Resolving drainage issues for our community

Project DRI (Drainage Response Initiative) is a partnership between Louisville Metro and MSD for investing in neighborhood drainage improvements throughout Louisville Metro. The dedicated capital funding and crew work conducted annually under this program have significantly enhanced Louisville Metro’s drainage system since 2003. One effect of Project DRI efforts is the decrease in localized flooding and standing water for our customers.

Project DRI continues to move ahead with new projects in these areas:
- Arbor Wood Drive
- Ellerbe Avenue
- Phoenix Hill Drive
- Tennessee Avenue
- Timber Hill Road

Planning for disaster

MSD and Louisville Metro Emergency Management led a mock tabletop disaster event that featured a levee breach during a flood event. Representatives from federal, state and local agencies, as well as private utilities participated. The exercise was based on modeling provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and included a breach site on the levee near Bells Lane. The scenario included surface flooding due to the breach, and projected flooding that would occur after the floodwaters entered MSD’s combined system pipes.

MSD is working with Kentucky Emergency Management to develop catastrophic flooding event plans. Additionally, Louisville Metro is forming the county’s first Silver Jackets Team to foster a closer working relationship between MSD, Louisville Metro Emergency Management, USACE and other local public and private entities to focus on flood-risk management and prevention. Silver Jacket teams bring together state, federal, and local agencies to learn from one another and apply their knowledge to reduce the risk of flooding and enhance response and recovery efforts.
MSD Employees Donate Time to Costa Rica

MSD’s Steve Blanford, Trish Capito, David Glenn and retired Executive Director Greg Heitzman traveled to Orosi Valley, Costa Rica on Saturday, March 12, for a weeklong volunteer service trip. They assisted WaterStep, one of MSD Cares’ charities, to provide a wastewater sanitation system for a camp that serves more than 4,500 people annually. It is the only working sanitation system in the entire area.

Our employees generously donated their time to this project by using their vacation hours to go on this trip. Planning and design for this project was provided by Juan Afable, Joe Bentley and Erin Wagoner.

The team had help with the installation from camp staff and local residents so they will be able to repeat the process for other buildings, thus improving access to sanitation across the area.

This project is a follow-up to a trip made by Robert Bates along with WaterStep in August 2015. Robert helped survey the area for wastewater treatment solutions, and also traveled to the small town of Santa Maria to install chlorinators and hand-washing stations at two schools. These clean water systems have improved attendance at the local school by 75 to 90 percent. When you are not sick all the time, you can attend school.

Thank you to all these volunteers for spreading the value of safe, clean water and waterways well beyond our borders.

Educational Outreach at Home, Garden and Remodeling Show

MSD participated in the Home, Garden and Remodeling Show at the Kentucky Exposition Center, March 18-20. The MSD exhibit featured a backflow-prevention model, rain barrel, rain garden, rain garden guide, seed packets and educational materials for achieving safe, clean waterways for our community.

Thanks to these employees for representing MSD at this event: Jordan Basham, Julie Blanford, Whitney Boles, Brian Bradley, Tonya Callahan, Zonetta English, Meskerem Eshetu, Joe Exely, Brandon Flaherty, Saundra Gibson, Angela Gowdy, Lanita Grimes, David Johnson, Debra Johnson, Sheryl Lauder, Niccole Mardis, Jacob Mathis, Eldra McWhorter, Alex Talbott, Wes Sydnor, Karl Wagner, Mike Wharton and Charlotte Whitfield-Baker.
Educating our future leaders

Monday, March 21, school field trips were back in session at Floyds Fork Water Quality Treatment Center (WQTC). MSD hosts groups from middle school through the university level at this facility.

What happens when the water leaves our homes?
This was the topic explored by Glenn Eilers and Staci Huber as they guided a group of high school students through Floyds Fork WQTC. Through each step of the wastewater treatment process, Eilers emphasized that the water MSD puts back into Floyds Fork is cleaner than the water that is naturally present in the stream.

Jordan Basham and Wes Sydnor took over at this point to deliver the MSD stormwater message, including what all of us can do to improve the quality of our waterways.

Customer Compliments

I want to thank Tonya Callahan, Robin Ferrell and Lonnie Gaines for having the ditch in the rear of my property added to the Annual Ditch Cleaning program.
— Mr. Bohannon

On behalf of the Belknap Neighborhood Association Board and our entire Belknap neighborhood, thanks very much for partnering so significantly in our efforts to get more trees in the ground and restore and sustain our canopy. The effort this year met with success that exceeded even my hopeful expectations.
— Hadley Hury
BNA Secretary,
Director Tree-Planting and Canopy Restoration Program

Thank you to Sonja Smith for explaining my bill. She was knowledgeable and kind.
— Lester Smith

Plant your rain garden now

Rain gardens help infiltrate rainwater before it reaches the drainage system, and reduce the amount of stormwater and pollutants running into storm drains, combined sewers or streams.

For your FREE Rain Garden Guide, contact MSD Customer Relations at 502.587.0603, or online at CustomerRelations@LouisvilleMSD.org.

MSD Milestones

Welcome to MSD
Demetrius Belt, Utility Trainee
David Denzik, Maintenance Electrician
Robert “Bob” Harris, Application Programmer Analyst III
Christopher Hilleric, Seasonal Employee
Mark Keller, Floodwall Maintenance Electrician
Chad Noe, Maintenance Mechanic
Richard Pauley, Maintenance Mechanic
David Reynolds, Utility Trainee
Johnathan Trimble, Utility Trainee

Congratulations on your promotion/reclassification
Kenneth Alford, Utility Leader
Dan Bailey, Field Engineering Technician
Mike Crotzer, Master Maintenance Electrician
Austin Duvall, Utility Leader
Richard Grigsby, Water Quality Technician
James Heid, Senior Environmental Compliance Inspector
Karen Knox, Buyer II
Kurt Manley, Utility Worker III
Kevin Schmidt, Buyer I
Andrew Taylor, Utility Worker II
Ricky Terry, Process Technician I
Denzil Whalin, Utility Leader

Welcome to a new role:
Robert Oliver, Drainage Department

Happy service anniversary
15 years Yozette Borges
Kirk Willis

10 years Shawn Murphy

5 years Matthew Bobo
Janice Hamilton
Staci Huber
Charles Wells

Congratulations on your retirement
Paul “Duke” Edwards
Making a difference in the health of our streams

Dogs in Jefferson County produce four dump-truck loads of waste EVERY day. Pet waste that is left behind on sidewalks, in parks and at home finds its way to local waterways when it rains. Please do your part to help by scooping the poop no matter where you are!

Remove pet waste from your lawn, and properly dispose of it in the trash.

Working together, we can achieve safe, clean waterways for our community.