

## MSD's clAIRity Update – November 15, 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 responds to a drier-than-normal October

The combined sewer system is designed to be self-cleaning, using rain and water used by homes and businesses to keep underground sewer pipes flowing to our treatment centers, reducing the opportunity for odors to build up. However, this October ranked as one of the top 5 driest on record, with less than one inch of rain compared to the 30-year October average of over 3.6 inches. To address this unusually dry weather, MSD systematically deployed water trucks to add additional water into the system in areas experiencing odor issues.

During October, MSD responded to 337 service requests related to odor, up from September's 197 requests. The requests came from 30 ZIP codes, and each resulted in an MSD crew investigating and responding as appropriate. For the majority of service calls, MSD crews cleaned, deodorized and flushed with water the nearby sewer mains, catch basins or manholes where necessary. In one case, an MSD crew member found the catch basin had a broken plug and submitted it for repair. In another instance, one service request resulted in MSD identifying 14 catch basins that needed deodorizing.

### Big investments, responsive action and a commitment to fresh air

The end of October marks the close of the typically warm, dry months of summer that we have designated odor season. But our work to mitigate odor across the MSD system is ongoing. We are pleased to see incremental progress from these efforts as odor reports are down 23% January through October 2024, compared to the same time frame last year.

Our work has involved \$16 million in sewer system upgrades across several neighborhoods and preventative maintenance completed for 22,525 catch basins since January. By the end of next year, 410 catch basins that have been identified as contributing to frequent odor will have been completely replaced with new equipment to better serve the community.

Our team monitors and responds to system needs all year long, because odor management never stops. Every dollar spent, every catch basin replaced – and every call answered – reflects our ongoing commitment to making life better for our customers.

As part of this commitment, MSD hosted five clAIRity community meetings during odor season, providing residents with the opportunity to learn more about our ongoing odor-reduction efforts. These meetings allowed attendees to hear directly from MSD officials, share experiences and learn more about the steps being taken to address odor issues across the region. Feedback from these small-group discussions is important in helping shape our future actions.

In addition to MSD-hosted community meetings, our team continues to welcome the opportunity to engage with church groups, nonprofit organizations and other community stakeholders who would like to learn more about our clAIRity program initiatives. To request a visit, please reach out to [CustomerRelations@LouisvilleMSD.org](mailto:CustomerRelations@LouisvilleMSD.org).

For more information or to report an odor, visit [LouisvilleMSD.org/odor](https://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.