

Help from nature is workshop focus

Use of live plants and natural structures to reduce erosion of stream and creek banks-called soil bioengineering-is the focus of a three-day workshop hosted by the Kentucky Waterways Alliance.

The workshop will be held at the Galt House Hotel November 14-17. It is sponsored by Kentucky Waterways Alliance, University of Louisville, The Bioengineering Group, Natural Resources Conservation Service, MSD and others.

Soil bioengineering is still relatively new in Jefferson County, and MSD has been a forerunner in increasing its acceptance and use. "It makes sense if you think about it," says Sarah Lynn Cunningham, an environmental engineer with MSD. "Which would you rather live by—a concrete slab or an embankment covered in trees, wildflowers and shrubs?"

Soil bioengineering systems benefit the environment because they grow rather than deteriorate over time, promoting habitat creation and improving water quality. "Soil bioengineering is both a science and art," Cunningham said. "These systems are not only beneficial, they are also attractive and cost less to maintain long term."

The workshop will include field trips to sites where soil bioengineering has been used, including Cherokee Park, Winding Falls and Bruce Creek. Restoration work at these sites was performed by MSD to help control storm water runoff and prevent stream bank erosion.

To register for the workshop or learn more about soil bioengineering, phone Kentucky Waterways Alliance at 270/524-1774 or visit www.KWAlliance.org on the Web.



Pond Creek flood control projects progressing

MSD and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are continuing work on a five-year project designed to reduce flooding in the Pond Creek watershed area. Much progress has been made since construction began in 1998.

Construction of the Melco Basin began in June 2000. The project will further excavate an existing pond south of the Ford Assembly Plant on Fern Valley Road. The result will be an 80-acre basin 20 feet deep capable of holding more than 500 million gallons of floodwater. The estimated cost is \$13.4 million. Completion is scheduled in December 2001, but presently is ahead of schedule.

Channel improvements along Pond Creek and Northern Ditch should begin by 2002 and are expected to cost about \$4.4 million. In addition to the channel work, greenways or walking paths will be built in floodplain areas for pedestrians and

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Beargrass Creek watershed area

Oldest pump station to be retired

Letterle Pump Station, the oldest in MSD's system, will be taken out of service, reducing costs to operate the station that has been in service since 1937.

The Beargrass Creek Area Team began evaluating the pump station's operation and maintenance in 1998, determining that MSD could cost-effectively eliminate the station and its original equipment. Removing Letterle from service also eliminates a combined sewer overflow at the site.

While the station's equipment will be removed, the building will remain on the site.

Cost to take the station out of service and construct five access points to the Northeastern Sanitary Sewer is about \$1.56 million. MAC Construction & Excavating will perform the work.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 26: Public meetings, Floodplain Management Plan, 11:30 a.m., Central Government Center, 7201 Outer Loop AND 6 p.m., Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Hwy.

Nov. 2: Public meeting, Floodplain Management Plan, 6 p.m., Air Pollution Control Board, 850 Barret Ave.

Nov. 13: MSD Board meeting, 10 a.m., 700 W. Liberty, first floor

Nov. 14-17: Soil Bioengineering Workshop, The Galt House Hotel, Fourth at River Rd.

800+ properties no longer designated in floodplain

More than 800 Jefferson County properties may no longer be designated within a floodplain, thanks to studies performed by MSD.

As the local agent for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), MSD initiated reviews of flooding in five neighborhoods following the March 1997 Ohio River flood, according to Director of Engineering Derek Guthrie. "Those areas were listed in the floodplain, yet flooding either did not occur or did not damage structures during the 1997 flood," Guthrie said.

Based on the studies, MSD is recommending that FEMA remove more than 800 properties from floodplain designation and that 26 properties be added to the floodplain. FEMA requires that properties in a floodplain be covered by flood insurance.

Property owners in the five neighborhoods have already been notified by letter about the change in floodplain designations. Guthrie said MSD is conducting elevation or other studies to make floodplain determinations about some properties in those areas.

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MSD

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MSD's Lee in Lt. Gov's wedding choir

When Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Steve Henry weds former Miss America Heather Renee' French October 27, MSD Account Representative Janet Lee will be part of the ceremony.

Lee will be singing along with 24 other members of Louisville's Cathedral of Assumption Choir when Henry and French wed in Kentucky's version of a royal wedding. "I am very excited to have the opportunity to sing in this wedding," Lee said. The choir's selections include works by John Rutter, which Lee describes as "absolutely beautiful."

Singing became a passion for Lee after her husband died two years ago. "I had put my children through college and now it was time to focus on what I want in my life-not what I need," Lee said.

To follow her dream of singing Lee began working with a voice coach and joined the Cathedral of Assumption Choir in August 1999. The noteworthy group sang for Pope John Paul II in 1998 and will travel to Paris next year to sing in the Notre Dame Cathedral of Amiens.



Pond Creek watershed area

Sewer project OK'ed for Hollow Creek

Sanitary sewers will be constructed to serve the 234 properties in the City of Hollow Creek near Highview.

Properties in the area now are served by septic tanks. Plans call for construction of more than 22,000 feet of eight-inch and four-inch pipe, along with storm drainage improvements.

MAC Construction will perform the work for \$2 million. It is expected to take nearly two years to complete.

Pond Creek Flood

(continued from front)

cyclists to use in dry weather. During storms, the greenways will provide additional stormwater storage.

The Pond Creek channel improvements will include about two and one-half miles of the creek, located in southwestern Jefferson County. The Northern Ditch improvements will include portions of the channel just east of I-65.

Two projects already have been

completed. The Vulcan Quarry basin accepts stormwater diverted from Fishpool Creek near Preston Highway and South Park Road and cost \$900,000 to complete. The abandoned limestone quarry now is capable of holding more than 130 million gallons of stormwater.

Also wetlands restoration at the site of the former Okolona Wastewater Treatment Plant has been completed. The cost to restore about 15 acres of wetlands was \$600,000.

800 Properties

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Here's a by-neighborhood summary of MSD's recommendations to FEMA:

Sunshine Acres-remove 271 properties from the floodplain; remove 108 additional properties when elevation certificates are completed; add eight properties to the regulated floodplain.

Thornhill-remove 16 properties from the floodplain; remove two additional properties when elevation certificates are completed.

Cedar Creek-remove 183 structures and 153 parcels from the floodplain.

Oxmoor Woods-remove 33 developed parcels and 22 undeveloped parcels from the floodplain. Separate reviews are underway on eight properties.

Audubon Park-27 parcels partially or fully removed from the floodplain, with 18 parcels added to the regulated floodplain.

Guthrie noted that completion of key drainage and flood abatement projects have reduced the flooding potential in these neighborhoods. Sunshine Acres benefits from channel improvements along Northern Ditch and a railroad berm helps keep the ditch from flooding properties.

Thornhill is downstream of a stormwater detention basin at Ballard High School, which has reduced flooding during heavy rains. Addition of a piped stream in Oxmoor Woods keeps runoff water moving when it rains.

Approval of the changes in floodplain designations in these five neighborhoods is expected by the end of this year.

Keeping Customers First

Following are excerpts from letters recently received at MSD:

"Thank you and your crew (Rick Bledose, Enock Dean and Greg Daugherty) for the fine job installing the drainage pipe in our front yard and along side of our house. We think this improvement will prevent future drainage problems that we have experienced in the past."

—*Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Showalter, Girard Drive, 40222*

"My sincere thanks for assistance provided by Louisville MSD during the recently completed wet weather surveys. Patti Grace-Jarrett and Dan Sammons both went above and beyond the call of duty to help ORSANCO complete this survey. When our survey boat trailer failed, one hundred miles from home, when Chuck and Jesse from MSD came to our rescue to repair the trailer, making it possible to complete the survey. My thanks to all MSD personnel who assisted during the survey (including Barry Nichols, Angela Akridge, Patrick Fitzgerald, Jerry Terhune, Julie Elliott, Mike Griffith, Sue Green, Tim Brock and others). Finally, I extend my appreciation to you, Gordon, for all the help you have provided this project over the past few years."

—*Alan H. Vicory, Executive Director and Chief Engineer, Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission, Cincinnati*

"Recently an MSD crew led by Bill Smith, assisted by John Alexander and Cary Smith, completed a project near our property at 420 Mockingbird Hill Road. This project addressed a drainage problem which had been eroding a portion of our property and a portion of Mockingbird Hill Road. It was a small project in the grand scheme of Jefferson County drainage, but it was very important to us."

—*Kennedy Helm, III, Stites & Harbison Attorneys, 40202*

"I called about 4:45 p.m. October 11 to report a broken cap to a clean out valve in the street-leaving a hole about 10 inches wide. Your people had it repaired by 7 p.m. the same day. Thanks for helping to avoid possible personal injury to a pedestrian!"

—*Robert J. Fitzpatrick, Capri Drive, 40215*

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