

Flood Protection staff pictured, from left: Chris Masden, Chris Bullock, Mike Glaser, Scott Davidson, Glen Cooper, Steve Shaffer, Walter Furlong, Alvin Pedro, David Ciez, Mark Moates, Terry French-Marzian, Trish Capito, Eric Hottel, and Dan Janssen. Not shown are Dane Anderson, Lonnie Gaines, Michael Smith and Marc Thomas Operations Director—Collection System, Flood Protection and Emergency Response.

# Flood Protection staff's work continues after flooding

Snow and heavy rains resulted in all hands of deck for our Flood Protection team earlier this month. "There are no holidays or vacation days when a flood event is in progress," said Flood Protection Manager Dane Anderson. "We have to make sure everyone is there—especially the ones with tools strapped to their side. That includes the entire Flood Protection staff as well as pump station operators from other departments, called in from those regular duties to operate flood pumping stations.

Now that the waters have receded, work is underway to get ready for future flood events. "There is as much work coming out of a flood as there is going into an event," Anderson said. "If anything, the work really just starts." That's because staff members must clean and inspect each of the 16 flood pumping stations, ensuring they are ready and functional for activation in the next flooding event. That includes everything from pump repairs to clearing debris from wet wells. Repair lists are reported and then prioritized. Particular attention goes to bearings in the pumps, which are moving parts and high-stress points within the pumps, so they tend to wear out after heavy usage. It's an important issue for the aging flood protection system where many of the pumping stations date to the 1950s. The newest station was constructed at Pond Creek in 1989.

Anderson said keeping the aging equipment operational is vital. "At Pond Creek, for example, if you lose one pump, you lose 25 percent of capacity.

- Continued on page 2

## MSD is available 24/7 at 502.540.6000

Report a sanitary sewer backup
before contacting a plumber.

Determining if the problem is located
on the public side of the system
will help to avoid unnecessary plumber expense.



#### **OUR VISION**

The innovative regional utility for safe, clean waterways

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MSD STREAMLINE · March 2021 Page 2

### ...work continues after flooding - Continued from Page 1



With a flood season that lasts from November until May, there is still time for further events, so staff will work to ensure each aspect of flood protection—which also includes nearly 150 underground floodgates and 79 floodwall closures—are ready.

**Above:** MSD's Pond Creek Flood Pumping Station anchors the southwest end of our Ohio River Flood Protection System. The station straddles Pond Creek near its confluence with the Salt and Ohio rivers.



MSD's Beargrass Flood Pumping Station, dating to 1953, anchors the northeast end of our Ohio River Flood Protection System. The station straddles Beargrass Creek near its confluence with the Ohio River. On a typical day, you can canoe or kayak on the stream through the opening. When river waters rise and threaten to flood

the area, large gates lower in the opening to keep the river from flowing up the stream. But Beargrass Creek keeps flowing, so the pumps housed inside the pump station lift and push the water from Beargrass Creek out and into the Ohio River, protecting homes and businesses within the flood protection system from flooding.

MSD STREAMLINE · March 2021 Page 3

#### Trash travels

Have you noticed more trash than usual along our roadways? The heavy rains of early March brought a lot of improperly disposed of trash to our streams, including a green recliner.

Moving water is a powerful force. For instance, if you leave a paper cup in a parking lot at one of the east end malls, the wind and rain can carry that cup to Beargrass Creek or one of its tributaries in the area. It may even go down a storm drain in the parking lot that drains directly to the stream. The cup then travels the swollen waterway to the Butchertown area, where MSD's Beargrass Flood Pumping Station straddles the creek near the Ohio River.

When the pumping station is in service, the stream water stops at the closed gates. MSD utilizes mechanical trash rakes to lift the trash out of the water and into a dumpster for proper disposal.

For more information about water quality visit: http://www.louisvillemsd.org/WaterQuality

For information about organizing a stream cleanup in your area contact: Rhonda.Crotzer@louisvillemsd.org



Flood Protection staff find a green recliner chair in the trash rakes at MSD's Beargrass Flood Pumping Station.



# Plan your rain garden now and get **FREE** seed packets!

Rain gardens help infiltrate rainwater before it reaches the drainage system, and reduce the amount of stormwater and pollutants running into storm drains, combined sewers or streams.

For your FREE Rain Garden Guide and FREE seed packets, contact MSD Customer Relations at 502.540.6000, or online at CustomerRelations@LouisvilleMSD.org. Or download the brochure at LouisvilleMSD.org/HowYouCanHelp

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## Jefferson County dogs produce four dump-truck loads of waste EVERY day.

Pet waste that is left behind on sidewalks, in parks and at home finds its way to local waterways when it rains. Please do your part to help by scooping the poop!

Properly dispose of it in the trash.

Working together, we can achieve safe, clean waterways for our community.





#### 700 West Liberty Street Louisville, KY 40203-1911



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The public is welcome to attend MSD Board meetings. For MSD Board information and meeting schedule visit: LouisvilleMSD.org/About-Us/MSD-Board

MSD STREAMLINE · March 2021

## **Upcoming Events**

#### MARCH 22 **MSD BOARD MEETING**

1 PM, Open Session YouTube.com/User/MSDProjectWin/Livestream

#### **APRIL 13** MSD BOARD AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

YouTube.com/User/MSDProjectWin/Livestream

#### **APRIL 20** MSD BOARD JOINT INFRASTRUCTURE AND FINANCE **COMMITTEE MEETING**

YouTube.com/User/MSDProjectWin/Livestream

#### **APRIL 22 MSD BOARD MEETING**

1 PM, Open Session YouTube.com/User/MSDProjectWin/Livestream



## Need help paying your MSD bill?

Drops of Kindness is an effort by MSD and Louisville Water to help customers with unpaid bills. Whether you are a resident or business owner, Drops of Kindness offers a customizable

approach to manage through difficult times and reduce future financial obligations.

Learn more about Drops of Kindness. LouisvilleWater.com/DropsofKindness

#### **Emergency Wastewater Rate Assistance Program** LouisvilleMSD.org/ewrap or call 502.540.6000

This program provides a temporary 10 percent discount on MSD wastewater charges for qualified low-income households.

#### Senior Citizen Discount LouisvilleMSD.org/PayMyBill or call 502.540.6000

Senior citizens who are age 65 or older and have a gross annual household income of \$35,000 or less may request an application for a 30 percent discount on wastewater charges and the EPA surcharge.

