



MSD

Louisville and Jefferson County
Metropolitan Sewer District

Update

News about activities and developments at MSD

May 30, 2002

Maintenance Facility close to completion



This summer, MSD maintenance personnel will be working under different conditions.

They'll be reporting to work at MSD's new Central Maintenance Facility, a 25-acre site with a 198,000 square-foot building in the A Commerce Center at 3401 Cane Run Road.

Work on preparing the site and planning the move began in February 2000, when MSD's Board approved the purchase of the building and site. When completed this summer, some 300 Maintenance, Industrial Compliance and Monitoring, Fleet and other personnel, along with vehicles and equipment, will be relocated to the

*Uniting
maintenance
under one roof to
save money,
improve service*

Central Maintenance Facility from their current locations at MSD's Main Office, Cabel Street yard and Seventh Street facility.

"With everyone at the same location, our communication, teaming and use of resources should be significantly improved,"

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Reduced odor, improved efficiency *Recycled biosolids result from new process*

When a new \$70 million facility to process solids at the Morris Forman Wastewater Treatment Plant was dedicated May 17, something was missing.

"The smell is about gone," said Arnita Gadsen of the West Jefferson County Community Task Force.



These recycled biosolid pellets from the new process may be used as a fertilizer in the future.

Art Williams of the Air Pollution Control District said reduced odor from the Morris Forman plant since the old solids treatment system was taken out of service also has reduced odor complaints. "We have noticed a dramatic decline in city complaints," Williams said.

MSD's plan to improve treatment and minimize solids processing odors from its oldest and largest wastewater treatment facility took nearly 15 years and a \$350 million investment, according to Executive Director Gordon Garner. "The greatest challenge was upgrading a nearly 50-year-old plant to modern standards," Garner said. "As is typical in these

efforts, our first three attempts to replace the process were unsuccessful."

But the new solids process facility will do much more than reduce odors. "Not only will our annual operating costs decline, but the recycled biosolids that result give us an immediate opportunity to

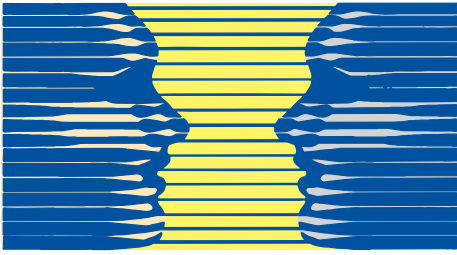
reduce landfill disposal costs and may eventually be reused as a fertilizer," according to Garner.

City of Louisville Deputy Mayor Milton Dohoney congratulated MSD on developing a process to solve community odor concerns while saving up to \$4 million in annual operating costs at the Morris Forman plant. "As the odor problem lingered, many in the community perceived

that MSD didn't really care," Dohoney said. "Today signals that MSD not only cares, but brings results in creating an environment that encourages people to feel good about this part of our community."

The new solids processing system replaced the solids handling system that had been in use since the 1970s. Solids removed from wastewater are broken down in four giant oxygen-free anaerobic digesters. Methane gas produced by the digestion process fuels four heat-drying trains used in the process, after solids have been dewatered in

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Customer First at Work

Editor's note: Following are excerpts of customer comments.

"Thanks, MSD, for responding to my call so promptly. Your drainage crew (**William Gibson, Kevin Haycraft, David Heady, Justin Henderson and Mike Kilkelly**) really understood the urgency of my request."

—Ruth Moss, Louisville, 40220

"Your crew—**Phillip Bradley, Virgil Brown, Calvin Davis, Marcus McCampbell, Charles Woods and Ron Wordlow**—did a wonderful job clearing the drainage ditch at the rear of my property."

—John William, Jeffersontown, 40229

"Just a short note of appreciation for the knowledgeable help I received from **Ms. Eldra McWhorter**. Extremely helpful plus a nice smile to boot!"

—John White, Broker Remax, 40223

River Sweep set for June 15



Thousands of volunteers will descend on the Ohio River banks June 15 for the 13th annual Ohio

River Sweep.

Billed as one of the largest environmental clean up projects in the U.S., the sweep covers about 1,800 miles of Ohio River and tributary banks in six states stretching from

(continued on back page)

MSD helps nature stay on course

Planting native vegetation does more than beautify a garden that requires less frequent care. For a pair of neighbors in the Saratoga Woods subdivision off Chenoweth Run Road, it also reduced yard erosion problems.

Earlier in May, MSD planted native trees and shrubs to both ease erosion and restore the native landscape. "Working with nature doesn't always mean letting nature take its course," says MSD Project Manager John Loechle. "It means managing and investigating what will work with our landscapes given its present characteristics."

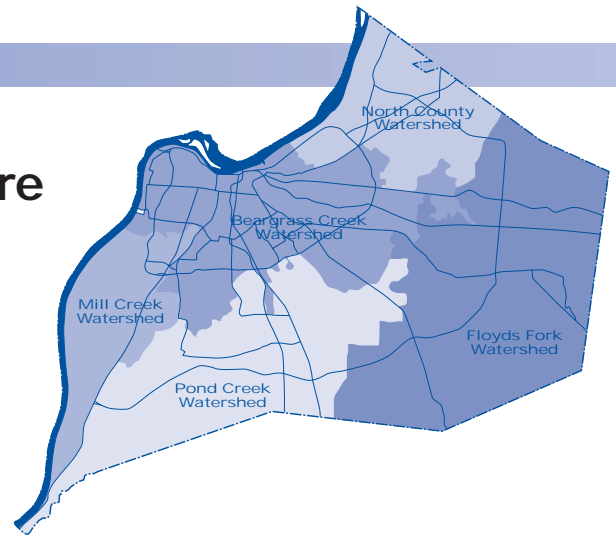
MSD's policy is to plant native vegetation when possible during construction projects, in stream riparian restoration and at its facilities, according to Loechle. Landscape restoration workshops have been held for neighborhood associations and gardening groups. MSD inspectors also have been schooled in soil bioengineering and the benefits of using native plantings.

While knowledge may be abundant, the availability of native plants is a problem.

"Only three nurseries in the area regularly offer native plants," said Landscape Restoration Specialist Phyllis Croce. "But when a nursery over-planting gave MSD the opportunity to receive several trees this spring, we couldn't pass it up."

In addition to May's planting in Saratoga Woods, some 145 trees and shrubs from the over-planting will be set at the former Okolona Treatment Plant site (now a leaf compost site) and MSD's downtown office building.

A growing list of locations will be accommodated with an order of 400 native trees and shrubs to be received this fall. Those include the Central Maintenance Facility, Floyds Fork, Cedar Creek and West County wastewater treatment plants, Brownsboro Pump Station and a combined sewer overflow project area.



Water, wastewater top trip agenda

MSD Operations Director Mike Sweeney is part of a support mission to help Rubizhne, Ukraine officials address water and wastewater concerns.

It's part of the U.S.—Ukraine Community Partnership Project, represented locally by the Louisville International Cultural Center. The Center assembled a team of Kentucky experts and is funding the two-week mission.

"The Cultural Center alerted us in late March that MSD's involvement would benefit Rubizhne," Sweeney said. "This

particular mission took a few extra weeks to finalize, considering Rubizhne's basic public health and infrastructure needs. It is something I have always wanted to do."

In addition to Sweeney, Steve Hubbs of the Louisville Water Company and Tim Ball of Haworth, Meyer and Boleyn Professional Engineers are making the trip. They are expected to spend time examining the community's existing water and wastewater facilities and providing advice on immediate and long-term improvements.

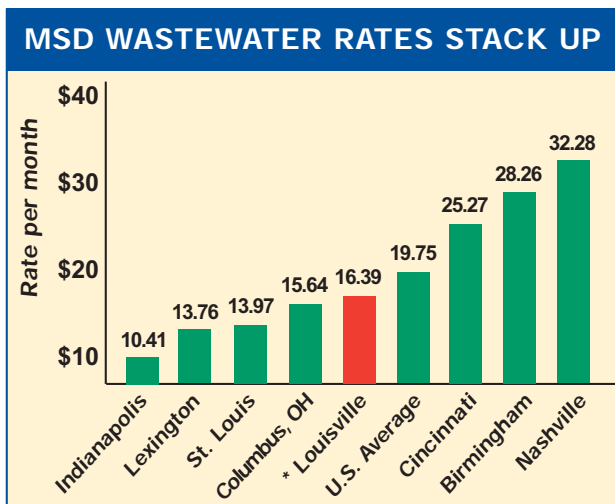
Hike proposed for sewer, drainage fees

MSD's Board has approved a preliminary rate resolution authorizing an increase in sewer and drainage service charges for all

increase by 24 cents to a total of \$3.89 a month.

Nationally, monthly sewer charges average \$19.75. Finance Director Marion Gee noted that wastewater utilities in Birmingham, Cincinnati and Nashville charge customer rates that are above the national average. "Despite the proposed increase, MSD rates are among the region's lowest," he said.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed rates at a hearing on June 10 beginning at 7 p.m. in MSD's offices, 700 W. Liberty. Written comments about the proposed rates should be



Even with a proposed increase, MSD's rates remain lower than the national average. Source: 2001 AMSA Index and MSD Finance Department

customer classes. If approved, the new rates will be effective August 1.

Under the proposed rate schedule, the average residential wastewater bill would increase by 99 cents to a total of \$16.39 per month. Drainage service charges for residential customers also would

addressed to:

MSD—Attention: Bud Schardein
700 W. Liberty St.

Louisville, KY 40203-1911

Following the public hearing, MSD's Board will consider the comments and take final action on the proposed increase in July.

Maintenance facility

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according to Physical Assets Director James Hunt. That in turn should mean better service for customers and faster response to their requests.

The new facility will help MSD realize cost savings as well as opportunities to improve customer service, Hunt said.

"The Central Maintenance Facility is projected to save a minimum of \$334,000 in annual operating costs by consolidating maintenance operations in a single location," Hunt says. Additional funds also may be generated if the

Cabel Street and Seventh Street properties are sold.

Throughout the design and construction, Hunt said the project team attempted to keep costs as low as possible. "We hoped to keep construction costs at or below \$7 million, but the need to maximize the facility's functionality for our purposes drove up the cost," he said.

Hunt acknowledged remodeling the existing structure presented additional challenges that cost more than the project had planned. "We also wanted to make sure that any work we did left the door open for future expansion of the facility as needed."

Reduced odor

(continued from front page)

five centrifuges. The centrifuges have the capacity to dewater the entire solids production at the Morris Forman plant, which treats an average of 114 million gallons of wastewater a day and also processes solids from all plants in the MSD system.

The four heat-drying trains, each capable of evaporating more than 18,000 pounds of water per hour, are the largest unit drying trains in use in the U.S. Heat generated by the dryers is reclaimed to heat the anaerobic digesters. Final off-gases are treated in a scrubber to remove particulate pollutants and by



Louisville Deputy Mayor Milton Dohoney said MSD's new solids process "encourages people to feel good about this part of our community."

oxidizers that burn off odors.

The resulting dried biosolid pellets range in size from 1 to 4 millimeters. Other sewer districts market dried biosolids as a fertilizer, and that's an option MSD is considering. "When quality control yields a product we're comfortable with marketing, we hope to have a product that's well-known throughout our region for land-use applications," Garner said.

Dohoney noted that the city currently purchases a soil-enhancer product made from recycled biosolids from out-of-state. "It would be a welcome change to buy this product at home," he said.



MSD

Louisville and Jefferson County
Metropolitan Sewer District

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Inside Update

- Central Maintenance Facility moves toward completion
- New solids process reduces odor, cost at Morris Forman plant
- Increase proposed for sewer, drainage fees
- Nature's course gets boost from native plants, MSD

River Sweep

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Pennsylvania to Illinois. The day of collecting litter yields more than 10,000 tons of trash each year from

tin cans to car tires.

As many as 600 volunteers have lent their hands to past sweeps in Jefferson County and MSD's Bud Schardein expects more of the same this year. "Given the opportunity to help, most people will-especially when the results are so visible and positive," Schardein said.

The sweep is locally supported and coordinated by Operation Brightside, Jefferson County Public Works, Louisville Water Company,

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard and MSD. It is regionally coordinated by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission.

To volunteer for the sweep or for assembly point information phone MSD's Janice Lewis at 540-6366.

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Upcoming Events

June 10

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

Public hearing on
proposed rate increase,
7 p.m., 700 W. Liberty,
first floor

June 15

Ohio River Sweep 2002,
phone Janice Lewis at
540-6366 to volunteer

June 24

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