

Challenges for the community

Dependable flood protection system is critical

Editor's note: This is the last in a series of articles exploring challenges facing the community, and how MSD is working to resolve them.

The partnership between Louisville Metro Government and MSD to address the community's most pressing drainage problems will continue.

The drainage response initiative, called Project DRI, began in January 2003, with \$67 million earmarked for 365 projects in neighborhoods across Louisville Metro. Through mid-June, 85 percent of all Phase I DRI projects were completed or underway. The remaining 15 percent await start or are under design, and should be completed before the end of 2005.

When Phase II begins in mid-2005, it will represent an additional investment of about \$55 million. Phase II work, scheduled for completion by year-end 2007, will include about \$35 million in capital improvements and about \$20 million in drainage maintenance and repairs.

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Much of Project DRI work is constructing facilities in neighborhoods that don't have them and upgrading systems that are inadequate.

"Our focus remains bringing relief to neighborhoods with the most pressing needs."

Conversion saves money and improves service

MSD counts on its Fleet Department to keep vehicles and equipment in good operating order, so MSD crews can meet customer needs. Now Fleet personnel have raised the bar by transforming a wrecked Vactor truck into a flusher truck to keep sewer lines free of blockages.

The conversion began when Infrastructure and Flood Protection staff expressed the need to add a flusher truck to the eight on hand. In addition to sending a high-pressure spray into sewers, flusher trucks are equipped with cutting attachments to clear tree roots that often grow into sewers.

New flusher trucks cost between \$105,000 and \$120,000, according to Physical Assets Director James Hunt. "When Fleet Master Technician Don Strabel came up with the idea to convert an 11-year old Vactor truck that had been wrecked into a flusher truck, it was a stroke of genius," Hunt said.

Strabel and fellow Master Technician Stacy Boone took the lead on the conversion, with their first-shift hours primarily devoted to the conversion project. When the second shift reported, Kelvin Shorter took over. "While waiting on parts or when we hit other stopping points, they would go on to other jobs," said Fleet Services Specialist Denise Burrell. "But working on the conversion was a priority."

Other Fleet staff contributed to the conversion, picking up work so Stacy, Don and Kelvin could focus their time on the new flusher. "All of the technicians in the Fleet Department played a role in making this project happen," Burrell said.

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(Entre 8 mañana y 5 p.m.
lunes a viernes)

Upcoming Events

July 7
DiverseWorks for You
Certification Orientation,
9 a.m. 700 W. Liberty, first floor

July 11
MSD Board Meeting, 10 a.m.,
700 W. Liberty, first floor

July 14
MSD Retirees Picnic,
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.,
Don and Carolyn Thomas' home

July 25
MSD Board Meeting, 10 a.m.,
700 W. Liberty, first floor

MSD Milestones

Welcome to MSD:
Shannon Casasfranco,
GIS Services & Records Tech II
Eric O'Neal, Sr. GIS Analyst
Dwayne Duncan,
Operator-In-Training
Troy Henderson,
Operator-In-Training
Michael Scott,
Operator-In-Training

Congratulations
on your promotion:
Daman Pulliam, Utility Worker I
Walter Barkham, Operator
Larry Otis, Operator-In-Training
Tim Wierwille,
Operator-In-Training
Nelson Little, Utility Worker II
Ron Richards, Utility Worker II
Neil Brooks, Operator
Gary Trowel, Utility Worker III
William Baskette, Utility Worker III

Changing the pace:
Bruce Cissell, Master
Maintenance Electrician, from
East Region to Central Region
Anthony Porter, Utility Worker III,
from Sewers to Support

We will miss:
Leon Gatlin, Master Maintenance
Mechanic, retiring July 31, 2005

In remembrance:
William Baldwin (retired, Engineering,
1985) passed away in June
Lodena Setters (retired,
Operations) passed away in May.

Area Team News

Beargrass Creek: MSD and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will continue a partnership in long-range flood-control management with a \$1.8 million **feasibility study of the Mill Creek area**. The three-year study will help MSD plan for future flood-control facilities that meet funding criteria for federal grants. The Corps of Engineers has worked with MSD on Melco Basin on Fern Valley Road and the Beargrass Creek basins near Bashford Manor, benefiting MSD customers in those areas.



Regulatory Management Services: MSD and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will continue a 17-year partnership to collect surface water data in Louisville Metro. Through a network of 24 locations, MSD and USGS monitor water quality and stream flow. The resulting data allows MSD to track stream water quality changes, evaluate the impact of wastewater treatment system improvements and help meet monitoring standards required by MSD's stormwater permit. MSD's investment in the program this year is \$177,760.

Drainage Response Initiative Projects

The Project DRI partnership between Louisville Metro and MSD is solving drainage problems throughout the community. These projects are ready for construction:

Floyds Fork/North County/Morris Forman: Fifteen customer requests will be resolved and 43 properties will benefit from a \$58,988 drainage improvement project in **Beechwood Village**. Paved ditch will be constructed, ditches regraded and trees removed.

Roadside drainage improvements are planned along **Echo Bridge** in Cross Creek subdivision, costing \$88,475. The improvements are designed to help mitigate structural flooding along Farmbrook Drive.

Standing water and erosion will be addressed by a \$74,816 roadside drainage project along **Washington Boulevard, Pershing and Wilson avenues**. The project will benefit 32 properties and resolve four customer requests.

Pond Creek/Mill Creek: A \$79,400 project will alleviate standing water along roadsides in **Bethany Oaks** and Sun Valley subdivisions, resolving six customer requests and benefiting 21 properties.

Roadside drainage improvements will be installed along **Burgoo King Road**, from Cornflower to Goldenrod, at a cost \$82,625. The project addresses 21 customer requests and impacts 52 properties.

Standing water will be relieved in **Dixie Gardens Subdivision** by roadside improvements. The \$158,800 project will resolve nine customer requests and benefit 70 properties.



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Challenges... *continued from page 1*

Phase II projects to be determined

Phase II will continue work to achieve Project DRI's objective of bringing an equal level of drainage services to all neighborhoods throughout Louisville Metro. Since MSD became the stormwater drainage utility for most of Jefferson County in 1987, it has spent nearly \$200 million for drainage and flood protection projects, including major channel improvements and flood storage basins.

Project DRI's next phase will bring MSD's total DRI investment to nearly \$125 million. The funds come from stormwater drainage fees paid by MSD customers and are allocated among Louisville Metro's 26 Council Districts based on the number of unresolved drainage service requests. "Our focus remains bringing relief to neighborhoods with the most pressing needs," said Executive Director Bud Schardein.

Conversion... *continued from page 1*

About 11 months later, Fleet unveiled the Super Flusher, with a 2,100-gallon capacity, nearly twice the size of the average flusher truck. That enables MSD crews to stay onsite longer, maximizing their time and MSD's resources. Because Vactors have a more reliable pump design, the Super Flusher's superior pumping system means greater water pressure on the job and fewer hours in the shop. With a new toolbox, wheel rims, tires and paint, the Super Flusher is ready for action, at a total cost of \$35,374.



Fleet Department staff converted a wrecked Vactor into a flusher, saving more than \$69,000 while providing high-performance equipment for MSD crews.

The conversion not only saved MSD between \$69,000 and \$84,000 compared to the cost of a new flusher truck, it also provided equipment that outperforms other flushers. "I'm very pleased with the Super Flusher," said Utility Worker Bill Caswell, the vehicle's primary operator. "The technicians not only were able to convert a wrecked piece of equipment into a high-performing unit, they created an opportunity to wisely use MSD's resources."

Drainage... *continued from previous page*

Design of drainage improvements for the **Forest Hills** subdivision will be combined with Louisville Water Company plans to improve water storage in the area. As a result, MSD's plans have expanded to include a detention basin and conveyance system, adding \$50,483 to design costs.

More than a half-mile of roadside drainage improvements in the **Sunny Vale Way** area will cost \$153,950, address 11 customer requests and affect 65 properties.

Rear yard and roadside drainage improvements will address standing water along **Wisertown Road, McNair Road and 3rd Street Road**, answering seven customer requests and affecting 21 properties at a cost of \$99,336.

A \$207,000 project will improve drainage along rear yards in the **Yuma Way** area. When completed, 20 customer requests will be resolved and 91 properties will be affected.

Customer First at Work

"David Johnson is a great asset to MSD. He was courteous and knowledgeable on a project walk-through, and we appreciate his time and effort."
--Dudley and Nancy Wetherby, Middletown

"Thank you, Anthony Kimbrough and Tammy Moore, for performing beyond their job duties. They acted as liaisons on a problem that turned out not to be an MSD issue."
--Mary Hayden, Fern Creek

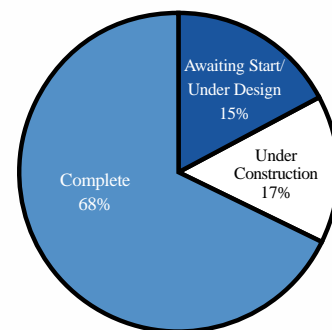
"Thanks to June Rowan for going out of her way to assist me. She was very nice and helpful."
--Ed Zimmerman, Shively

"Thanks to Robin Bowling for all her hard work. I really appreciate all she does for us!"
-- Councilwoman Madonna Flood, District 24

"Sharlie Khan and Mike Rock have been have been working very hard and diligently in my neighborhood. I appreciate their effort."
-- Mark Slack, Hillview

Project DRI Progress

Through June 17, 2005, the Project DRI partnership between Louisville Metro and MSD completed or started 85 percent of planned drainage improvement projects since Project DRI began in January 2003.





MSD

Louisville and Jefferson County
Metropolitan Sewer District

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Cultivating community growth



David Wicks, M. Weathers, Bolden Rose, Phyllis Croce and James Brown helped plant saplings.

MSD’s Environmental Restoration Program added 40 yellow wood, red bud and arbor vitae to the Russell Community Gardens. The two lots at 22nd and Cedar—one with a vegetable garden and the other strictly ornamental—got a boost June 25 from volunteers, including MSD employees, who added MSD’s organic fertilizer Louisville Green and muscle power to the project.

Program manager Manfred Reid, Sr. says the 10-year-old effort involves seniors, scouts, church groups and others in learning about horticulture and beautifying West End neighborhoods. “Our goal is to cultivate interest and pride in building up our neighborhoods,” Reid said.

The Environmental Restoration Program, a partnership between the Metro Housing Authority, Metro Parks and MSD, hopes to plant more than 300 young trees throughout the community this year.



Mackenzie Farrar (left) and Sarah Roseberry were among volunteers at the Ohio River Sweep June 18th. The 12-year-old Anchorage School students joined the sweep after visiting the Louisville Zoo and learning how trash impacts aquatic life. MSD served as a sponsor for this year’s sweep, the 17th annual.