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MEDIA ADVISORY

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MSD Unearths Louisville History Dating Back 500 Million Years

At 200 feet underground, geologists help plan construction of Waterway Protection Tunnel—and provide a history lesson

MSD's project to build a tunnel 18 stories underground for wastewater and stormwater storage has unearthed hundreds of millions of years of Louisville history. Before MSD began constructing the tunnel, geologists drilled down some 200-feet and pull up samples of limestone and shale at 15 sites along the path of the tunnel. Geologists analyzed the rock to make sure conditions were right for the Waterway Protection Tunnel. MSD has hundreds of these rock core samples stored in a southern Indiana warehouse. The samples highlight the city's history; each is a unique design filled with fossils.

WHAT: Behind the scenes of Waterway Protection Tunnel construction:
Viewing of prehistoric rock core samples

WHEN: Thursday, July 26 at 10 a.m.

WHERE: 2992 Industrial Parkway, Jeffersonville, Indiana

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Photo/video opportunities of prehistoric rock samples drilled from 200 feet under Louisville
- Interview with MSD's Jacob Mathis, Waterway Protection Tunnel project manager, and geologist Todd Tharpe with Black & Veatch.

MORE ON THE PROJECT:

The [Waterway Protection Tunnel](#) will serve as an innovative way to store Louisville's excess wastewater and rainwater underground until it can be pumped to a wastewater treatment facility. The tunnel eliminates 25 combined sewer overflow points that put more than 439 million gallons of the combined sewer and rainwater into the South Fork of Beargrass Creek and the Ohio River. By the end of 2020, MSD will capture and treat 98 percent of the combined sewer overflow volume in a typical year of rain.

LEARN MORE: The public can keep up to date on the project at LouisvilleMSD.org/tunnel or Twitter with [#MSDtunnel](#). Sign up to receive regular updates on the project at LouisvilleMSD.org/tunnel/newsletter



LouisvilleMSD

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 630 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.