



700 West Liberty Street | Louisville, KY 40203-1911
502.540.6000 | LouisvilleMSD.org

April 2026

Dear Louisville Metro Neighbor,

We would like to share some important information. During heavy rainfall, the sewer system can become overloaded, leading to the overflow of wastewater mixed with stormwater onto our streets and into nearby waterways. This issue is particularly significant for those living near Beargrass Creek, the Ohio River, or its tributaries.

For the past 20 years, MSD has sought to reduce sewer system overflows into our streams and the Ohio River. We have accomplished much during that time. However, there is still work to be done. With that in mind, we ask that you keep children and pets away from the waterways during periods of rain for their safety, and for 48 hours afterward as well. If you happen to encounter any polluted water, please wash thoroughly with warm, soapy water.

Since 2005, MSD projects—including those listed below—are estimated, based on modeled data, to reduce combined sewer overflows by 5.85 billion gallons per Typical Year through a combination of wet-weather storage, real-time control technology, green infrastructure, and treatment-process improvements.

Project	Storage Capacity Millions of gallons	Cost in \$ Millions
Churchill Downs Green Infrastructure Project	3 MG	\$2 M
Clifton Heights Basin	7 MG	\$34 M
Logan Street Basin	17 MG	\$93 M
Portland Green Infrastructure Project	35 MG	\$7 M
Portland Basin	7 MG	\$38 M
Shawnee Park Basin	20 MG	\$76 M
Waterway Protection Tunnel	55 MG	\$197 M
Totals	144 MG	\$447 M

We want to assure you that MSD is dedicated to being a responsible steward of our resources. We're committed to ensuring safe and clean waterways for everyone. Our team is consistently gathering water quality data and exploring new ways to improve local creeks, streams, and the Ohio River. If you're interested in checking out our water quality data, please visit LouisvilleMSD.org/WaterQuality.

For more about MSD's ongoing efforts to enhance our waterways, feel free to visit MSDProjectWIN.org or LouisvilleMSD.org/ConsentDecree or give us a call at 502.540.6000.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Together, we can work towards ensuring our community's waterways remain safe and enjoyable for everyone!

Sincerely,
James A. Parrott
Executive Director

What you don't see could harm you!



Sewers can overflow into waterways during rainstorms, bringing harmful bacteria, which can make you sick.

To date, MSD has **reduced combined sewer overflows by 5.85 billion gallons** in a typical rainfall year, based on modeled data.

To be safe, you should avoid swimming, fishing, wading, and splashing in waterways during—and for 48 hours after—a rain event.

Wash with warm, soapy water if you contact water that a sewage overflow may have contaminated.

For information visit

MSDProjectWIN.org

LouisvilleMSD.org/ConsentDecree

LouisvilleMSD.org/AtHome

LouisvilleMSD.org/WaterQuality



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Safe, clean waterways®

Customer Relations

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MSDProjectWIN.org



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You can make a difference in the health of our streams.

Can the trash

Let's protect our community waterways and sewer system by eliminating trash. Together, we can make a difference!

LouisvilleMSD.org/AtHome



**Stopping the rain
is impossible**

Protect yourself with flood insurance

MSD has earned Louisville Metro a Class 3 status—allowing our residents to automatically receive a **35 percent discount** on flood insurance premiums through the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System.

**To find out if a property is located
in a floodplain, visit:**

<http://apps.lojic.org/msdflood-determination/>



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Soak up extra rainwater

Plant a tree or build a rain garden to absorb stormwater, or replace your downspout with a rain barrel. For more information on keeping rainwater out of the sewer system, visit

LouisvilleMSD.org/downspout



Clean up pet waste

Dispose of pet waste in the trash. When left on the ground, it washes into our streams during rain.

Dogs in Jefferson County produce **four dump-truck loads of poo every day.**



AVOID MAKING A SERIOUS POTTY FOUL

**KNOW WHAT'S OK
TO FLUSH DOWN THE TOILET**

YEP!



NOPE!

(ANYTHING ELSE)

**BABY WIPES
BANDAGES
COTTON BALLS/SWABS
CLEANING WIPES
DENTAL FLOSS
DIAPERS
FEMININE HYGIENE
PRODUCTS
HAIR
PLASTIC AND
RUBBER ITEMS
ZIPPY THE GOLDFISH**

Wipes do not break down, even if their labels read "flushable." They can lead to sewage backups in your home or work place.

**Avoid the mess, toss
your wipes into the trash!**

**For more information visit
LouisvilleMSD.org/AtHome**