



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

MEDIA RELEASE

July 14, 2022

CONTACT:

Sheryl Lauder
Sheryl.Lauder@LouisvilleMSD.org
502.919.0325

First area EPA approved Urban Watershed Plan

Goal to increase water quality of Middle Fork Beargrass Creek

LOUISVILLE, KY— The future for Middle Fork Beargrass Creek looks a bit brighter with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval of a watershed plan to improve water quality in Middle Fork Beargrass Creek and create opportunities for community members to become involved in improvement efforts and solutions.

This EPA-approved plan, a first for Louisville, brings together MSD and Kentucky Division of Water (DOW) staff with citizen groups, residents, business owners, and other stakeholders working to improve water quality within the urban stream by addressing nonpoint source pollution. When rainfall or snowmelt moves over, and through the ground, it picks up and carries natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into waterways. While Middle Fork Beargrass Creek currently meets standards for metals, most nutrients and some toxins. There is still work to do so that the waterway can meet all criteria for healthy waterways.

Plan approval opens the door to 319(h) Nonpoint Source Management Program grant funding. MSD will use the first approved dollars for support staff to lead community education and outreach efforts, such as stream cleanups, to improve the water quality in Middle Fork Beargrass Creek, which winds through a wide swath of Jefferson County. The urban watershed contains everything from homes, businesses, schools, malls, and busy thoroughfares to parks, nature trails, and a historic farm. Additionally, because the EPA approved the plan, MSD or any of its partners may apply for more 319 grant funding.

Background

As defined by the Kentucky Division of Water, “A watershed plan is a strategy that provides assessment and management information for a geographically defined watershed, including the analyses, actions, participants and resources for developing and implementing the plan.” This watershed plan utilizes Section 319(h) funding in partnership with the Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD).

The data collected during this watershed planning effort are a new baseline for project development. However, continued data collection, monitoring, and public engagement are critical to address nonpoint source pollution control and identify emerging concerns within the watershed. The watershed plan is a living document that MSD will review, update and submit every five years for state review. Additionally, MSD will produce an annual assessment to evaluate best management practices, implementation and effectiveness, and funding opportunities for stakeholders.

For more information about [LouisvilleMSD.org/WaterQuality](https://www.louisvillemsd.org/WaterQuality).

###

Images for media use <https://www.webcargo.net/l/0dxZD3xMrd/>

Password: **MSDmedia2022!**



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 nearly 700 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro, and wastewater service in portions of Bullitt and Oldham counties. 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.