Ohio River Tunnel to replace three planned basin projects

Three basins planned for the areas of Lexington Road and Payne Street; Story Avenue and Main Street; and, 13th and Rowan streets will be replaced with one 2.5-mile tunnel. The Ohio River Tunnel will be 20-24-feet in diameter and located approximately 200-feet below the surface. That is more than 18 stories below ground.

MSD is replacing these three basins with the tunnel due to advances in technology, and reductions in boring costs that were not available when the plans for these basins were set 10-years ago. The tunnel offers the storage capacity of the three proposed basins for approximately the same cost—but construction will be far less disruptive to Louisville’s Main Street arts and business district, Butchertown’s business district and area traffic during the two-to-three year construction period.

This design change also offers the benefit of operational redundancy at the Starkey Pump Station, a critical asset that protects residents and businesses from flooding and sewer backups.

Underground storage basins and the tunnel are part of MSD’s larger endeavor to prevent sewage overflows in our waterways. The basins and tunnel are designed to capture rainwater and sewage, which otherwise can overwhelm the sewer system during rain events and flow untreated into local streams and the Ohio River. These underground storage areas retain the mixture of rainwater and sewage until the rain subsides and capacity is available, and then gradually release it back into the sewer system. At that point, the water is conveyed to a water quality treatment center, treated and returned to our local streams or the Ohio River.

“By 2020, MSD will capture and treat 98 percent of the combined sewer overflow volume for what’s been deemed a typical year of rain,” said Chief Engineer Angela Akridge. So, instead of the 2 billion to nearly 6 billion gallons in combined sewer overflows per year that MSD has reported in recent years, Akridge said the number would be closer to 343 million gallons during a typical year.

Construction of the tunnel is estimated to begin during summer 2017, and will be operational by the end of 2020. Total project completion will wrap up by the end of 2021.
The existing tunnel beneath your feet

The Southwestern Outfall is a tunnel built by the Commissioners of Sewerage throughout the 1920s and completed in August of 1932. It is six miles long, 27-feet high and 19-feet wide. It was once the largest sewer in the world and still protects much of Southwest Louisville Metro from flooding and sewer overflows. The three gates in this structure date to the 1970s and are in need of replacement as only two are operational. MSD has approved a project to replace all three gates, actuators and associated parts for this crucial component in our flood protection system.

Right: In 2005, work proceeds to construct a baffle inside the Southwestern Outfall tunnel.

This Thanksgiving and everyday... avoid a clogged pipe

Can the grease!

Never pour fats, oils and grease down a sink, drain or toilet. Pour used grease into an empty, heat-safe container, such as a soup can, and store it in the freezer. Once the grease has become solid, toss the can into the garbage.

Scrape food waste into the trash. Wipe all pots, pans, dishes and cooking utensils with a paper towel to soak up grease before washing them.

Catch the scraps in your sink with a basket or strainer, instead of using the garbage disposal, and throw them away in the trash can.

Recycle your deep-fryer oil by taking it to Louisville Metro’s grease drop-off location at 7501 Grade Lane.

MSD Milestones

Welcome to MSD
Ronald Carrier, Database Administrator
Matthew Clark, Utility Trainee
Darryl Evans, Senior Electrical Engineer
Michael Fitzner, Accounting Analyst
Christopher Gregory, Construction Administrator
Johonne Hamilton, Customer Relations Agent
Sherrie Holmes, Payroll Administrator
Brian Mattingly, Construction Inspector I
Jenna Simpson, Laborer-Operations
Joseph Squirer, Senior Health & Safety Administrator

Congratulations on your promotion/reclassification
Chey Burkhead, Utility Worker III
Mike Drew, Master Auto/Heavy Equipment Technician
Mark Keller, Master Floodwall Maintenance Electrician
Sam Marino, Sanitary Supervisor
Uriah Maudlin, Utility Worker III
Rick Pauley, Master Maintenance Mechanic
Johnathan Trimble, Utility Worker II

Happy service anniversary
30 years Earl Dunn
15 years Norman (Skip) Hale
10 years Adam Bader
5 years Jonathan Baldridge, Uriah Maudlin
Tony Crawford

Congratulations on your retirement
Steve Snawder
I appreciate MSD’s August edition of “Streamline” and the way they acknowledged the workers handling the sewer collapse/repair of the major line on Broadway. I was also glad to see that several of the MSD employees that Clifton Heights had the pleasure of meeting—Christian Miller, Tony Parrott, Wes Sydnor and Sharon Worley—were involved in the KY-TN Water Professionals Conference. I was pleased that MSD has an advisory committee for the Maple Street buy-out. When I hear others complain about our bills increasing, and then read about the diverse activities of the staff, I don’t feel so bad when paying the bill!

— Anne McMahon
Clifton Heights

Robert Bates engages the students regarding the vital service of wastewater treatment that MSD provides for our community.

MSD employees join Congressman John Yarmuth (front row, third from left) to raise money for flood victims.

Providing support for flood victims
Devastating flooding—in Louisiana in August and in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina from Hurricane Matthew in October—sparked three American Red Cross telethons on local news stations. MSD employees proved that MSD is a vital part of the first responder community through our partnership with the Red Cross and our dedication to flood relief. Representing MSD in the telethons were: MSD Red Cross Liaison Saundra Gibson, Joey Ashby, Pat Barry, Peggy Burgin, Leila Cunningham, Sharon Dawson, Stephanie Harris, Adonis Henderson, Marc Thomas, Rene Thomas and Sharon Worley.

Mayor’s Building Our Blocks brings cleanup to Smoketown
Mayor Greg Fischer’s new initiative—Building Our Blocks—is designed to bring together city agencies, partner organizations and community leaders in day-long, collaborative efforts aimed at minimizing blight, deterring crime, beautifying neighborhoods and building hope—one block at a time. Business and Community Partnership Administrator Saundra Gibson coordinated our participation with this event in Smoketown on October 14. Yozette Borges, Horace Gaither and Shelby Lockhart also participated in this cleanup effort.

Customer Compliments
I appreciate MSD’s August edition of “Streamline” and the way they acknowledged the workers handling the sewer collapse/repair of the major line on Broadway. I was also glad to see that several of the MSD employees that Clifton Heights had the pleasure of meeting—Christian Miller, Tony Parrott, Wes Sydnor and Sharon Worley—were involved in the KY-TN Water Professionals Conference. I was pleased that MSD has an advisory committee for the Maple Street buy-out. When I hear others complain about our bills increasing, and then read about the diverse activities of the staff, I don’t feel so bad when paying the bill!

— Anne McMahon
Clifton Heights

From the first inspection at my home to the repair work, Donald Duerson, Timothy McCrary, Steve Snaider and Stephen Thomas were very professional and nice. I had full confidence the work would be completed to my satisfaction.

— Kathleen Chapman

Dave Gittings did a remarkable job in locating all four connections for a property, and he even showed me how MSD locates these connections. He was very informative and professional.

— Charlie Lotze
Realtor, RE/MAX
Upcoming Events

**NOVEMBER 15**
- **I-64 & Grinstead CSO Basin Advanced Design Meeting**
  6:30 pm, Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana Building
  2115 Lexington Road
- **Maple Street Residents Land-Use Meeting**
  6:30 pm, Eastern Star Baptist Church
  824 South 24th Street

**NOVEMBER 24 AND 25**
- **MSD Offices closed**
  For emergency service anytime, phone MSD’s Customer Relations at 502.587.0603

**NOVEMBER 28**
- **MSD Board Meeting**
  1 pm, Open Session, 700 West Liberty Street

**NOVEMBER 29**
- **MSD Personnel Committee Meeting**
  4 pm, 700 West Liberty Street

Resolving drainage issues for our community

**Drainage initiatives have been approved for these areas:**

- Apple Mill Drive
- Farmington Avenue
- Francell Court
- Shelby Road
- Summer Glen Way
- Sunday Drive

Project DRI (Drainage Response Initiative) invests in neighborhood drainage improvements throughout Louisville Metro. The dedicated capital funding and crew work conducted annually under this program have enhanced Louisville Metro’s drainage system and decreased localized flooding and standing water for our customers.

Prevent surface flooding by raking leaves away from catch basins, and putting them in the trash. If basins are still clogged, call MSD Customer Relations—502.587.0603—we will send someone to help.