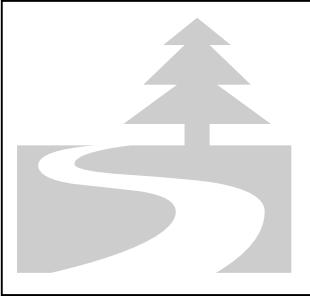


Construction to begin on levee trail



A key link in a system of greenways and trails throughout Jefferson County will soon become reality.

MSD's Board has approved a \$562,555 contract with MAC Construction & Excavating, Inc. to build a trail atop the Ohio River levee. The 10-foot-wide trail will stretch nearly four miles, from the public boat ramp at Riverview Park to Riverside, the Farnsley-Moremén Landing.

The trail will be built using recycled asphalt, most of it from other MSD projects under construction in the

Mill Creek watershed area, according to Roddy Williams, MSD's wet weather/water quality team leader. The trail will cover an existing gravel road used by MSD to maintain the levee, part of the county's flood protection system. Major construction should be completed late this year.

Williams said the trail is a key section of the county-wide greenways and trails system outlined in the Ohio River Corridor Master Plan, developed by MSD in partnership with local public agencies and private organizations. Because this trail section is a priority in Jefferson County's transportation plan, the project received a \$100,000 grant to help fund it.

While basic construction will include a paved trail, markers, rest areas, road crossings and links to other existing trails, Williams said funding will be solicited to pay for viewing stations, benches, and other features. MSD is working with Metro Parks and other government agencies to make sure signage and other features are consistent with other trails, he said.

MSD initiated plans for a system of greenways and trails in 1993 to address flooding, water pollution, protection of native landscapes and other stream corridor and watershed management issues, according to Executive Director Gordon Garner. "We see the Ohio River Corridor trail as the spine from which neighborhoods can connect to parks, community resources and the river," Garner said.

FEMA changes strategies for repeat flooding

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a new strategy to minimize the flood risk to properties with repetitive losses and to reduce claims against the National Flood Insurance Fund.

Currently about 10,000 of the properties insured by the fund, less than one-fourth of one percent of the fund's entire policy base. Because these properties flood repeatedly and significantly, they account for approximately 10 percent of all flood losses annually. Of these 10,000 properties, 1,000 are in Kentucky, and about 160 are in Jefferson County.

Since 1968, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has made flood insurance available to persons living in a floodplain, in exchange for the community adopting and enforcing minimum floodplain management standards. All properties have been ensured at the same rate, because the program has not used individual property loss experience to determine the risk classification for rating purposes.

That means a property with no flood losses has been charged the same rate as a similarly located property that has repeated, significant loss due to flooding.

Under the new approach, these properties will given a special designation. While the designation won't change rates for those properties, they will be targeted for voluntary flood mitigation action to help prevent future flooding. Those actions may include funding to elevate the structure, flood-proofing commercial structures, or removing the structure from the floodplain.

The designation also will help to consistently control losses and track mitigation actions. It also will help with flood mitigation planning.

Letters explaining the change are being mailed to NFIP policyholders. The first policies affected will be those with a policy term effective date of August 1, 2000.

Upcoming Events

July 17 - Public meeting, Mill Creek Collectors (MC-11C), 7 p.m., Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Hwy.

July 19 - Public meeting, Parkwood/Triangle Drainage Improvement Project, 7 p.m., Pleasure Ridge Park Fire District #5, 6902 Manslick Rd.

July 26 - Public meeting, Valley Station (VS-3C) Sewer project, 7 p.m., Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Hwy.

July 29 - Public meeting, Krashey Way/Orville Dr. Drainage Improvement Project, 7 p.m., Indian Trail Elementary School, 3709 East Indian Trail



North County watershed area

Improvements planned for two treatment plants

Repairs and upgrades are planned for the **Hunting Creek North Wastewater Treatment Plant**.

MSD acquired the plant through its acquisition of the City of Prospect's sanitary sewer system, according to North County Area Team Leader Vince Bowlin. While MSD plans to take the plant out of service by 2007, the repairs are needed to increase the plant's treatment efficiency and improve operational process control. "It's old, large, noisy, inefficient and a source of neighborhood complaints," Bowlin said.

Plans call for replacing surface aerators with new bubble diffusers and blowers, and the sludge piping systems also will be modified.

To accommodate increased flows to **Hite Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant**, a new solids loading station will be constructed.

The new overhead solids loading station will replace the current loading process which is time-consuming for plant personnel, Bowlin said. A new pump station also will be added to move solids to the loading station.

MTN Construction, Inc. was awarded the contracts for both projects.



MSD

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Pond Creek watershed area

Project will improve Fern Creek water quality

Removing three sand filters and connecting three properties to sanitary sewers will eliminate raw sewage overflows into Fern Creek.

The sand filters have been serving as on-site septic systems for three properties on Fegenbush Lane, along the main tributary of Fern Creek. These inefficient systems have sent raw sewage into the creek and contaminated groundwater in the area, said Pond Creek Area Team Leader Dave Schafflein.

With the recent completion of the Fern Creek No. 5 sanitary sewer project, Schafflein said it's now possible to connect these three properties to the sewer system and remove the failing sand filters.

Basham Construction will perform the work.

New rates become effective August 1

Customer fees for MSD's connection charges and sewer and drainage services will increase by five percent, beginning August 1.

Under the new rates, approved by MSD's Board July 10, residential customers will pay an average of 70 cents more per month for sanitary sewer service. Drainage services for residential customers will rise by an average of 17 cents to \$3.48 a month.

At a June 27 public hearing on the proposed increase, one customer addressed the Board seeking clarification on the meter reading charge, which was not part of the proposed new rate schedule. Another customer wrote urging internal cost-cutting measures before raising rates.

MSD's operating budget has decreased from the previous year, due to a staff reduction of more than 140 employees. All funds from the rate increase will pay for capital construction projects and neighborhood sewer and drainage projects.

Stambaugh named Development Team Leader

Randy Stambaugh has filled the Development Team Leader position.

Stambaugh has been with MSD's Stormwater Department since 1997 and was MSD's representative on the Jefferson County Planning Commission. He supervised MSD's stormwater management and sanitary sewer departments.

He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Arizona.

The Development/Plan Review Department was created in 1999 to ensure that drainage and sewer issues are adequately addressed in private-development construction projects. By working with residential and commercial builders, planners and developers, the team makes sure that construction plans can provide the needed drainage and sewer services.



Mill Creek watershed area

Valley Station project ready to be built

A pocket of homes west of Dixie Highway near West Pages Lane will be connected to sanitary sewers.

The 197 properties were missed in previous sewer projects recently constructed in the area, according to Kenny Kingsbury of the Mill Creek Area Team. To serve them, more than 15,000 feet of sewer pipe and 38 manholes will be constructed, and nearly 24,000 square yards of resurfacing is planned.

Cyclone, Inc. will construct the project for \$967,279. It is expected to take more than a year to complete.

Options eyed to help with assessments

MSD is considering ways to help new sewer customers understand and arrange to pay assessments to connect to sanitary sewers.

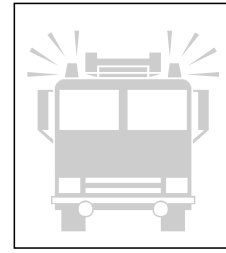
As sewer service is extended throughout the Mill Creek watershed area, new customers receive an assessment notice. Assessments are each property owner's share of the project's construction cost. Most range between \$4,000 and \$12,000.

While property owners have options on how to pay, many have questions about the process and which payment options is best.

"We are looking for ways to make this more convenient for customers to deal with their assessments," said Executive Director Gordon Garner. To answer questions and help customers arrange to pay assessments, MSD is considering opening field offices or contracting the service. Garner said the service will be available in the evenings and on weekends to accommodate customers who work during the day.

During the last 14 months, 15 sewer construction projects have been completed in the Mill Creek watershed area, connecting 4,550 properties to sanitary sewers. Assessments totaling \$21 million have been issued for these projects.

Designing a "Disaster Resistant Community"



A 29-member advisory committee is working with MSD to help reduce flood insurance rates and initiate new flood protection activities in Jefferson County.

The Community Rating System (CRS) rewards communities that work hard to prevent or reduce flood losses and rewards those who try new ways to minimize flood impacts. Like the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Mitigation Strategy and Project Impact, CRS requires a plan that identifies the community's hazards and problems, assesses the vulnerability, and designs a mitigation plan through partnerships with local agencies and citizens.

Rick Storm, MSD's CRS coordinator, said forming the advisory committee was the first step to reclassifying Jefferson County as a lower risk area. "Once the Advisory Committee and a Floodplain Management Plan are in place, Jefferson County's flood classification will drop from seven to six, providing a 20 percent discount on local flood insurance policies."

The Advisory Committee's main task is creating a Floodplain Management Plan to raise consciousness of the flood-risk and to reduce flood damages to life and property.

In addition to Storm and other MSD staff, Advisory Committee members include private citizens and representatives of these organizations:

American Red Cross; City of Louisville Fire Department; City of Louisville Government; City of Louisville Inspections, Permits & Licenses; Jefferson County Code Enforcement; Jefferson County Fire Department; Jefferson County Government; Jefferson County Planning & Development; Jefferson County Public Schools; Jefferson County Public Works; Kentucky Waterway Alliance; Metro Parks; Louisville Board of Realtors; Louisville Home Builders Association; and the University of Louisville.