Waterway Protection Tunnel

Construction of a new solution to an old environmental challenge is underway

More than 2 billion gallons of rainwater and wastewater overflow into our waterways each year. MSD’s Waterway Protection Tunnel is an innovative way to store this overflow of rainwater and wastewater underground until it can be pumped to MSD’s Morris Forman Water Quality Treatment Center. By the end of 2024, MSD will reduce sewer overflows 98 percent in a typical rainfall year.

How do you begin work on a 2.5-mile tunnel that will be 18 stories underground? First, you construct the entry points or shafts. Work is ongoing for a working shaft and the pump station shaft at Thirteenth and Rowan streets. Once the full depth is achieved, work will begin on a short tunnel to connect these two shafts.

Volunteer and make a difference!

Ohio River Sweep
Saturday, June 16 · 9 AM to Noon

MSD proudly sponsors Ohio River Sweep with ORSANCO, LG&E and Louisville Water. The event is one of the nation’s largest and longest-running environmental cleanup events.

MSD employees will equip volunteers with gloves and bags. For location information visit:

LouisvilleMSD.org/OhioRiverSweep

The boring machine—which will excavate the tunnel—will arrive in September, on 20 flat-bed trucks. The parts will then be lowered down these two shafts and reassembled. Boring is scheduled to begin in October.

How do you get the machine out when the boring is complete?

Work has also begun on the retrieval shaft located near the Home of the Innocents in Butchertown where the boring machine will be disassembled and removed from the tunnel. The project will be completed by the end of 2020.

For more information on this repair visit:
• LouisvilleMSD.org/Tunnel
• Social media #MSDTunnel
Tunnel construction leads to traffic detours

**River Road at Seventh Street**
A section of River Road, West Washington, and Seventh streets is scheduled to be closed May 14, 2018, through March 2020 as part of the construction of MSD's Waterway Protection Tunnel. The roadway closure will allow the construction of a connection point to the tunnel. Called a “drop shaft,” this vertical structure, similar to a manhole, will be approximately 200 feet deep. When complete, the drop shaft will move wastewater and rainwater from the sewer system into the tunnel during heavy rain events.

**Main Street attractions and parking are open**
MSD has worked with Main Street businesses and attractions concerning alternate routes, and to keep parking lots open for visitors and employees alike. Detours will be posted.

**Lexington Road and Baxter Avenue**
Construction at the Lexington Road and Baxter Avenue area will take place May 21 through August 7, 2018. This work is also part of the Waterway Protection Tunnel.

There are nine overflow spots in the area where, during rain events, sewer lines overflow into Beargrass Creek. To help address this problem, MSD will construct a new sewer line that will convey this sewage and rainwater overflow to the new Waterway Protection Tunnel.

The 2.5-mile Waterway Protection Tunnel is designed to work in conjunction with MSD's storage basins to capture rainwater and wastewater during rain events and prevent combined sewer overflows into Beargrass Creek and the Ohio River. The tunnel holds the wastewater until capacity is available in the sewer system. The contents are then transferred to MSD's Morris Forman Water Quality Treatment Center.

The tunnel begins just west of downtown Louisville and goes east along the river, then southeast to end near Home of the Innocents.

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**Keep up to date on the tunnel project**
LouisvilleMSD.org/tunnel or Twitter with #MSDtunnel

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A section of River Road, Seventh Street and West Washington Street will be closed to traffic for construction of a drop shaft for the Waterway Protection Tunnel beginning May 14.

A section of Lexington Road will close on May 21 for construction of a sewer line. The intersection of Lexington Road and Baxter Avenue will close to traffic on May 29. The roadways are scheduled to open by August 7. Detours will be posted, with local access available to all businesses and residents.
Update on Main Street sewer repair

MSD is continuing work on a plan to repair a 60-year-old pipe under Main Street between Fourth and Seventh streets. Outside engineering consultants who have experience with large sewer line repair, local utilities, Metro Government and MSD are working together to develop a plan to rehabilitate a section of the Ohio River Interceptor — a large sewer line that runs under Main Street in downtown Louisville. The pipe is a critical piece of infrastructure that carries 40 percent of the wastewater flow generated in Jefferson County. The repair is complicated by multiple utilities that surrounded the pipe underground.

Meanwhile, the south side parking lane and part of the sidewalk on Main Street between Fourth and Seventh streets will remain closed to traffic and pedestrians to ensure public safety.

We will relay the repair plan and time line as soon as possible. For information visit: LouisvilleMSD.org/WestMainRepair.

Customer Compliments

This note is to let you know that Johnny Caudill and Rick Tobin provided outstanding service concerning drainage in the Norwood neighborhood. I appreciate their quick response to my request.
— Nancye Olt

I would like to thank Patrick Beasley, Benjamin Smith and Gregory Thornton for the work they did with the backup in my sewer line. They did a great job!
— Patricia Helter

I manage several condominiums and homeowner associations in the Louisville area, and I was having an issue with one that had a long-term water leak. Yozette Borges helped move forward on a resolution to the problem. She provided timely and informative service. I can’t thank you enough for her service. It was a breath of fresh air to deal with someone that truly cared and was able to assist.
— Hope Benham

You can help

Composting grass clippings, and decreasing your use of fertilizer and pesticides.

Rainwater flows over rooftops, lawns, parking lots and roadways as it travels to storm drains and ditches. This water accumulates pollutants along its journey—such as lawn chemicals, oil, litter and pet waste—which flow directly to our waterways.
Making a difference in the health of our streams

Jefferson County dogs produce four dump-truck loads of waste EVERY day.

Pet waste that is left behind on sidewalks, in parks and at home finds its way to local waterways when it rains. Please do your part to help by scooping the poop!

Properly dispose of it in the trash.

Working together, we can achieve safe, clean waterways for our community.