

MSD's clAIRity Update – May 2026

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 brief provides updates on the status of projects under the clAIRity initiative and other key MSD news over the past month.

Drainage system gets Derby week workout

After intense rains brought three inches of rain to the region April 27–29, MSD's drainage system quietly helped keep Derby festivities safe and moving. While MSD maintains its 376-square-mile drainage system and more than 1,100 miles of pipes year-round, crews increased inspections, catch-basin cleanings, and minor repairs in high-traffic Derby areas both before and during the storm.

Visitors around Churchill Downs also benefited from MSD's green infrastructure beneath the racetrack's 55 acres of parking. Seventeen feet below the surface, a network of football field-sized storage basins connected by 96-inch pipes can hold up to three million gallons of stormwater, keeping it out of the sewer system and helping reduce overflows.

SmartCover Pilot Program

MSD is piloting new technology to help mitigate sewer odors. SmartCovers – sensor-equipped manhole covers – allow crews to remotely monitor sewer conditions and proactively identify potential odor issues before they become a concern. MSD is rotating the devices through areas with frequent odor reports to evaluate their effectiveness.

Daytime Options Added to clAIRity Community Meetings

MSD's clAIRity community meetings provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions, address concerns, and hear vital updates on MSD's continued work to minimize sewer odor generated naturally in the wastewater treatment process. Meetings will be held at MSD's Park Hill neighborhood office, **1600 W. Hill Street**, and will include a virtual option for those unable to attend in person. New this year are some daytime options, in addition to evening times:

- Thursday, June 25 | 2-3 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 25 | 6-7 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 13 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Thursday, October 29 | 6-7 p.m.

Please note that the visitor parking lot is closed due to construction. Guests may drive to the employee parking entrance gate and press the intercom button to ask for the gate to open.

April Odor Reports

Efforts to mitigate odor impacts across the community continue daily. MSD responded to 72 odor-related service requests in April, compared to 67 during the same month last year. Requests came from 26 ZIP codes, with crews investigating each report and responding as needed. In most cases, crews cleaned, deodorized, and flushed nearby sewer mains, catch basins, or manholes.

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.