

Louisville & Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District Flood Impact to Wastewater System Public Information Project



National Environmental Achievement Awards

NEAA26 PUBLIC INFORMATION & EDUCATION: E-MEDIA

Days of heavy rain/flooding overwhelm wastewater system

Residents asked to reduce water usage

https://louisvillemsd.org/ 466 captures 27 Aug 2023 - 28 Sep 2025

Safe, clean waterways

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Advisory Notice Last Updated: 4/4/2025 - 2:55 pm **4/4/2025**

Residents asked to decrease water usage into the weekend

The Louisville MSD sewer system has reached capacity due to ongoing heavy rain. Please refrain from running washing machines, dishwashers or other uses that send high volumes of water into the system until further notice.

We are responding to a heavy volume of sewer backups. If you are experiencing a backup, please hold off on reporting it until the rain stops to see whether the water level decreases. If the water does not go down after the rain stops, call us at 502-546-6000. We anticipate that system capacity will return on Sunday.

Feature Topics

- MSD Installs Five Floodwall Closures
- List Of Road Closures Due To Flooding
- Learn About MSD's Flood Protection System

Advisory Notice Last Updated: 4/7/2025 - 12:06 pm **4/7/2025**

Water usage restriction lifted

The voluntary water usage restriction request has been lifted. Normal use of dishwashers and washing machines may

Louisville MSD's Post

Louisville MSD April 4

Louisville MSD is installing additional roadway floodwall closures Friday as Ohio River level projections rise. New closures today include Second Street, Bingham Way, and Port Road. On Thursday, crews installed the closures at 10th and 27th streets. Floodwall closures keep the Ohio River at bay and prevent it from backing onto roadways and property. Projections now show the river will crest on April 7 at 33.7 feet on the upper gauge and 65.6 feet on the lower gauge. Both projected levels are in Moderate Flood Mode.

Louisville MSD's Post

Louisville MSD April 2

MSD proactively conducted drainage checks and removed potential obstructions to be re-upcoming rains. We have strategically scheduled staff shifts and will have additional personnel available around the clock to address any drainage concerns that may arise in the coming days. If you notice blocked catch basins or flooding in the streets, give us a call at 502-540-6000.

Post

LouisvilleMSD @louisvillemsd

The advisory on limiting water usage has been lifted. Normal use of washing machines, dishwashers, etc. may resume.

Boost this post to get more reach for Louisville MSD.

66 Likes 10 Comments

8:41 AM · Apr 7, 2025 · 6,535 Views

Terri Madison Thanks for protecting our city

Linda Goforth Lawrence Thank you all who are involved in this project to keep the Ohio River at bay.



Member Spotlight: Louisville & Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District

Louisville, Kentucky was inundated with over seven inches of rain over a five-day period during the first week of April 2025. The heavy rain caused a historic flood and threatened to cause sewage backups in homes along with street flooding and property damage throughout the city, especially near the overflowing adjacent Ohio River.

The Louisville & Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District is unique in the water industry in the fact that it operates three utility functions in a single agency, wastewater treatment, stormwater drainage, and flood protection. The storm presented challenges to all three.

Louisville MSD had to operate those functions while keeping the public informed of the changing situation and what residents could do to protect themselves and help reduce the risk of sewer system backups. The agency launched a coordinated public information project that relied heavily on its social media platforms, its website, and video in addition to media interviews, news releases, and participation in emergency agency briefings.

The all-hands-on-deck messaging effort proved effective in getting the word out to residents who reacted by taking actions that helped reduce the impact of the flooding on the combined sewer system. It involved every member of the six-person Government & Public Affairs Department.

Louisville MSD provides its three utility services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro and provides wastewater treatment to neighboring Bullitt and Oldham counties. Its flood protection system includes 26.1 miles of floodwall and earthen levee along with sixteen flood pumping stations, 150 drainpipe floodgates, and 80 roadway floodwall closures. The three

utilities in one operation are run by 800 employees dedicated to maintaining safe, clean waterways to the communities we serve, along with protecting billions of dollars in property and enabling housing and economic development.