



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

MEDIA RELEASE

May 4, 2020

CONTACT:

Sheryl Lauder
Sheryl.Lauder@LouisvilleMSD.org
502.540.6552
502.919.0325

New MSD pump station building designed to fit in with future expansion of Waterfront Park

Building illuminated in green in remembrance of COVID-19 victims

LOUISVILLE, KY – MSD’s new Rowan Street Pump Station serves a practical purpose on the inside, but the exterior doubles as an architectural feature and a colorful light show to fit in the planned expansion of Louisville’s acclaimed Waterfront Park. The pump station is the first completed piece of the ongoing Waterway Protection Tunnel, which will begin operation in 2021.

MSD recently installed an enhanced exterior on the pump station, located on the west side of its Waterway Protection Tunnel construction site near 12th and Rowan streets. When the multi-year construction project is complete, the Waterfront Development Corporation will use the site for the park’s Phase IV expansion.

“Eventually, our job site will be a play site for the community,” said MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott. “We wanted our structure there to be functional on the inside to take care of our wastewater pumping needs, but also attractive on the outside to be worthy of being part of a world-class public park like we have in Waterfront Park.”

The building—which typically would be a concrete block structure clad with a brick façade—was designed to fit into the park aesthetic. The bottom portion features weathered steel panels that will take on a brownish-orange rust color. In contrast, the top part features perforated, corrugated aluminum panels that can backlight with multi-colored illumination in the evening.

To mark the completion of the pump station exterior, MSD is lighting the building in green in support of Gov. Andy Beshear’s Team Kentucky efforts to address COVID-19 and remember those who have died of the virus.

“Heartfelt congratulations to MSD on completion of the exterior of the Rowan Street Pump Station, and many thanks for their commitment to ensuring this project was designed to accommodate the continued expansion of our award-winning Waterfront Park,” said Waterfront Development Corporation President Deborah Bilitski. “Their thoughtful planning ensures that we can continue to expand Louisville’s most visited urban park.”

The Rowan Pump Station will be the only visible portion of the massive Waterway Protection Tunnel project when it is complete. The 4-mile underground tunnel will ultimately prevent 439-million gallons of rainwater and wastewater from overflowing and polluting the river and area streams in a typical rainfall year. The tunnel stores the mixture of sewage and rainwater until capacity is available in the sewer system.

Inside the pump station building is a 220-foot deep shaft that connects to the underground storage tunnel and houses 10 large pumps. Each pump can move five million gallons per day, providing a total pumping capacity of 50 million gallons – enough to empty the entire storage tunnel in just over a day. The mixture of sewage and rainwater then flows through the sewer system to MSD’s Morris Forman Water Quality Treatment Center for treatment and release into the Ohio River.

Coverage note:

- Interviews available by calling Sheryl Lauder at 502.919.0325.
- B-roll of the building exterior installation is provided <https://www.webcargo.net/l/p17RNsvHxk/>

Want to learn more?

For more information on the tunnel, including how it is built and the current location of the tunnel boring machine nicknamed “Bumblebee”, visit louisvillemsd.org/tunnel.

For an animation of the tunnel, click here

<https://youtu.be/u9CHHpB5xek>



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 680 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.