



700 West Liberty Street | Louisville, KY 40203-1911
Phone: 502.540.6000 | LouisvilleMSD.org

MEDIA ADVISORY

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CONTACT:

Sheryl Lauder
Sheryl.Lauder@LouisvilleMSD.org
502.540.6552
502.919.0325

Floodwall roadway closures installed due to rising Ohio River

LOUISVILLE, KY— MSD will install floodwall closures at 10th and 27th streets at approximately 7 AM on Friday, February 23. These are openings in the floodwall that normally cars and pedestrians can pass through. It will take several hours for crews to install and assemble the closures.

Projections show the river will crest early next week at 34.4 feet on the upper gauge and 65.9 feet on the lower gauge. Normal pool on the upper gauge is 12 feet. Low stage on the lower is 9 feet.

Currently, MSD has 14 of its 16 flood pumping stations in service. As the river continues to rise through the weekend, all 16 will be in service. Additionally, more floodwall roadway closures may be installed. The closures at 2nd Street and Bingham Way are next in line to close.

Background

MSD maintains Louisville Metro's Ohio River Flood Protection System—keeping the river at bay and out of the city.

The system protects more than 200,000 people, 87,000 homes and \$24 billion in property throughout 110 square miles of Louisville Metro. It includes 29 miles of floodwall and earthen levee, 16 flood pumping stations, nearly 150 floodgates and 80 floodwall closures.

Where creeks and storm drains pass through the floodwall, gates can be closed to keep the river from flowing up the streams, and large pumps at the flood pumping stations are used to lift the water from the creeks into the river. Additional gates and pumping stations keep the river from backing up through storm drains, and pump the stormwater into the river.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the system after the city's two highest floods of record in 1937 and 1945. MSD has been responsible for the Flood Protection System since 1987.

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. The organization's more than 600 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro. 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.