



700 West Liberty Street | Louisville, KY 40203-1911  
502.540.6000 | [LouisvilleMSD.org](http://LouisvilleMSD.org)

May 2024

Dear Louisville Metro Resident:

MSD's service area has hundreds of points where a combination of wastewater and rainwater may discharge onto streets and into local waterways when it rains. These sewer overflow locations act as a relief valve when the sanitary sewer system becomes overwhelmed with rainwater.

You have received this letter because you live near Beargrass Creek, the Ohio River, or a tributary of Beargrass Creek. Because of this, you are more likely to come in contact with polluted water from one of these overflows.

MSD's Project WIN (Waterway Improvements Now) defines a plan to rehabilitate our aging sewer system and reduce the volume of overflows into our local waterways during rain events. We have constructed more storage to lessen sewer overflows.

Keeping children and pets out of our waterways during—and for 48 hours after—a rain event is essential. If you come into contact with sewage-polluted water, wash with warm, soapy water.

**Since 2005, MSD projects—including those listed below—have reduced combined sewer overflows by 5.85 billion gallons in a typical rainfall year.**

Project	Storage Capacity Millions of gallons	Cost in \$ Millions
Churchill Downs Green Infrastructure Project	3 MG	\$2 M
Clifton Heights Basin	7 MG	\$34 M
Logan Street Basin	17 MG	\$93 M
Portland Green Infrastructure Project	35 MG	\$7 M
Portland Basin	7 MG	\$38 M
Shawnee Park Basin	20 MG	\$76 M
Waterway Protection Tunnel	55 MG	\$197 M
<b>Totals</b>	<b>144 MG</b>	<b>\$447 M</b>

MSD seeks to be a good steward of our ratepayers' dollars, and we are committed to providing safe, clean waterways for our community. We continually collect water-quality data and seek ways to improve our creeks, streams, and the Ohio River for recreational use and fish and wildlife habitats. Go to [LouisvilleMSD.org/WaterQuality](http://LouisvilleMSD.org/WaterQuality) to view the data.

For more information about MSD efforts to improve our waterways, visit [LouisvilleMSD.org/consent-decree](http://LouisvilleMSD.org/consent-decree) or call 502.540.6000.

Together, we can achieve safe, clean waterways for our community.

Sincerely,

*Tony Parrott*  
Executive Director

# What you don't see could harm you!

**Sewers can overflow into waterways during rainstorms, bringing harmful bacteria, which can make you sick.**

To date, MSD has **reduced combined sewer overflows by 5 billion gallons** in a typical rainfall year. But there is more work to be done.

To be safe, you should avoid swimming, fishing, wading, and splashing in waterways during—and for 48 hours after—a rain.

Wash with warm, soapy water if you contact water that a sewage overflow may have contaminated.

For information visit [LouisvilleMSD.org/WaterQuality](http://LouisvilleMSD.org/WaterQuality)  
[MSDProjectWIN.org](http://MSDProjectWIN.org)



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[LouisvilleMSD.org/AtHome](https://LouisvilleMSD.org/AtHome)



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# You can make a difference in the health of our streams.

## Reduce Yard Runoff

Compost grass clippings, and decrease use of fertilizer and pesticides. When it rains, these chemicals make their way to our streams.



## Soak up extra rainwater

Plant a tree or construct a rain garden to help absorb stormwater, or replace your downspout with a rain barrel.



## Clean up pet waste

Dispose of pet waste in the trash. When left on the ground, it washes into our streams during rain. Dogs in Jefferson County produce **four dump-truck loads of poo every day.**



## Stopping the rain is impossible



## Protect yourself with flood insurance

MSD has earned Louisville Metro a Class 3 status—allowing our residents to automatically receive a **35 percent discount** on flood insurance premiums through the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System.

To find out if a property is located in a floodplain, visit:

<http://apps.lojic.org/msdflood-determination/>

## AVOID MAKING A SERIOUS POTTY FOUL

### KNOW WHAT'S OK TO FLUSH DOWN THE TOILET

**YEP!**



**NOPE!**

(ANYTHING ELSE)

- BABY WIPES
- BANDAGES
- COTTON BALLS/SWABS
- CLEANING WIPES
- DENTAL FLOSS
- DIAPERS
- FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS
- HAIR
- PLASTIC AND RUBBER ITEMS
- ZIPPY THE GOLDFISH



Wipes do not break down, even if their labels read "flushable." They can lead to sewage backups in your home or work place.

**Avoid the mess, toss your wipes into the trash!**

For more information visit [LouisvilleMSD.org/AtHome](http://LouisvilleMSD.org/AtHome)



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