

STREAMLINE

News and Events at Louisville MSD · December 2017

OUR VISION

Achieving Safe, Clean Waterways
for a Healthy and Vibrant Community



Homeowners whose homes in the Maple Street area that were subjected to repeated flooding were offered a buyout made possible by a FEMA grant.

Maple Street FEMA buyout yields green space for West Louisville

A Louisville MSD effort to deal with homes in flood-prone areas in Jefferson County could now become part of a planned revitalization of West Louisville. MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott spoke Tuesday during a community meeting at the Chestnut Street Family YMCA focused on progress concerning the Republic Bank Foundation YMCA and Passport Health and Well-Being campus planned for West Louisville.

Parrott discussed the more than 18 acres of land acquired by MSD through the use of FEMA grant funding to buyout homes in flood-prone areas. Eligible property owners within the Maple Street area were offered current fair-market value for their homes, allowing them to purchase comparable homes outside of the flood-prone area. Homes in the area were demolished, and Parrott said the resulting acreage would be perfect for community use.

“We now have green space that MSD wants to give back to the community,” Parrott said. He added that MSD is looking for community leaders to collaborate with to ensure the space is reincorporated “with the appropriate amenities that will bring value and long-term sustainability to a corridor in West Louisville that is going to be totally revitalized by the Passport Development, the YMCA project, and the Louisville Urban League proposed sports facility.”



MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott speaks at a community meeting concerning the green space resulting from the Maple Street FEMA buyout.

A groundbreaking was conducted in October for a planned new Louisville YMCA to be located at the intersection of South 17th Street and West Broadway and to be called the Republic Bank Foundation YMCA. The nearly 78,000-square-foot facility will also be home to Norton Health Care, Republic Bank, a physical therapy center, a counseling facility, a gymnasium, pool, and meeting rooms.

Parrott said MSD would remain involved in the area as the planned projects develop. “We will continue to be at the table, to ensure on-going success for the transformation of the Broadway corridor,” he said.



OUR MISSION

Providing Exceptional Wastewater, Drainage
and Flood Protection Services for Our Community

24/7/365

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Historic Cobblestones unearthed during Construction

An MSD construction project designed to reduce combined sewer overflows offered a surprising return as it unearthed a forgotten piece of Louisville history now to be used as a building block for a future project in the city.

Historic cobblestones were discovered by MSD during excavation for the Clifton Heights Force Main Project — part of the Clifton Heights Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Basin. On Story Avenue — between Frankfort Avenue and Cable Street — MSD contractor TSI Construction found trolley tracks that were not indicated on the maps, and three layers of cobblestone beneath the tracks, said Meskerem Eshetu, the MSD engineer overseeing the project. The stones were used for paving roads, and then the trolley track was installed over the original cobblestone road.

Stones to be reused at Waterfront Botanical Gardens

The recovered stones were tested for contaminants and deemed safe for reuse. MSD has donated more than 20 truck loads of stone so far. Clinton Deckard, project manager for the Waterfront Botanical Gardens, said the cobblestones will be incorporated in sidewalks and stone edgings at the gardens.

Waterfront Botanical Gardens Executive Director Kasey Maier states, “It is exciting to be a part of preserving Louisville’s history. This lets us walk on the same stones as our predecessors, and lets that piece of history continue to persevere.” The Waterfront Botanical Gardens broke ground in September at Frankfort Avenue and River Road.

Basin project to capture sewer overflows

The Clifton Heights CSO Basin will capture seven million gallons of combined sewer overflow, in an average rainfall year. This underground-covered basin will offer the public and Beargrass Creek protection from combined sewer overflows during periods of wet weather. When completed, the project will be largely invisible to the public.

Underground storage is part of MSD’s larger endeavor to prevent sewage from overflowing into Louisville’s waterways. These underground storage areas retain the mixture of rainwater and sewage until the rain subsides and capacity is available for treatment, then gradually release it back into the sewer system.



Excavation along Story Avenue for the Clifton Heights Force Main revealed a forgotten piece of Louisville history — cobblestones from a bygone era.



Buried under the asphalt were three layers of cobblestones.



Waterfront Botanical Gardens Executive Director Kasey Maier stands among the donated cobblestones.

A shocking way to study stream health: MSD and electro-fishing

Rainfall. Temperature. Man-made pollutants. Numerous factors can affect the life of a stream, which means MSD must utilize a variety of tools to understand stream health and water quality as part of its mission to ensure safe, clean waterways.

One such method is known as electro-fishing. Fish, along with other biological data, provides insight on local stream health. The process involves using electricity to stun fish before they are caught.



Biologists sample fish populations along Beargrass Creek.

The method is used to sample fish populations, and fish are returned to the stream unharmed in as little as 10 minutes after being stunned. One person operates the equipment that stuns the fish while others catch the stunned fish with a net and place them in a bucket of stream water. The fish are identified and then returned to the stream.

Erin Wagoner, a project administrator for MSD, said the process allows teams to look at the types and numbers of fish in individual streams. Fish are good biological indicators of long-term stream health. Their mobility allows them to travel upstream or downstream to stream reaches that suit their growth and survival. “Some fish species are more sensitive to pollution and other species are more tolerant,” Wagoner said. “For example, streams draining from less urban watersheds that have good tree cover and habitat tend to have better in-stream water quality.”

Another method used to collect biological data is the placement of ceramic tiles in the stream bottom. Tiles are left in place at least 15 days, allowing algae to grow on the tiles. The tiles are then collected and the algae studied in a laboratory. Both survey methods are conducted every two years as part of Louisville MSD’s monitoring of water quality

and stream health throughout Louisville Metro. MSD has collected physical, chemical and biological stream data at 27 locations since 1999. The sites were selected to represent streams in each of our community’s 11 watersheds. By collecting this long-term data, we can see whether the water quality of our streams is improving or declining. Then we can make decisions on where to focus efforts, and how to gauge success in improving stream quality.

For more on MSD efforts to improve water quality, go to Louisvillemsd.org/WaterQuality.

Customer **Compliments**

I would like to express my gratitude for everyone that worked to clear the blockage in the sewer pipe that serves my home. The crew of **Ellis Anderson IV, Fred Hollon, Maurice Nichols, Kenny Patton** and **Tony Woods** kept me informed and worked in a timely manner. I thank MSD for the quick service to resolve the problem and get it fixed.

— Lynn Shoemaker

Val Winburn’s crew of Virgil Brown, Calbert Kelsey and Mike Young did an excellent and efficient job cleaning the ditch near my house.

— Ray Timmons



700 West Liberty Street
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You can find information about
MSD Board actions on our website,
msdrecords.LouisvilleMSD.org

The public is welcome to attend MSD Board meetings.
Access <http://msdrecords.louisvillemsd.org/openmsd/board.aspx> for the full schedule of both regular and Board committee meetings.



Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 11
MSD Special Personnel Committee Meeting
11 AM, 700 West Liberty Street

DECEMBER 18
MSD Board Meeting
1 PM, Open Session, 700 West Liberty Street

DECEMBER 25, 26; JANUARY 1, 2018
MSD Offices closed
For emergency service anytime, phone MSD's
Customer Relations at 502.587.0603

MSD gains new Board Member

On Monday, November 27, the Board unanimously confirmed Louisville Metro Mayor Greg Fischer's appointment of **Keith Jackson** to the MSD Board representing Senatorial District 14. Jackson is a retired fire chief and serves on the Suburban Fire Protection District Board of Trustees: Fern Creek.

Additionally, the Board welcomed **John Phelps** to a new term with his reappointment to the MSD Board by Mayor Fischer.



Beargrass Creek
Photo courtesy of John Nation.