

MSD's clAIRity Update – June 14, 2024

MSD's clAIRity Program is our ongoing work to mitigate the natural odor related to organic materials that decompose as a part of wastewater treatment and management. This monthly brief provides updates on the status of various projects under the clAIRity initiative over the past month.

MSD readies for 'Odor Season'

As we approach warmer, drier months, MSD is preparing for our "Odor Season" that typically runs June through October. These periods of dry weather can increase sewer odors when the large, 160-year-old combined sewer system and catch basin inlets start to dry up and let odors escape. During this time, you will likely notice more MSD crews in areas that are experiencing these concerns. On top of our construction work to address odors, you will see our team cleaning and deodorizing catch basins, putting water in the system through water trucks and continuing our partnership with Louisville Water to turn on hydrants where it can help the situation.

Response to Odor Reports

In May, MSD received 84 requests for service related to odor. The requests came from 19 different ZIP codes, and each resulted in an MSD crew investigating and responding as appropriate. The majority of service calls were related to odors surrounding catch basins or manhole covers, and MSD crews on-site cleaned and deodorized the units. In one case, MSD crews flushed a sewer main, while three service calls resulted in catch basins needing plugs. Investigation of another request found no odor detected from catch basins because they were trapped and holding water, indicating potential ambient air odor from another source.

California Neighborhood Projects Boosted with Grant

In the California neighborhood, a \$250,000 grant from Heaven Hill – which operates a distillery in the neighborhood – is contributing to an overall \$734,000 group of projects that will replace 40 catch basins in the area. Many catch basins in the combined sewer system do not have "traps" – similar to the curved pipe under your kitchen sink designed to prevent odors from escaping, and California is one of several priority neighborhoods across West Louisville where MSD is systematically identifying and replacing untrapped catch basins. With several catch basins in California already replaced, the second phase of the California project is expected to go to bid in July. These basin replacement projects will complement the \$16.5 million project recently completed to rehabilitate the sewer line under Maple Street.

Upcoming clAIRity Community Meeting

MSD is hosting the next "clAIRity" community meeting on Wednesday, June 26 and encourages community members to attend to learn more about odor mitigation and have their voice heard. The meeting will address the factors that contribute to odor, along with detailing the multiple processes and projects MSD has in place to manage odor. See below for the list of upcoming meetings:

- **Wednesday, Jun. 26**, 6-7 p.m. at Western Library, 604 S. 10th Street
- **Tuesday, Aug. 27**, 6-7 p.m. at Shawnee Library, 3912 W. Broadway
- **Tuesday, Oct. 15**, 6-7 p.m. at MSD Central Maintenance Facility, 3050 Commerce Center Place
- **Thursday, Oct. 24**, 1-2 p.m. at Norton Healthcare Goodwill Opportunity Center, 2820 W. Broadway

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 670 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.