basins along their streets, but maintaining this critical infrastructure is an ongoing effort that protects our community's neighborhoods and keeps water flowing safely – and in doing so, helps in reducing odors. For MSD's Kelvin Wilson Jr., that work happens every day.

As Drainage Supervisor, much of Wilson's time is spent in the field, scouting customer requests, visiting jobsites and investigating concerns ranging from damaged catch basins to odors reported near homes and throughout the combined sewer system. Catch basins are a key connection between the streets and the sewer system, and keeping them clean and functioning properly is an important part of managing odors and maintaining the flow of wastewater and stormwater.

MSD maintains approximately 24,000 catch basins within the combined sewer system, with a commitment to inspect and clean each catch basin on a 15-month cycle as part of the Nine Minimum Controls Program. This work is divided across 13 catchments and includes both scheduled preventative maintenance and responding to customer requests. When needed, Wilson's team deploys a water truck to flush catch basins and drainage lines that larger equipment cannot access to help maintain proper flow – while some catch basins may require reconstruction.

For residents, the work may simply look like a crew working along the road or the sidewalk. But Wilson knows there is much more happening behind the scenes and underground.

"Oftentimes people see the beginning and the end result, but rarely see what happens between," he says. For Wilson, that behind-the-scenes work is the most rewarding part: seeing customers' concerns resolved and knowing his team is helping keep Louisville's neighborhoods safe, clean and comfortable every day.

Investing in a Stronger, More Resilient System

MSD's annual rate adjustment takes effect September 1. While the 3.9% increase in Jefferson County matches the lowest annual rate adjustment in two decades, it funds a number of critical capital improvements, including investments in odor mitigation. These include continued construction of a new biosolids processing facility at the Morris Forman Water Quality Treatment Center to improve efficiency and reduce odors, and the replacement of 195 outdated catch basins this fiscal year. Since 2023, MSD has invested more than \$185 million in odor mitigation and related improvements, contributing to a 50% reduction in odor-related customer service requests.

Join the August cIAIRity Community Meeting

The August cIAIRity community meeting will take place Tuesday, August 25, from 6 to 7 p.m. at MSD's Park Hill neighborhood office, 1600 W. Hill Street. Join MSD for updates on ongoing odor mitigation efforts and an opportunity to ask questions and connect with the team. The meeting will also be livestreamed on MSD's YouTube channel.

July Odor Reports

Ongoing efforts to mitigate and reduce odor impacts in the community continue to take hold. MSD responded to 87 service requests related to odor throughout the month, up from 73 in June. The July service requests came from 29 ZIP codes, and each resulted in an MSD crew investigating and responding as appropriate. For the majority of service calls, MSD crews on-site cleaned, deodorized and flushed with water the nearby sewer mains, catch basins or manholes where necessary.

For more information or to report an odor, visit LouisvilleMSD.org/odor or call 502.540.6000.

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. More than 800 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro and wastewater service in portions of Bullitt and Oldham Counties. 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.