New gate installation at Paddy’s Run completed without a hitch

A large swath of the population of Louisville Metro—extending from the Ohio River in Rubbertown, through Park Duvalle to Middletown became a bit safer on June 22, 2016, as a massive gate was replaced at the MSD Paddy’s Run Flood Pump Station.

The new gate replaces the original, which was installed in 1953 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The original gate was pitted, corroded and well beyond its useful life. The Corps first sited this gate for replacement in 1990. Due to budget constraints and other priorities, the replacement was postponed by MSD for 26 years.

The new $850,000 gate is just one component of needed renovations at the Paddy’s Run station. When the river is high and heavy rains strike the city, the gate is closed to keep the river at bay. The pumps are then engaged to push the rainwater out of the city into the river. Massive evacuations of areas near the site would be required if this gate fails.

The station still requires $23 million to replace the six pumps and the electrical system, as evidenced by the 1950s dials and gauges used to operate the facility. Longer term, it will also need an additional $37 million to double the pumping capacity as we see an increase in heavy rainfall events, and to support the 56 percent increase in the population of Jefferson County since the station was built.
Local media gather as MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott celebrates the demolition of the final outdated wastewater treatment facility—McNeely Lake WQTC on June 23.

MSD demolishes last outdated wastewater facility

**Wastewater now treated at five regional plants, reducing risk of stream overflows**

On Thursday, June 23, MSD completed a 36-year journey to eliminate more than 300 small, inefficient and outdated wastewater treatment plants scattered throughout the community and transition to a modernized regional wastewater treatment system. The demolition of the final remaining outdated wastewater treatment facility—McNeely Lake Water Quality Treatment Center (WQTC) in southeastern Louisville—occurred several weeks after it was taken offline.

“We’ve made significant environmental improvements since we started on our quest to acquire and close these plants more than 30 years ago. The closure of the last package treatment plant in Louisville is an important milestone as MSD strives to attain our vision of safe, clean waterways for the community,” said Bingham.

Wastewater flow that once went to the McNeely Lake WQTC is now treated at the Derek R. Guthrie WQTC, near the Ohio River on Lower River Road in southwest Louisville. Completion of this project will offer protection from sanitary sewer overflows to the Pond Creek watershed.

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**Customer Compliments**

I recently visited MSD’s Main Office to talk about water issues on my property, and spoke with Connie Rhodes. She told me that my complaint was in the jurisdiction of Louisville Metro Public Works. She filed my complaint for me and even scanned the pictures that I had brought in and forwarded all documents to Public Works. Connie is an outstanding employee and a positive reflection of MSD.

— Gary Alcorn

I want to thank Joe Exely for coordinating a drainage improvement project. The contractor under his direction did a fantastic job.

— Brenda Harrell
Springhurst Community Association

Adam Bader, Phillip Bradley, Matthew Clark and David Reynolds did a great job on the ditch regrading at my property.

— Michael Riggle
Volunteers make a clean sweep of the Ohio riverbanks

This year, Ohio River Sweep marked its 27th anniversary as one of the nation’s largest and longest-running environmental cleanup events.


MSD extends its thanks to the 250 volunteers who assisted with this cleanup. With your help, we will reach Our Vision—Achieving Clean, Safe Waterways for a Healthy and Vibrant Community.

River Sweep is sponsored by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), and locally by MSD, Louisville Water and LG&E.

Volunteers comb the shoreline at Riverview Park.

Volunteers make a clean sweep of the Ohio riverbanks.

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MSD Board approves reduced rate increase of 6.9 percent

On June 27, the MSD Board approved a proposed rate increase of 6.9 percent. This will result in an average increase for a residential customer of $3.38 per month for wastewater and drainage/stormwater, taking the average monthly bill from $49.12 to $52.50.

In May, the Board approved a proposed increase of 20 percent. However, the Louisville Metro Council and Mayor Greg Fischer did not support that amount.

The MSD Board will take final action on the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget and the 6.9 percent rate at the meeting on August 1.

A notice of the proposed rate increase has been published in “The Courier-Journal.” The rate increase will take effect August 1, 2016, pending final approval by the MSD Board.

Written comments may be addressed to:

MSD Board Rate Increase
PO Box 740011
Louisville, KY 40201

Robert Bates and Kevin Ries conduct a tour for science teachers at Floyds Fork Water Quality Treatment Center in June.