

# STREAMLINE

News and Events at Louisville MSD

June 2019

## OUR VISION

Achieving Safe, Clean Waterways  
for a Healthy and Vibrant Community

## Clifton Heights CSO Basin is in service keeping millions of gallons of sewer overflow from Beargrass Creek

Built into a grassy hillside next to the Mellwood Arts and Entertainment Center, sits the MSD Clifton Heights Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Basin. When it rains, the basin is hard at work protecting Beargrass Creek and the neighborhood from combined sewer overflows.

Rainwater enters the combined sewer system through stormwater pipes and catch basins. This added water can overwhelm the sewer system sending a combination of wastewater and rainwater into Beargrass Creek.

The Clifton Heights CSO Basin will capture and store 7 million gallons of wastewater and stormwater during rain events and gradually release it back into the sewer system when treatment capacity is available. The mixture of rainwater and wastewater then flows through the sewer system to MSD's Morris Forman Water Quality Treatment Center for proper treatment and release into the Ohio River. When the basin is empty, water is flushed through the structure to clean any remaining debris.

The basin, which is now complete, is mostly underground and invisible to the public. The hillside covering the part of the basin is an unmowed meadow. A mowed grassy flat area at the bottom of the hillside provides a place for the neighbors to enjoy the park-like setting. A wetlands area contains a mix of 25 diverse native meadow plant species providing pollinator habitat and erosion control.

Underground storage is part of MSD's larger endeavor to prevent wastewater from overflowing into Louisville's waterways.



MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott, center, leads the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Clifton Heights CSO Basin.



April 2019, Clifton Heights Basin construction is complete and the basin is covered with 12 feet of dirt.



In August 2017, excavation of the basin was underway.



## OUR MISSION

Providing Exceptional Wastewater, Drainage  
and Flood Protection Services for Our Community

**24/7/365**

502.540.6000 · [CustomerRelations@LouisvilleMSD.org](mailto:CustomerRelations@LouisvilleMSD.org)



## Louisville MSD’s commitment to Supplier Diversity earns Corporation of the Year Award

This year, businesses owned and operated by minorities will oversee millions of dollars of work for Louisville MSD. The agency is focused on supplier diversity, and the Tri-State Minority Supplier Development Council (TSMSSDC) has recognized the effort by awarding MSD its 2019 Impact—Corporation of the Year Award. MSD received the award during an event on May 2, in Nashville Tennessee. The council represents corporations, government agencies and other nonprofit organizations in Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia.

**“We believe it is important that we spend our ratepayer dollars in a way that reflects the diversity of the community. Investing in the health, safety, and quality of life for our contracting community and ratepayers is an investment worth making.”**

— MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott

MSD faced competition for the “Corporation of the Year Award” from Messer Construction Company, Nashville Electric Service, Nissan North America and Toyota North America.

The Impact Awards recognizes organizations for their outstanding efforts in advancing minority supplier development, leadership engagement, influence, active TSMSSDC participation, and purchasing opportunities for certified Minority Business Enterprises

(MBE) affiliated with the National Minority Supplier Development Council and TSMSSDC.

“Our commitment is shown in our numbers. In our fiscal year 2018, MSD spent more than \$26 million with MBE firms, many within the Greater Louisville Metro Area,” states One Water Chief Procurement Officer Rene’ Thomas.



To track the tunnel, visit [LouisvilleMSD.org/Tunnel](http://LouisvilleMSD.org/Tunnel)

Below: The path for the tunnel is shown in red. The boring machine—nicknamed Bumble Bee—is moving from west to east.



### You can help Improve our waterways by...

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.

**Interested in working for one of our construction contractors?**  
For more information visit [MSDJobLink.org](http://MSDJobLink.org).



## Preliminary Rate Proposal would fund \$205 million in drainage, wastewater and flood-protection projects

On May 28, 2019, the MSD Board approved a preliminary rate proposal to raise monthly wastewater bills \$3.47 and stormwater bills \$0.68 to fund Consent Decree progress and critical system repairs. Progress on more than 144 projects in all corners of the community will help maintain Louisville's wastewater treatment, stormwater management and flood protection under the fiscal year 2020 capital budget.

The MSD Board will take up the issue of the preliminary rate increase at a meeting on July 29. If approved, new rates would take effect August 1, 2019.

"We have shared with the community for some time about the great need to rebuild and restore the dated sewer pipes, water treatment facilities, flood pumping stations and other infrastructure that has outlived its useful life," said MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott. "While this budget will not permit us to advance the Critical Repair & Reinvestment Plan as we've recommended, we will move some of our highest priority projects forward to continue to maintain the system. It's a stopgap budget, not a cure-all budget."

### Key initiatives include:

- **Reducing Sewer Overflows**

More than one half of the capital plan—about \$115 million—allows MSD to make significant progress toward meeting the estimated \$1.15 billion federal Consent Decree objective of reducing by 2024 the vast majority of combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows that pollute area waterways.

This work includes continuing progress on one of MSD's signature projects—the Waterway Protection Tunnel from downtown to Lexington Road and Grinstead Drive—as well as completing storage basin projects in the Portland neighborhood and along Southwestern Parkway.

- **Water Quality Treatment**

The capital plan provides more than \$8 million to expand and improve the Hite Creek Water Quality Treatment Center. This will help ensure proper wastewater treatment

capabilities are in place for Louisville's continued development in the northeastern corridor.

Additionally, more than \$5.7 million will be invested in new equipment at the Morris Forman Water Quality Treatment Center, MSD's highest volume facility, treating up to 350 million gallons per day and serving more than 62 percent of the community's wastewater treatment.

- **Floodplain Management**

The budget commits more than \$10 million to a number of drainage improvements and flood mitigation projects across the community as well as home buyouts in flood-prone areas. One key initiative is \$3 million for flood-mitigation and buyouts in the Cathleen Way/Belquin area.

- **Ohio River Flood Protection**

MSD will invest more than \$6.8 million to shore up the system of pumping stations, floodwalls and levees that protect the community when the Ohio River exceeds its banks. Included in this is a nearly \$2.2 million project to rebuild critical pumps and other equipment at the Pond Creek Flood Pumping Station that were damaged during the record rainfall of February 2018.

MSD Schedule of Rates, Rentals and Charges is available for inspection at MSD's Main Office located at 700 West Liberty Street, Louisville, KY 40203, or online at [LouisvilleMSD.org/Rates](https://LouisvilleMSD.org/Rates). Written comments regarding this proposed rate increase must be sent to MSD Board c/o Customer Relations, 700 West Liberty Street, Louisville, KY 40203 or email to [Finance@LouisvilleMSD.org](mailto:Finance@LouisvilleMSD.org) by July 28, 2019.

## Customer **Compliments**

MSD participated in our 2019 Spring Cleanup in partnership with Brightside. The team and board at One West would like to extend our gratitude to MSD for your extensive efforts in our cleanup. The supplies and equipment, including extra trash bags, a dump truck and a sewer cleaning truck, were a major help to our cleanup. Thanks goes to **Sandra Gibson**, who arranged the extra help and the crew of **Greg McCraney, Virgil Brown, Ron Scherer, Dwayne Edwards, Matt Clark and Calbert Kelsey**. Our vision was accomplished and the result exceeded our expectations thanks to MSD's outstanding effort.

— Evon J. Smith, President and CEO One West



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The public is welcome to attend MSD Board meetings.  
For MSD Board information and meeting schedule visit:  
[LouisvilleMSD.org/About-Us/MSD-Board](http://LouisvilleMSD.org/About-Us/MSD-Board)

## Upcoming Events

**JUNE 15**  
**Ohio River Sweep**  
9 AM to Noon, Various locations on the Ohio River  
See [LouisvilleMSD.org/OhioRiverSweep](http://LouisvilleMSD.org/OhioRiverSweep)

**JUNE 18**  
**MSD Special Personnel Committee Meeting**  
2 PM, Open Session, 700 West Liberty Street

**JUNE 24**  
**MSD Board Meeting**  
1 PM, Open Session, 700 West Liberty Street



Students canoe the Ohio River with Beargrass Waterways Alliance.

**Make plans now!**  
**Ohio River Sweep**  
**Saturday, June 15 · 9 AM to Noon**



Ohio River Sweep is one of the nation's largest and longest-running environmental cleanup events. MSD employees will equip volunteers with gloves and bags.

**[LouisvilleMSD.org/OhioRiverSweep](http://LouisvilleMSD.org/OhioRiverSweep)**