The Value of Water — MSD Executive Director speaks at Congressional Hearing


As part of World Water Day, MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott shared the message, “Economic Opportunity of Investing in Water Infrastructure,” at the nation’s capital.

Utility Infrastructure is foundational to Louisville’s continued transformation to become a Resilient City. Projects totaling $6 billion are planned for Louisville Metro—new transportation infrastructure, hotels, convention center, businesses and attractions. “We believe the public health and safety systems that MSD provides are an essential foundation to support that transformation. In fact, it is fair to say that Louisville’s prosperity depends on effective and reliable wastewater, stormwater and flood protection systems,” said Parrott.

Some of Louisville’s sanitary sewer systems were built in the late 1800s. The oldest sections of our system are in our most densely populated and critical economic areas. Most of the area within the Watterson Expressway has wastewater, stormwater and flood protection infrastructure that is 60 to 150 years old.

Critical Repair and Reinvestment Plan
MSD has developed a comprehensive 20-year plan to address these issues. However, it comes with a $4.3 billion price tag to bring our infrastructure up to a passing grade. Additionally, we are still committed to spend $900 million to support our existing federal Consent Decree to reduce the amount of sewage entering our waterways.
Collapsed sewer halts traffic
Many of the sewers in downtown Louisville are more than 100 years old, and they are vulnerable to erosion caused by groundwater from heavy rains. On March 10, a portion of Clay Street at Muhammad Ali Boulevard experienced a cave-in. This 30-inch sewer line was built in 1900. The resulting void was 18 to 20 feet deep.

FEMA awards flood mitigation grants
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Kentucky Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) approved nearly $4 million in grant funding for buyout of 17 homes in four flood-prone areas of Louisville Metro. The grants cover two areas in central Jefferson County along the South Fork Beargrass Creek and Greasy Ditch; and, one along the Ohio River in the northeastern part of the county.

The areas approved for this funding have experienced repeated localized flooding. Eligible property owners within the grant areas will be offered current fair-market value for their homes, which enables them to purchase comparable homes outside of the flood-prone area. Renters may be eligible for relocation funds.

MSD has been using buyouts like these to deal with the community’s most severe flood-prone areas. Homes purchased as part of the program will be demolished, and the property used for flood storage, stream buffer restoration or parkland.

MSD-owned property on Bartley Drive, restored by planting of native trees, shrubs and grasses, will create a forested stream buffer over time that will improve stream health by providing shade and habitat along Cedar Creek. The flood-prone property was purchased through a FEMA grant and the house demolished, per terms of the grant.

Make plans now to attend Ohio River Sweep
Saturday · June 17, 2017 · 9 a.m. to Noon
LouisvilleMSD.org/OhioRiverSweep2017
Agencies provide opportunity for supplier diversity networking

The Joint Utility Reception “Window of Opportunity,” held at The Olmsted on March 16, attracted more than 250 attendees for supplier diversity networking. MSD co-hosted the event with Louisville Water Company, LG&E and KU Energy, and Louisville Metro Government. The event was created to encourage economic inclusion and cultivate economic development through working with minority and woman-owned businesses and other diverse companies, as the sponsoring utilities and local government seek to provide our customers with outstanding service.

Sewer odor...a smelly nuisance

Sometimes pipes and drains connected to sewer systems smell like rotting eggs. Sewer odor is also known as hydrogen sulfide. It forms naturally as sewage and other materials decompose. Weather, speed of wastewater flow and other factors can help it develop.

While sewer odor is unpleasant, it is not a serious threat to people, animals or plants in the small concentrations that may develop at most homes and commercial buildings. Both indoor drains and the sewer system are designed to keep sewer odor from escaping. Most outdoor catch basins feature water traps that keep sewer odor from seeping out. Adding a few gallons of fresh water in the drain usually solves the problem in most homes.

If odors persist, check under sinks for drain pipe leaks. If you’re not comfortable doing it yourself, ask a licensed plumber to check for leaks and estimate repairs.

If you smell sewer odor near outside catch basins, contact Customer Relations Department at 502.587.0603 or CustomerRelations@LouisvilleMSD.org. Tell us the specific location so the problem can be corrected.

Customer Compliments

Jesse Barrett, Derek Ramsey and Ricky Tobin did a great job repairing the gutter in front of my driveway. Sean Brown has also been here to work on plating our driveway. We can now drive comfortably without fear of damaging our tires. They were all very professional, courteous and expedition in accomplishing the repair. Thank you for getting this all done so quickly.

— Ron Carter

When I called MSD recently, I talked to Charlotte Whitfield-Baker. She was very knowledgeable and easily solved my problem. She did a great job!

— Judy Michels

Casey Bowlin, Darrell Goodwin and Walter Jackson installed a new property service connection at my home. I was very pleased with the crew’s hard work, and it was fascinating to watch them work. I’m also happy with the quick turnaround time.

— Donnie Pryor
Supporting education and training for the trades

Students in the Heavy Equipment Science Magnet Program at Fairdale High will soon learn how to operate a dump truck as part of their career training. MSD’s Glen Cooper turned over the keys to Greg Walters of Jefferson County Public Schools, on Thursday, March 16. The truck had reached the end of its useful life for MSD, but still had plenty to offer the students of Fairdale. The Heavy Equipment Science Magnet was initiated 17 years ago to address the growing need for skilled labor and equipment operation.