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FLOOD UPDATE MEDIA ADVISORY

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“Trash Island” at Beargrass Flood Pump Station Still Floating

Need a reason not to litter? The sight may convince many

A significant amount of trash and debris stuck at Beargrass Flood Pump Station from area waterways is still floating at the station. The decision was made to leave the large amount of trash at the pump station until floodwaters recede because the debris ultimately began to function as an additional filter for the mechanical components of the station. The “trash island” eventually will have to be removed by a crane.

An MSD representative will be onsite at 2 p.m. to guide media to the visual opportunity.

Beargrass Flood Pump Station was constructed from 1953-1956. It features eight pumps that can move more than 2.5 million gallons of water a minute.

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.