



MSD

Louisville and Jefferson County  
Metropolitan Sewer District

# Update

News about activities and developments at MSD

October 25, 2001

## Program cuts cost, adds value to projects

What does a business do when the budget is reduced, new projects still must be completed and services continue to be needed?

It looks for ways to eliminate unnecessary costs and new solutions to challenges.

MSD responded to this situation by initiating a comprehensive value management program. "With a decreasing budget, we realized that we had to get better value for the dollars spent," says Clay Calloway, MSD's value management program manager.

Calloway, one of only two certified Associate Value Specialists in



Kentucky, went to work. His job was to apply the method to every planned project estimated to cost \$2 million or more.

First, a team of experts from a variety of disciplines-including design, construction estimating,

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## Answers found in "After We Flush" Lessons come alive at Floyds Fork plant



*Fifth graders see wastewater treatment and stream protection as part of the After We Flush class at Floyds Fork facility's ecology learning center.*

Fifth graders typically are curious. They often stump teachers, parents and other adults by asking questions about complicated matters, including, "What happens after we flush?"

MSD is helping answer questions about wastewater through an educational program crafted especially for fifth-grade teachers, appropriately titled **After We Flush**. The day-long program takes place at the newest treatment plant in the MSD system, the Floyds Fork Wastewater Treatment Facility which went into service earlier this year.

"The Floyds Fork facility was built to make the entire plant tour accessible to groups and easy to follow," according to CERES Principles Engineer Sarah Lynn Cunningham, who leads the program. Sidewalks and ramps were constructed throughout the plant, providing views of every step of wastewater treatment including solids screening, filtration and disinfection.

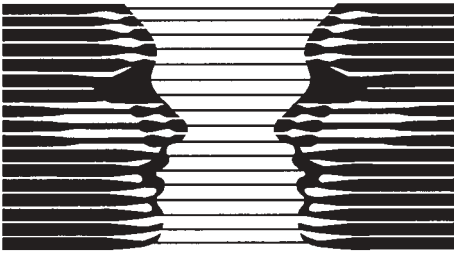
"Students can literally see where wastewater goes after they flush through every step of the



treatment process to discharge into Floyds Fork creek," Cunningham said.

After We Flush is more than a field trip to watch wastewater being treated. The program meets state curriculum requirements for science, social studies, math, practical living skills, language and fine arts, according to Cunningham. Participating classes use the treatment facility's Ellen Swallow Richards Ecology Learning Center and the Imagination Overlook on Floyds Fork's bank for discussion

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## Customer First at Work

*Editor's note: Following are excerpts from customer letters.*

"My compliments to **Marya Summers** for the professional manner in which she handled my customer service call. She was very knowledgeable about back-ups, and asked me the right questions to clarify my problem and report it. She represents MSD well."

—George May, Louisville, 40218

"We want to thank the crew (**Jermaine Murphy, Steve Stewart and Christina Thomas**) who recently worked in our neighborhood. A portion of the main sewer line was replaced, a two-way cleanout installed and the grounds restored. We were very impressed by the professional work."

—John Oregon, Louisville, 40205

## MSD Milestones

Congratulations on your promotion:

- Bob Stauble, to Subdivision Bond Coordinator, 10/20

Congratulations to this departing employee. Thanks for your service:

- H. Michael Crawford, Human Resources Director, retiring 10/31

## Area Team News

### Wet Weather/ Water Quality

#### Clearing Beargrass Creek is project goal

A pair of floating booms attached to metal baskets will soon be skimming trash, debris and other solid materials from Beargrass Creek's south fork.

The screening system will be positioned just downstream from MSD's Beargrass Creek Flood Pumping Station, according to Angela Akridge, Wet Weather/Water Quality Area Team leader. While the screens are designed to sift solid materials from the entire width of the creek, the creek will remain navigable for canoes.

That's important, because Mayor David Armstrong's Beargrass Creek Restoration Task Force envisions the creek as a community recreational area. Since late August, rafts and canoes have been available to school and environmental groups for educational voyages on the creek near its confluence with the Ohio River.

Upstream from the site are approximately 60 locations where untreated wastewater is discharged from combined sewers into Beargrass Creek during heavy rains. Already screening devices are in place at four of these combined sewer overflows, with five more currently under design.

The screens should be in operation by the end of the year.

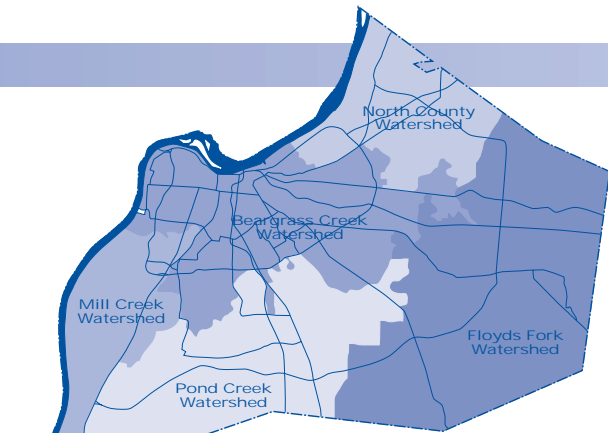
### Pond Creek Watershed

#### Sewer, drainage work planned in Valley Station

A project to bring sewer service and drainage improvements to the Deering Road area is ready to construct.

When completed in late fall 2002, some 295 properties will be connected to sewer service, according to Pond Creek Area Team Leader David Schafflein.

Drainage improvements also are planned, including front and rear yard swales, paved ditches and storm sewers.



## Grass-less lawn wins award

Imagine a lawn without grass. Now imagine getting an award for having a lawn without grass.

MSD received such an award from the Air Pollution Control District, recognizing MSD's efforts to replace traditional grass lawns at its facilities with native plantings.

It's part of the APCD's Lawn Care for Cleaner Air initiative, to encourage businesses to minimize the amount of mowing required to maintain lawns.

According to Cynthia Lee, environmental programs manager of the Air Pollution Control District staff, using a gas-powered lawn mower for one hour generates the same amount of emissions as driving a standard car for 200 miles.

## Better service, improved response prompt internal reorganization

Eyeing opportunities to improve customer service while continuing a holistic approach to watershed management, MSD is initiating changes among its area teams.

Combined Sewer Overflow Program Manager Angela Akridge has been named Wet Weather/Water Quality Area Team Leader. Akridge has directed the CSO program since 2000.

"Angela's appointment is a natural progression," says Engineering Director Derek Guthrie. "She'll be a single focal point to manage regulatory needs related to water quality while managing wet weather initiatives that are familiar to her."

Guthrie said he and the Area Team Managing Partners have been looking for ways to improve customer service while reducing costs. "We've concluded that it makes sense to consolidate some engineering and area team activities, and some area teams."

The first move in that direction is merging the Floyds Fork and North County watershed areas under a single area team to be led by Vicki Coombs. Those watershed areas were chosen because of similarities in geography, topography, customer needs and development issues.

Because the move comes well

into the current fiscal year, Guthrie said projects will continue as planned and staffing isn't likely to change because resources are committed to completing projects already on the board. But, the consolidation should contribute to cost savings in the next fiscal year.

Vince Bowlin, now North County area team leader, will be in a new position to help oversee Area Team and Engineering Division capital project budgets. "With MSD's overall direction toward reduced spending, it's critical to ensure that we are spending within our means, and Vince will help us do that," Guthrie said.

Bowlin also will help MSD look at regional opportunities for expansion outside of MSD's existing service area. "Our forward planning includes looking regionally at environmental and service issues, and Vince's experience with Oldham County makes him a good choice for this position," according to Guthrie.

Coombs and Bowlin won't officially begin their new duties until Jan. 1, according to Guthrie. In the meantime and beyond, he and the Managing Partners will continue to look for more ways to best serve customers while containing costs.

### Answers found in

(continued from front page)

and other activities. Lesson plans addressing water conservation, stream pollution and environmental history help teachers keep the lessons alive back in the classroom long after the field trip has ended.

Four classes have already used the program this term. "Our goal is to make it easy for already-overwhelmed teachers to bring their classes to the Floyds Fork facility for a field trip and to provide connections between After We Flush lessons to other study

areas," she said.

"Studies show that integrated environmental programs produced quantifiable improvements for the students, including higher test scores, better attendance and ownership of work," Cunningham said.

More information about After We Flush is available on MSD's Internet site or by contacting Cunningham (phone, 540-6118; e-mail, [cunningh@msdlouky.org](mailto:cunningh@msdlouky.org)). The next teacher training session will be Oct. 29.

### Program cuts cost

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specialist contracting and other areas-reviews the project's design from a function perspective. This team identifies possible solutions that will help the project achieve its functional goals, often at a lower cost than initially estimated.

Applying value management early in a project's planning and design is a key to success and savings, according to Calloway. "The earlier you start, the better the opportunities to reduce costs and have greater impact on the project's outcome."

Before MSD's program formally



began in July, value management methods

were applied to various projects, under Jim Wathen's direction, with notable successes. Since April 2000, value management studies have been completed on four projects.

Some of the savings opportunities identified were as simple as changing a floor plan or using single-trench connections to hook new customers to sewers.

Although the typical return on investment for value management on a project is 10 to 1, value management studies of the four projects identified about \$4 million in savings. "There's no question that value management pays for itself," Calloway said.

At MSD, Calloway said the need for value management became more critical this year as staff looked for ways to continue reducing costs. "A lot of people said we couldn't afford to do it," he said. "In reality, we can't afford not to."



# MSD

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## Inside Update

- Teaching kids what happens after they flush
- Program seeks to cut costs, increase value
- Grass-less lawns noted for reducing emissions
- Korean visitors learn from MSD practices

## Upcoming Events

### November 7

*Public meeting*, Bass/Shirley Avenue Sewer Project, 7 p.m., Harrods Creek Fire Dept, 8905 U.S. Hwy 42

### November 12

*MSD Board meeting*, 10 a.m., 700 W. Liberty, first floor

### November 13

*Public meeting*, Ohio River Force Main Rehabilitation, 7 p.m., The Temple, 5101 U.S. Hwy 42

*Public meeting*, Pleasure Ridge PR-3 Sewer Project, 7 p.m., Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Hwy.

## Korean visitors study at MSD

Where do Korean wastewater management engineers and managers go to learn about solutions to address combined and sanitary sewer overflows?

They travel to Louisville, where MSD operates the world's first application of continuous deflective separation (CDS) technology.

Earlier this month, eight Korean visitors visited MSD to see how solutions to combined and sanitary sewer overflow problems in Louisville could be applied in their country. "They needed perspective on how wastewater programs in the U.S. are tied together into the overall clean water program," said Jim Heist, an engineer with CDS who arranged the visit to MSD.

In addition to viewing MSD's

application of CDS technology near Bellarmine University, the visitors participated in presentations about MSD's policies and initiatives to manage combined and sanitary sewer overflows.

Heist said the visitors left with practical ideas to put into action back home. "The presentations and preparedness of the MSD personnel involved shows that MSD has one of the best teams in the industry," he said.

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