

## Beargrass Creek reborn

Science comes to life in outdoor laboratory

The water is clear. Mother ducks with their ducklings paddle peacefully around a bend. Newly planted black walnut, white oak and red bud trees will provide life-giving shade to aquatic life during the coming summer heat.

A year ago, this description would not have fit the urbanized stretch of the South Fork of Beargrass Creek that winds through neighborhoods surrounding Hikes Point. But armed with a \$10,000 Toyota Tapestry Grant through the National Science Teachers Foundation, some 42 teachers and 1,000 students from St. Pius X, Goldsmith Elementary and Seneca High schools have made a difference.

Since March 2002, students have learned about chemistry, horticulture, bioengineering, stream ecology and watershed management in a 3,000-foot stretch of Beargrass Creek near their schools. The creek has become an outside laboratory, bringing science to life for students in kindergarten through senior high school.

The students have learned by watching and working with community experts, according to St. Pius X science teacher Jane DeBusschere. Staff from the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Beargrass Creek Task Force, BellSouth Telephone Pioneers and MSD helped students learn about water quality, erosion prevention, native plants and aquatic life.

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*A mother Mallard duck leads her ducklings through the South Fork of Beargrass Creek restored by students.*

*“The grant has given us a great start on a project that will continue providing students a learning experience that benefits the community.”*

### CONNECT WITH MSD

502-540-6000

24/7 Customer Service:  
587-0603

[www.msdlouky.org](http://www.msdlouky.org)

TDD/TTY: 540-6233

En español: 540-6423  
(Entre 8 mañana y 5 p.m.  
lunes a viernes)

## Louisville Metro to use Seventh Street facility

The MSD facility on Seventh Street will become home to some Louisville Metro government employees, equipment and records.

Vacated by MSD in September 2002, when operations housed there and at the Cabel Street yard were consolidated at the Central Maintenance Facility on Cane Run Road, the Seventh Street facility offers secure parking, storage areas and offices close to downtown.

As Metro government looked to combine former city and county functions, it approached MSD about the Seventh Street facility. Since MSD vacated the Cabel Street and Seventh Street facilities, the MSD Board declared both properties surplus, making them available for lease or sale.

Additionally, some Louisville Metro Division of Waste Management employees will move into the lower level of MSD's Main Office. The space—about 1,300 square feet—is not used by MSD and will be leased by Louisville Metro.

A five-year arrangement approved by MSD's Board allows Louisville Metro to begin using the Seventh Street facility and lower-level of MSD's Main Office on May 1, 2003.

## Upcoming Events

May 10

**Okolona Cleanup with Metro Councilwoman Madonna Flood,** 10 a.m. to noon, Southern High School, 8620 Preston Hwy.

May 12

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

May 26

**Memorial Day Holiday. MSD offices are closed.**  
For 24-hour service phone 587-0603.

May 27

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



## AFTER WORK

### Retirees Club News

A good turnout attended the April meeting at Masterson's and enjoyed the fried chicken chosen by Club President **Buddy Kaiser**.

MSD Benefits Manager **Joe Mazza** spoke about long-term health care coverage available to retirees. If you missed Joe's presentation or have questions about the coverage, contact Joe at 540-6352.

**Melvin Fritsch** and **Ray Jones** have passed away. **Yvette Northworthy** and **Forrest Steinlage** are both home from the hospital and doing better. **Dottie Metcalfe** is recovering from a heart attack.

The summer picnic will be July 10 at the home of **Don Thomas**.

Watch for the new Retiree Directory coming this spring.

## Area Team News

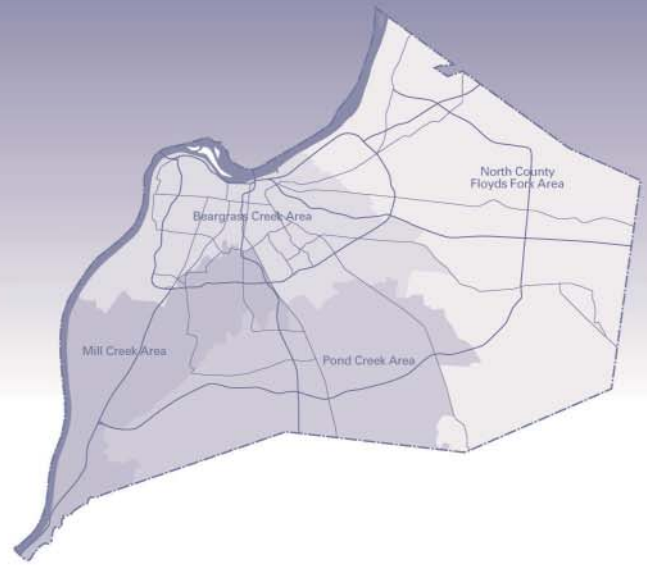
### Beargrass Creek

A drainage improvement project in Metro Council District 9 will relieve standing water problems for residents along **Sycamore Avenue**.

It's part of Project DRI, the partnership between Louisville Metro government and MSD to address the community's most severe drainage problems by mid-2005.

Of the \$67 million earmarked for Project DRI, \$47 million will fund 381 specific drainage improvements throughout Louisville Metro. The remaining \$20 million will pay for drainage maintenance projects throughout the community.

Improvements planned for Sycamore Avenue include installing curbs, sidewalks and catch basins in the 2200 block between Jane Street and Clifton Avenue. According to Beargrass Creek Area Team Leader Loyiso Melisizwe the project will cost nearly \$57,000.



### Morris Forman Plant

Improvements planned for the 28-year-old Nightingale wastewater pump station will help keep maintenance costs down and protect the pumps.

Equipment in the north influent channel designed to screen and crush solids in wastewater will be replaced with a Channel Monster®, a custom engineered in-channel grinder unit. Morris Forman Area Team Customer Specialist Don Szymansky said similar equipment installed five years ago in the pump station's south influent channel performs the work of bar screens, rakes and grinders, and also prevents clogs and premature wear on pumps.

In addition, some soundproofing will be installed to reduce the station's impact on neighbors. Cost to perform the work is \$102,040.

### Proper watering saves resources

While April prompts many people to stock up on flowers, plants and landscaping supplies, it also is recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as Stormwater Awareness Month.

While stormwater runoff is the leading cause of water pollution in the U.S., planning your yard's landscaping can help the environment and save you money.

- Group plants according to water needs.
- Use native plants.
- Irrigate efficiently.
- Schedule watering wisely.
- Mulch around plants.



## Volunteers groom downtown for Derby

Downtown Louisville has a neater appearance, thanks to 325 volunteers from downtown businesses who participated in Brightside’s sixth annual pre-Derby cleanup.

The volunteers grouped into 50 teams, scouring the downtown area and the more than 40-block Broadway corridor according to Angela Otter, Brightside’s manager of the pre-Derby cleanup.

For the fifth year, one of the teams included volunteers from MSD. **Latonya Forté, Tom Harlow and Alonzo Smith** teamed with Louisville Water Company employees to pick up trash, weed and mulch around trees. They worked the area from Main to Jefferson between Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth streets. They also worked the Ninth Street corridor and River Road and York Street between Second and Ninth.



**René Patterson** was MSD’s internal coordinator for the event.

A division of Louisville Metro Department of Neighborhoods, Brightside is a non-profit public/private partnership in its 17th year of sprucing up Louisville. This year’s event was held on Earth Day, April 22.

## Customer First at Work

“The entire crew working on cleaning my drainage ditch did an excellent job. Every time I spoke to **Greg McCraney** he was very courteous and professional. Thank you!”

--Roger Helton, Louisville, 40219



## Trainer prepares staff for new roles

What do you get when you combine new ideas with valuable experience? You get an innovative training plan like the one developed by Senior Trainer, Administrative Steve Riley and Training Administrator Tony Glore. The two have combined Riley’s 10 years of training experience at MSD and Glore’s fresh perspective to create a comprehensive management and supervisor training program.



Steve Riley

“Now more than ever, MSD’s managers and supervisors are accountable for organizing efficient departments and teams,” said Glore. “This effort aims to help them better perform the task of running a staff unit.”

The new program also means a change in duties for Riley. As Health and Safety Trainer for nearly a decade, Riley brings a historic perspective to the management-training program as he assumes the role of senior trainer, administrative.

While MSD has offered training at the management and supervisor levels in the past, the new program includes new material to address defining and meeting expectations, relating with employees, and specific Occupational Safety and Health Administration topics.

Riley will take the program to MSD facilities where training is needed. “While training is essential to perform at the management level, we try to make the program more accommodating to the busy manager’s schedule without disrupting them from doing the job they need to do,” Riley said.

The program also involves those who aspire to being in a supervisory position, preparing them for a leadership path and clarifying what it means to be a manager. “For example, the transition from crew leader to supervisor is difficult because new supervisors have to lead those they used to work along with, graying the line of seniority,” according to Riley “The new program will teach the new leaders to set boundaries when needed.”

Gary Blasher will carry on Riley’s former duties in health and safety training.

## MSD MILESTONES

Welcome to MSD:  
**Stephanie Conner,**  
Operator-in-Training  
**Terrance Whitfield,**  
Operator-in-Training



**MSD**

Louisville and Jefferson County  
Metropolitan Sewer District

700 West Liberty Street  
Louisville, KY 40203-1911



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## Beargrass ... *Continued from page 1*

Students were matched to activities based on their ages and classroom lessons, DeBusschere said. For example, Goldsmith Elementary students stenciled markers on catch basins and storm drains in the neighborhood, warning that the drains empty directly into the creek. Seneca High students learned to draw water samples and monitor the creek’s flow, a task they will continue to perform.

Although the grant has run its 12-month course, this spring more tree saplings will be planted and wildflower seeds sown along the 6,000 feet of creek bank. Eventually the creek’s eroding banks will be stabilized. “The grant has given us a great start on a project that will continue providing students a learning experience that benefits the community,” DeBusschere said.

In addition to DeBusschere, Cheryl Bersaglia and Greg Stephens of the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Nancy Schardein and Todd Stephens of the Goldsmith Elementary faculty helped execute the project.

“Throughout our community’s history, Beargrass Creek has been the lifeline,” District 26 Metro Councilwoman Ellen Call told students and teachers during a recent event to showcase the project. “You are doing important work and a wonderful job.”



*Seneca student  
Rebecca Reker  
prepares the  
ground along  
the creek bank  
to plant a  
tree seedling.*



*St. Pius X students  
Jeff Neagli and  
Devon Cowherd  
tie markers around  
trees to help them  
track tree growth.*