



700 West Liberty Street | Louisville, KY 40203-1911  
Phone: 502.540.6000 | LouisvilleMSD.org

## **FLOOD UPDATE MEDIA ADVISORY**

**March 1, 2018**

### **CONTACT:**

Sheryl Lauder  
[Sheryl.Lauder@LouisvilleMSD.org](mailto:Sheryl.Lauder@LouisvilleMSD.org)  
502.540.6552  
502.919.0325

## **Public Art that Protects: 2nd Street Floodgates to Open as River Recedes**

*Public art on floodgates caught the attention of Louisville citizens during flooding*

**— “Trash Island” to be removed Friday morning —**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Floodgates, installed in 2009, are the only swing gates in the Louisville flood protection system and were the first gates MSD treated as public art. With the Ohio River floodwaters receding, MSD will be opening the gates that have been closed since Saturday, February 24.

The decorative metal adornments on the gates feature repeating Louisville-inspired symbols: the fleur-de-lis and paddlewheel. The design was a group effort: Louisville historian Tom Owen offered ideas that would best illustrate Louisville and the Ohio River, an MSD employee sketched them, and engineering firm Qk4 executed them.

The swinging gate design was decided upon because space in the area was at a premium, and traditional floodwall roadway closures require greater onsite storage space to store the planks.

### **Media Opportunities**

#### **Bingham Way Floodwall Closure**

The crane will be onsite at the Bingham Way closure Friday, March 2 at 8 AM.  
An MSD representative will be onsite for interviews at 10 AM.

#### **Second Street Floodwall Closure**

The Second Street closure will open in the afternoon. This will take place upon completion of the Bingham Way closure removal.

More information will be sent tomorrow concerning timing.

#### **Removal of “Trash Island”**

Work to remove “Trash Island” at MSD’s Beargrass Flood Pumping Station (1731 Brownsboro Road) will begin at 8 AM, Friday, March 2. A boat will push the trash upstream to the Brownsboro Road overpass, where a boom will be utilized to remove the trash.

## **Background**

MSD maintains Louisville Metro's Ohio River Flood Protection System—keeping the river at bay and out of the city. The system protects more than 200,000 people, 87,000 homes and \$24 billion in property throughout 110 square miles of Louisville Metro. It includes 29 miles of floodwall and earthen levee, 16 flood pumping stations, nearly 150 floodgates and 80 floodwall closures.

Where creeks and storm drains pass through the floodwall, gates can be closed to keep the river from flowing up the streams, and large pumps at the flood pumping stations are used to lift the water from the creeks into the river. Additional gates and pumping stations keep the river from backing up through storm drains, and pump the stormwater into the river.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the system after the city's two highest floods of record in 1937 and 1945. MSD has been responsible for the Flood Protection System since 1987.



LouisvilleMSD

## **About MSD**

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) works to achieve and maintain clean, environmentally safe waterways for a healthy and vibrant community. The organization's more than 600 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro. In addition to operating and maintaining Louisville Metro's sewer system, floodwall system, water quality treatment centers and flood pumping stations, MSD invests in hundreds of infrastructure improvement projects each year, plants more than 1,000 trees and other vegetation annually to enhance water filtration and reduce runoff, and provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.