



MSD

Louisville and Jefferson County  
Metropolitan Sewer District

# Update

News about activities and developments at MSD

January 29, 2003

## Louisville Metro, MSD partner on drainage plan *More than \$65 million pledged for improvements in 381 neighborhoods throughout community*

An ambitious plan to address Louisville's most pressing stormwater problems will improve drainage in neighborhoods in each of the 26 Metro Council districts.

The two-and-a-half year plan will cost more than \$65 million, to be funded from drainage fees now paid to MSD.

Dubbed Operation DRI (Drainage Response Initiative), the plan marks a change in focus for MSD from sanitary sewer expansion to stormwater drainage, according to Executive Director Bud Schardein. "For the past 15 years, providing sewer and wastewater treatment services has been MSD's primary focus," Schardein said.

"Based on concerns raised by our customers and Metro Council representatives, we are shifting our focus to stormwater drainage for the next five years."

The plan identifies 381 drainage projects throughout Louisville Metro. More than 60 percent of the projects will benefit neighborhoods in the southwest quadrant including Fairdale, Highview, Newburg, Okolona, Pleasure Ridge Park and Valley Station.

Projects planned include maintenance of silted drainage ditches and broken storm sewers as well as more comprehensive projects to install drainage facilities where none exist.

Schardein said the projects were identified based on service requests received by MSD's Customer Service Department and concerns expressed by customers and Metro Council officials during a series of community meetings conducted during November and December 2002.

Operation DRI will begin in the current fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2003, and continue through the 2005 fiscal year.

A complete list of Operation DRI projects, grouped by Council district with projected start dates for each project, is available on the Louisville Metro Government Web site (<http://www.loukymetro.org>).

## Back to nature

### *MSD support helps revive outdoor learning lab*

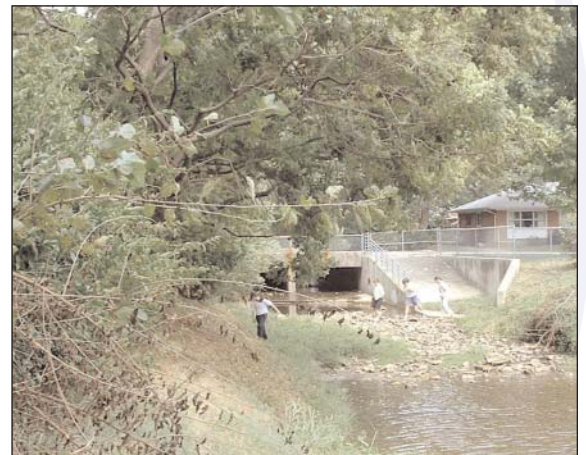
When state budget cuts shelved the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District's Beargrass Creek Restoration Project, manager Cheryl Bersaglia was not discouraged. Instead, she and St. Pius X Elementary School science teacher Jane DeBusschere came up with a plan to get the project back on track.

They fleshed out a plan to involve neighboring Goldsmith Elementary and Seneca High School, along with St. Pius X, to use nearby Beargrass Creek as an outdoor laboratory. They imagined students learning first-hand about stream water quality and creating healthy habitats for plants, wildlife and aquatic life.

The part of Beargrass Creek that winds through the Hikes Point-area

near the schools has been impacted by urbanization. Banks lack vegetation and erode, sending sediment to choke out any aquatic life in the stream. Stormwater runoff flushes a mix of lawn chemicals, motor oil, debris and other material into the creek. In some areas the creek has been channelized, removing rocks and contours from the stream flow.

With state funding unavailable, Bersaglia and DeBusschere sent their plan to the National Science Teachers Association in January 2002. By March, the Beargrass Creek Restoration Project received a \$10,000 Toyota Tapestry Grant, one of 50 awarded annually to fund

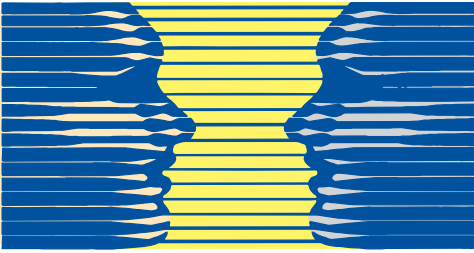


*Beargrass Creek provides an outdoor laboratory to students from St. Pius X Elementary and other schools working on a creek restoration project.*

school science endeavors across the U.S.

The project's objective is to restore the creek's natural habitat by planting native species along

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## Customer First at Work

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

"I want to thank your staff for such a pleasant, enjoyable experience working with your service this past summer."

—Jana Freeman, Manager  
Glenbrook Park Apartments,  
Louisville, 40220

"Thanks, **Melvin Benford**, for your kindness and help with my sewer problem. You make it worthwhile to pay sewer bills."

—Eddie Mask, Louisville, 40212

"Thank you, **Stephanie Conner**, **David L. Jones**, **Nelson Little**, **James Rutledge** and **Paul Vogt** for cleaning the drainage ditch between Peabody Lane and Colonial Manor Circle. You all did a fine job and I am very pleased with the outcome."

—Ann Grubbs, Buechel, 40218

"I would like to thank the two men who came to my neighborhood on New Years Day and cleaned out a culvert that had been stopped up. **Tom Madden** and **Tyrone Moore** were very polite and went about their work in a very professional manner. This speaks volumes for the way MSD works."

—Robert Henderson, 14th District  
Councilman, Louisville Metro

"I would like to thank **Donnie Riddle**, he is the most helpful person I have ever dealt with and a great ambassador for MSD."

—Mrs. Marshall Connell,  
Jeffersontown, 40299

"The team that is working on cleaning up the drainage easement that runs between North 35th and North 36th streets deserves thanks and praise — they have been working hard and it shows."

—Cathy Jones, Louisville, 40212

## Area Team News

### Morris Forman Wastewater Treatment Plant

As plans are developed to expand treatment capacity at the Hite Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, MSD is at work to make the plant less of a nuisance to neighbors.

MSD is negotiating the purchase of about 6.5 acres at the plant's southern border. The area will provide a buffer between wastewater treatment facilities and a residential subdivision under development.

"Much of the planned expansion would occur along the south border of the plant's property," says Morris Forman Area Team Leader Saeed Assef.

MSD's permits require a 200-foot buffer between its process structures and adjacent properties, to minimize effects of plant odor and noise on neighbors. Studies at the Hite Creek plant indicate a potential for odor outside plant property after the expansion is completed.

"By establishing a buffer zone before the plant expansion and new home construction begin, plant neighbors are less likely to be affected," according to Assef.

Located on Hitt Road near I-71 and the Jefferson-Oldham county line, the Hite Creek plant is nearing its current 4.4 million-gallons-per-day capacity as its service area continues to develop and grow. Plans to expand the Hite Creek plant call for increasing treatment capacity to 6 million gallons a day.

### Pond Creek

Drainage improvements planned for East Helck Avenue will benefit 30 properties.

Roadside drainage systems will relieve standing water and other wet-weather problems, according to Pond Creek Team Leader David Schaflein.

The \$59,995 project is the second phase of drainage work on Helck Avenue; improvements have already been made along West Helck Avenue, Schaflein said.

### Learning Center gets boost from MSD

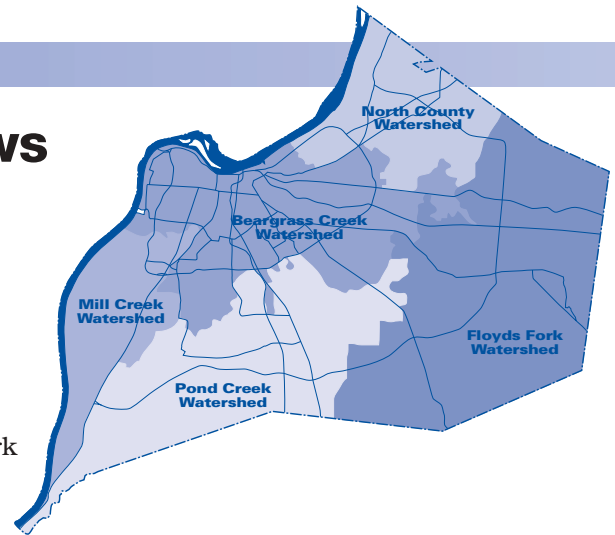
When the Louisville Community Initiative and Nashville-based Dollar General Corp. began planning a Learning Center to connect young adults with the area's workforce, they found an unusual partner in MSD.

"Local support for the initiative has been exceptional," says Initiative President John R. Fleming, Jr. BB&T Bank, Jefferson Community College and Jewish Hospital Healthcare Services already were on board with the effort.

Before constructing the learning center on a vacant Preston Street lot in Smoketown, the Initiative's focus turned from its workforce goals to building issues.

Permits were needed. Erosion prevention and

*continued on back page*



## Bell, Dale and Wright named Achievers for 2003

MSD has named Samuel Bell, Cheryl R. Dale and Sheila Wright as 2003 Black Achievers. They'll join other Achievers representing companies and organizations from Louisville and Southern Indiana in the Chestnut Street Family YMCA Black Achievers program.

Since 1980 the program has partnered adult Achievers with youth in grades eight through 12, encouraging them to continue their educations and pursue careers. MSD is among the program's ongoing corporate supporters, in addition to nominating employees like Bell, Dale and Wright to serve as role models and volunteer leaders.

"MSD's Achievers go beyond regular work duties and household responsibilities," says Affirmative Action Officer Deby McDaniel. "They actively search out ways to give their time and talent to benefit others."

### Industrial Compliance and Monitoring Chemist Samuel Bell

spends his work days at MSD's laboratory at the Morris Forman Wastewater Treatment Plant. Armed with a bachelor's degree from Hampton (VA)



Samuel Bell

University, Bell also is a first lieutenant with the U.S. Army Reserves' 394th Engineer Company.

To Bell, being an Achiever means more than just serving as a role model. "It also means raising consciousness about issues, present and future, that affect my family, friends, coworkers and community," he said. An active member of the Society of American Military Engineers and the Army Engineer Association, Bell says being named an Achiever "is a honor and a blessing."

### Like many women, Administrative Services Supervisor Cheryl Dale

found that as her children—ages 26, 13 and 10—became more independent, they demanded less of her time. As she weighed the options of continuing her education or



Cheryl Dale

volunteering for a good cause, Dale was named one of MSD's Achievers.

"Since my children have grown older, I look forward to the opportunity to coach our community's children," Dale said. "I also hope that my involvement will show my own children the importance of volunteering in the community."

### As Human Resources Coordinator, Sheila Wright's

position allows her to provide employee placement assistance and work with community programs. Through Project One, Wright helps young



Sheila Wright

workers ages 16 to 21 gain valuable work experience. She guides placement for MSD employees through the Louisville Community Initiative and the City of Louisville Summer Youth Program.

When her workday is done, Wright also teaches summer Bible school and volunteers as a Sunday school teacher at her church.

Bell, Dale and Wright will be recognized at an annual awards banquet February 8. The event raises funds to support the program and more than \$1 million in scholarships offered to eligible high school seniors.

The nationwide Achiever program originated at New York City's Harlem Branch YMCA in 1971. The Chestnut Street YMCA is one of 135 participating sites nationwide.

## Back to nature

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2,000 feet of creek banks and restoring the stream meander and oxygenation. During the project's span from August 2002 through April 2003, more than 42 teachers and 1,000 students are expected to participate.

MSD's Landscape Restoration Specialist Phyllis Croce and Aquatic Restoration Specialist Barry Nichols are lending their expertise. Croce is taking her native plant expertise into classrooms, showing students

and teachers alike how to plant and care for seedlings. Nichols is going into the creek, placing rocks to form habitat edges.

"Our ultimate goal is improving the creek's water quality so it can support higher levels of life," Croce said.

"MSD has let us know they will help in any way possible," according to DeBusschere. "That's important to the project's success."



St. Pius X student Armando Unzueta measures the width of Beargrass Creek as part of the creek restoration project.



# MSD

Louisville and Jefferson County  
Metropolitan Sewer District

700 West Liberty Street  
Louisville, KY 40203-1911  
502-540-6000  
[www.msdlouky.org](http://www.msdlouky.org)

## Connect with MSD:

24-hour Customer Service: **587-0603**  
Customer Service Online: [www.msdlouky.org/customer](http://www.msdlouky.org/customer)  
Speech- and hearing-impaired customers call: **540-6233**  
Para hablar en español: **540-6423**  
*Entre 8 mañana y 5 p.m. lunes a viernes*

## Inside Update

- Louisville Metro, MSD partner on drainage plan
- Community service is common goal for Achievers
- MSD support helps revive outdoor learning lab project
- Local learning center gets surprising boost from MSD

## Learning Center

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sediment control plans had to be developed. Fees to connect to utility services were mounting.

MSD stepped in to assist, waiving the agency's one-time tap-in and catch basin fees. Staff guided Fleming through the maze of necessary permits and provided advice on soil erosion prevention. As construction wrapped up, MSD donated straw matting and grass seed to help landscape the property.

"No other organization has supported this workforce initiative in such a broad manner," Fleming

said in a letter to Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson. "This spirit of cooperation speaks volumes for MSD and the leadership focus that is emerging in Greater Louisville.

Dollar General's Louisville Learning Center will help young adults develop work skills to prepare them for positions with Dollar General and Louisville Community Initiative partners. Fleming hopes 50 participants will be placed in career path opportunities this year.

## Upcoming Events

**February 10 and 24**

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

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