STUDY SESSION MSD Update

CITY HALL, Fifth Floor 6801 Delmar Blvd., University City, Missouri 63130 Monday, May 8, 2023 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At the Study Session of the City Council of University City held on Monday, May 8, 2023, Mayor Terry Crow, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

In addition to the Mayor, the following members of Council were present:

Councilmember Stacy Clay
Councilmember Aleta Klein
Councilmember Steven McMahon
Councilmember Jeffrey Hales
Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson
Councilmember Dennis Fuller

Also in attendance were City Manager, Gregory Rose; City Attorney, John F. Mulligan, Jr., and Brian Hoelscher, Executive Director of MSD.

2. CHANGES TO THE REGULAR AGENDA

Mr. Rose requested that Item K (1) of the Consent Agenda; Façade Program Approval, be moved to the City Manager's Report.

3. MSD UPDATE

Mr. Rose asked Council to receive an update from MSD on Project Clear from Mr. Brian Hoelscher and his staff.

Mr. Hoelscher stated that based on what they understood the request to be, he brought some folks from his Engineering Department to explain what is going on with the wastewater site. He stated there were a couple of false starts associated with some issues regarding wastewater and the storage of tunnels, but they have now reached an agreement.

Brad Nevois, Assistant Director of Engineering Wastewater, Sanitary, and Combined Sewers

Mr. Nevois provided Council with materials he would be using during his presentation on wastewater and noted that the Director of Engineering, Rich Unverferth, was also present to assist with any questions regarding this topic.

- The map illustrates all of the projects identified in U City
- The left-hand side of the map is 1-70 and to the north is Page
- The black outline illustrates U City boundaries
- The red shapes are sanitary and combined sewer projects related to MSD's EPA agreements
- The blue shapes are stormwater projects
- The heavy green line is a long-range project for a combined sewer tunnel
- The numbers in front of each shape represent Oracle project numbers; Oracle is the project management system

The first 8 ^{1/2} by 11 sheet is a list of sanitary and combined sewer projects identified in U City, a general description of the project, when each project is scheduled to be designed, and the anticipated start of construction; (this list also includes Oracle project numbers that correlate with the map)

The second 8 ^{1/2} by 11 sheet is a list of stormwater projects identified in U City, with the two projects that currently have funding at the top of the list; (these are identified on the map with a green (\$) sign.

The 11 by 17 sheet is an overall map of the large, combined sewer tunnel, which runs from Maplewood to U City. Its purpose is to limit combined sewer overflows into area streams.

- Still in the preliminary stage
- The green and white striped lines coming off of the tunnel are tunnel adits, or smaller tunnels coming off of the main tunnel to get to the combined sewer overflow locations
- Construction is programmed for Fiscal Year 2032

Mr. Nevois stated all of the sanitary and combined sewer projects are related to the Consent Decree with the EPA to improve MSD's system.

Councilmember Hales posed the following questions to Mr. Nevois:

Q. The last time this was discussed, the tunnel was referred to as some type of underground system. So, what is the tunnel?

A. It was referred to as a storage facility.

Q. Is the tunnel replacing the storage facility?

A. Yes. That discussion was several years ago, and at that time they didn't even have a name for the project, so it was identified as a comprehensive solution. The tunnel provides storage and conveyance of the combined sewer flow that takes water down to the River des Peres where it enters another tunnel.

Q. Is there a timeline for construction of the tunnel?

A. Yes, by the end of Fiscal Year 2039.

Councilmember Clay stated to the point of waterway maintenance, who is responsible for removing brush and debris? Mr. Nevois stated that Brian is going to devote much of his discussion to the topic of stormwater.

Councilmember Klein posed the following questions to Mr. Nevois;

Q. Are the green dotted lines that feed into the main green line side tunnels that feed water from those areas into the main tunnel?

A. That is a good way to describe what MSD calls tunnel adits. They are just smaller and will need some construction in areas where they come out of the ground.

Q. If that's the case, then they are important because they seem to be running from some of the most heavily flooded areas in the City.

A. The combined sewer project isn't to address stormwater flooding; it's to address the combined sewer overflow.

Q. A lot of the homes in the 2nd Ward had flooding issues related to sewer backups in their basements. Will these tunnel adits address that issue?

A. They are really meant to deal with the combined sewer and U City has both separate and combined sewers. However, the red lines will address the basement backups that you mentioned.

Councilmember McMahon posed the following questions to Mr. Nevois:

Q. Looking at the sanitary list, you've got four sewer separations from sanitary. Will those be the ones used to alleviate basement backups?

A. They should help, but their main purpose is to address the combined sewer issue.

Q. Are those the four areas left in U City that need this type of work?

A. I think there may be other areas. Some are being addressed with the tunnel, and other areas would be separated where the storm and the sanitary are separated.

Q. What is the difference between separation and sanitary relief?

A. Sanitary relief means the area is already separated into a sanitary and storm system. It's just making the sanitary system larger.

Mr. Hoelscher stated that based on some of the questions, it sounds like maybe he should have gone first.

Wastewater Rate Proposal

The Rate Commission started meeting in April and will finish meeting in September. Their decision on how to fund the wastewater aspect of this program will be put before voters in April 2024. Council has been provided with a link to the rate proposal that is now in front of the Commission.

- The chart illustrates the same proposal that is brought before ratepayers every four years
- The current amount of work to be performed is valued at 7.2 billion dollars
- A yes vote to fund the next four years by approving an additional 750 million dollars in bond funding is illustrated in the left-hand column; (what will happen to the monthly rates for a typical wastewater customer; the percent increase per year, and the value for the average customer to pay per month)
- A no vote means that the project will have to be paid for with cash, and is illustrated in the right-hand column; (what will happen to rates and the total customers will pay per month)

Mr. Hoelscher stated MSD is performing this work pursuant to a Consent Decree or Legal judgment after it was sued by the EPA and Department of Justice. The Decree lists a date certain to meet the full compliance of the Clear Water Act, so these projects have to be done. The question for the voters is how they would like to fund this program.

Stormwater Concerns

MSD has never had a district-wide revenue source to address flooding and erosion issues. And the last time it went to the ratepayer for a district-wide revenue source was in 2019, where the public voted no; 47 to 53.

- Erosion is not in MSD's Charter, so it is not one of their responsibilities. However, MSD does have the ability to raise funds and assist agencies that do manage floodplains
- Currently, MSD does not have a district-wide funding source
- The Funding source that U City utilizes is from a small taxing district developed in the 1960s
- There are twelve of these taxing districts throughout the area between the City of St. Louis and 270, consisting of seven municipalities that decided to stay active and five municipalities that decided not to stay active.
- The plan is to establish a district-wide revenue source that would replace all of these taxing districts.

Mr. Hoelscher stated MSD's surveys indicate that the typical customer wants to spend \$2.00 per month on flooding and erosion issues. For the median household that equates to a 7 1/2 cent property tax. Commercial and not-for-profits will be charged based on an impervious area rate for each property. In total, this would produce revenue of 34 million dollars towards a 700-million-dollar problem; excluding the storms that occurred this past summer.

- Under the current OMCI schedule, half of the revenue was returned to cities through stormwater grants to address any issues they thought were a priority.
- Under the new OMCI proposal, the grant amount will go up to \$300,000 per year.

He stated between the State, the Supreme Court, and the voters, this will be MSD's fourth attempt to develop a district-wide revenue source for stormwater flooding and erosion issues.

Councilmember Clay posed the following questions to Mr. Hoelscher:

Q. Is that \$300,000 per grant?

A. Per year. Right now, U City has \$230,000 a year under the local taxing program, and under the new program, it would go up to \$300,000 per year.

Q. Who is responsible for cleaning out the waterways?

A. The only creek and/or stream owned by MSD is part of a right-of-way developed by the City of St. Louis located downstream of the River des Peres. The ownership of creeks and streams located anywhere else sits with the owner whose property line runs into or across that tributary since it is a not public asset.

MSD indicated that it had the equipment to remove blockages near bridges or culverts and included those services in its 2016 ballot proposition. But as of today, there is no O & M for that. Most municipalities are cleaning creeks and streams on their own with funding from our grants.

Q. How does MSD determine what blockages it will clean out?

A. Specific to U City, MSD has the equipment to remove large blockages near bridges. And we do claim responsibility for a fully concreted vertical wall or bottom channels where it appears as though debris can cause severe flooding. But, we are not going to routinely sweep these areas, so any determination would be made on a case-by-case basis.

Councilmember Hales posed the following questions to MSD:

Q. I do a lot of research, and there was a Council meeting on September 22, 2008, which happened to occur after the City experienced a flood, where he noted this question and answer; "Councilmember Price asked about the debris and overgrowth in the channels affecting the water flow? Mr. Hoelscher said that MSD is responsible for cleaning out debris and overgrowth of the River des Peres". But that statement does not seem to reflect the nuanced answer you've provided today?

A. No, it doesn't, but that sounds like an excerpt from my answer.

Q. There have been a lot of discussions about how the channels behind Royal Bank increased the speed of water that runs under Olive towards Groby Road and then back to a normal channel where there is nowhere for the water to go. So, specifically, as it relates to the Pennsylvania/Kingsland channel rehabilitation to replace 1130 feet of concrete channel downstream of Pennsylvania, is it MSD's opinion that replacing a concrete channel is the best practice when it comes to stormwater management for areas within U City?

A. While I'll let Brad address that in more detail, in general, it is illegal to build concrete channels anymore. However, MSD does take responsibility for repairing them whenever they are in disrepair or if they disturb the function of the sewer system or are located within the easement of River des Peres. **A.** (Mr. Nevois): There was probably a reason that the original concrete channel was built, and typically, it was related to the proximity of the houses in that area.

Q. I had a resident contact me about the sewer backups that occurred on Stanford during the July 26th and 28th floods who said that MSD told him that the flooding would be considered as one event, even though they were two days apart and two different storm systems.

A. (Mr. Hoelscher): If you give me that address we'll look into it. MSD has a backup insurance program that will take care of backups in basements as long as it is not caused by flooding that occurred in Overland. If the flooding does qualify, MSD will pay up to \$2,900. In the events you mentioned; and not just in U City, MSD has pretty much stopped basement backups except in very, very heavy storms and flooding events.

Q. The funding that gets tacked on to the Sewer Lateral Program from our property taxes was established and capped at a maximum of \$50.00 almost thirty years ago. However, at this point, inner-ring and aging communities like U City have a tremendous need for those funds. So, does MSD have the authority to ask the State to raise that cap for communities that fall into that category?

A. (Mr. Hoelscher): We certainly can advocate and express how important the issue is, but this program for private plumbing is not one of MSD's assets, so we have to be a little careful.

Councilmember Fuller posed the following questions to Mr. Hoelscher:

- Q. The City has a Stormwater Commission that has conducted extensive studies that included spending the major portion of a day looking at four bridges with debris and huge trees that have been in that condition for almost five years; specifically, the Hanley, Groby, and Pennsylvania Bridges. So now that I've learned the River des Peres is not MSD's problem, and you have the equipment to support a cleanup in these areas, what steps should staff be taking to make that happen?
- **A.** I think your staff knows who to call to get that process started, so just contact us and we'll go out and look at it. In fact, next week I'll send the manager of our yard out to determine if this debris falls in the category of something MSD can remove.
- Q. According to the Commission, three of those bridges are either too low or too narrow, and the water has to condense and compress to go through the channel and underneath. Does MSD have any plans to raise any of these bridges?
- **A.** Those bridges are owned by U City.
- Q. Some of them are County bridges.
- **A**. Based on FEMA's maps, I think just about every one of the bridges in U City is in a floodplain that has reached the 10-year storm and flood level, and that is what's causing the River des Peres to flood.

Councilmember Smotherson posed the following questions to Mr. Hoelscher:

- Q. There is a concrete sewer line in the 7200 block of Olive, on the west side of U-Haul that has been in bad shape for years. And since you've stated that MSD can repair these concrete channels, I'm wondering why that has never been fixed?
- **A.** When you say sewer are you talking about an open channel with two side walls and a bottom?
- Q. Yes, it's a channel.
- A. It's not an enclosed structure?
- Q. No, it's not.
- A. Okay, we've got that one.
- Q. Residents in my Ward that experienced sewer backups have been asking MSD to install backup valves and are being told that they only qualify for a valve if they've had two events in five years. Can you explain that policy?
- **A.** If you provide us with the name and address of that customer we'll take a look at it. But what they need to understand is that those valves are not without risk and could also potentially cause more problems. And while MSD's backup insurance coverage does not require a certain number of events, eligibility is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. I think most of the homes along River des Peres are on a combined sewer system that oftentimes cannot daylight the downspouts, and you can't have any kind of stormwater connections on the lateral. So, there are a lot of things that have to be considered.

Mayor Crow posed the following questions to Mr. Hoelscher:

- Q. Maybe I missed this, but for purposes of reimbursement, did MSD consider the July 26th and 28th floods as two separate events or one?
- **A.** You can receive up to \$2,900 for a provable claim, but you don't get paid twice if the same stuff was damaged and never replaced.
- Q. The rate increase going forward is for stormwater, which is not included in your Charter. But since most of us have agreed that if there is going to be one overarching entity to take care of stormwater, MSD would probably be a natural choice, would there be any benefit to revising your Charter?
- **A.** We are stormwater. However, based on past experience revising the Charter would require revenue. And, since there is also a State law that lists the individual municipalities as being the floodplain managers, there would be a lot of things to go back and forth on regarding whether you would even want MSD to manage those floodplains. For example, MSD would expect to have the ability to say no to any development being constructed in a floodplain or to rehabbing a home that was destroyed by flooding.

Adding stormwater to the Charter is something that would have to go to the voters and based on the experience of not being able to obtain funding for anything west of 270 for 25 years, even with sewers that are falling apart, we would have to make absolutely sure we knew what the scope was, and that the revenue source was in place before ever considering taking over anything like that. However, it is something MSD could think about.

Q. My question was more for clarification, so I'm not even sure that's necessary.

A. To be quite honest with you, we've been in this a long time, and the first thing is to get people out of floodplains. I would hate for us to spend a huge amount of money trying to solve something, get five of the one hundred people out of the floodplain, and then have the other ninety-five get flooded again. I think Mother Nature is trying to tell us something, and we need to be really careful about trying to engineer our way out of anything when moving might be the best option.

Mr. Rose posed the following questions to Mr. Hoelscher:

Q. What are the best practices as it relates to the management of stormwater on a regional basis? And more specifically, how does Kansas City manage its stormwater?

A. It would be great to be able to manage it on a regional basis, but we don't have the funding resource. Right now, we're managing the actual storm sewers and inlets on a regional basis, which has nothing to do with flooding. Kansas City does it regionally because they are part of a municipality. Here, anytime there is a flood or a lot of water, or somebody wants to clean a creek, it's MSD, or the Corps of Engineers, and several other entities that all have a different set of rules to be followed, so we're just not set up to do it that way. Now, if we could get the funding, I completely agree that that would be the way to do it if we could find the right place to buy out neighborhoods that are flooding and put detention in. We're doing some of that in highly urbanized combined sewer areas in St. Louis, but U City would look a little different because it's always a matter of size.

Q. One concern often raised by the Corps is the creation of a project that results in challenges associated with down-falls or the water speeding up. So, as U City and other municipalities like Brentwood and Ladue go about preparing their Stormwater Master Plans, is there an entity that will be looking at all of these plans to ensure that they integrate?

A. That's the exact reason why any stormwater improvement that disturbs more than 1 acre; public or private must be reviewed by MSD. Deciding whether there will be downstream stormwater problems, or if the appropriate detention is being installed, is MSD's responsibility. And in most cases, that is what's happening. Your staff, as well as other municipalities in our district, has done a good job of forwarding plans to us so that we can coordinate the data.

Councilmember Clay asked Mr. Hoelscher if he believed that the most appropriate option would be to buy out folks who are still at risk due to living in a floodplain? Mr. Hoelscher stated Brentwood Bound is designed to lower the 100-year flood level by less than 6 inches. But, first and foremost, they are moving people out of the floodplain and opening it up so that it can work properly. So, yes, I think that's the place to start, and then you can do some engineering on the fringes. He stated MSD did a calculation and if he's not mistaken, there is 2.5 billion dollars worth of real estate in their area that is located in floodplains.

Councilmember Hales posed the following questions to Mr. Hoelscher:

Q. What if the City's Stormwater Master Plan indicates that your concrete channels are wholly inconsistent with the plan?

A. That's something we would work through and look to U City to assist us in buying out the adjacent properties, opening up the channel, and widening the banks. However, since the standard reason for building those channels was because of new development, it's a pretty difficult process. So, you have to be certain that you know exactly what you will be resolving before you spend all the money it will take to accomplish that undertaking. Currently, MSD is taking the stance that if people want a concrete channel removed we'll look at taking them out, but in all honesty, that rarely happens.

Q. Another set of minutes from the late 80s, discussed an initiative similar to a grant from MSD that required a match from U City.

I guess that's why I'm a little confused and interested in knowing when the channels were built, who built them, and who owns them. That said; my last question is how many combined sanitary discharges flowing into the River des Peres, are there in U City?

A. We can get that number for you. But MSD's plan; based on the EPA's directive, is to make sure those fifty discharges don't active more than four times a year and improve the water quality of River des Peres.

Councilmember Hales stated some of the other utilities have worked with members of the Council to provide a point of contact whenever one of our residents needs assistance. I'm not aware of having a point of contact for MSD, but I think it would be extremely helpful if we could direct residents to the right people in your organization.

Mr. Hoelscher stated they usually provide that kind of information to a city's administration rather than its legislative body, but in this case, he will be sure to provide it.

Councilmember Klein asked how the tunnels slated for 2023, would affect future flooding? Mr. Hoelscher stated those large or combined sewer tunnels will have absolutely no impact on flooding. All they are meant to do is take the discharges from 50 per year to 4 per year. And the method for doing that is to put in a big enough structure so that all but four storms per year go into that tunnel where they will remain until the storm is over, and then be fed into the treatment plant so that it does not go into local creeks and streams.

Mayor Crow thanked Mr. Hoelscher and his team for their presentation.

Mr. Hoelscher asked what would be the best way for them to collect all of the data derived from tonight's questions? Mayor Crow stated that Mr. Rose and his staff would provide them with the information.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Crow adjourned the Study Session at 6:25 p.m.

LaRette Reese City Clerk, MRCC

MSD Sanitary and Combined Projects within University City

Oracle Number	Project Name	System	Status	Project Description
		Sanitary	FY25 Design,	CONSTRUCT 1,793 FEET OF 12-INCH TO 18-INCH SANITARY
11833	DELCREST SANITARY RELIEF	sewer	FY28 Construction	SEWERS, AND ELIMINATE CONSTRUCTED SSO OUTFALLS BP-015
	BLACK CREEK - HADDINGTON	Sanitary		CONSTRUCT 7,955 FEET OF 8-INCH TO 42-INCH SANITARY SEWER
11847	COURT RELIEF SEWERS	sewer	FY24 Construction	AND ELIMINATE CONSTRUCTED SSO OUTFALLS BP-013, BP-017,
4.6-	DARTMOUTH AVENUE SEWER	Sanitary	FY26 Design,	CONSTRUCT 1,700 FEET OF 21-INCH TO 30-INCH STORM SEWER,
	SEPARATION	sewer	FY28 Construction	TO SEPARATE STORM FLOWS FROM THE COMBINED SEWER
	MCKNIGHT PLACE TO DELMAR	Sanitary	FY29 Design,	CONSTRUCT 2,000 FEET OF 15-INCH SANITARY SEWER.
12347	BLVD SANITARY RELIEF	sewer	FY31 Construction	
	MIDLAND - OLIVE SEWER	Sanitary	FY28 Design,	CONSTRUCT 15,000 FEET OF 12-INCH TO 108-INCH STORM
	SEPARATION	sewer	FY31 Construction	SEWER AND 3,500 FEET OF 18-INCH TO 72-INCH COMBINED
	UPPER RIVER DES PERES AND			CONSTRUCT 31,900 FEET OF 18-FOOT DIAMETER TUNNEL,
	RIVER DES PERES TRIBUTARIES	Combined		DEWATERING PUMP STATION, AND CONSOLIDATION PIPING, TO
12441	STORAGE TUNNEL	sewer	FY32 Construction	PROVIDE A STORAGE VOLUME OF 58 MILLION GALLONS.
	COLLINGWOOD DRIVE SEWER	Sanitary	FY26 Design,	CONSTRUCT 2,000 FEET OF 12-INCH TO 24-INCH STORM SEWER
11727	SEPARATION	sewer	FY29 Construction	AND 300 FEET OF 8-INCH TO 12-INCH SANITARY SEWER.
12252	UR-11 BALSON AVENUE	Sanitary	FY26 Design,	CONSTRUCT 4,300 FEET OF 18-INCH TO 21-INCH SANITARY
	SANITARY RELIEF	sewer	FY28 Construction	SEWER.
		1442 7 7 7		CONSTRUCT 3,500 FEET OF 12-INCH TO 30-INCH STORM SEWER
	OLIVETTA STREET SEWER	Sanitary	FY26 Design,	170 FEET OF 15-INCH SANITARY SEWER, AND PERFORM PRIVATE
12365	SEPARATION	sewer	FY28 Construction	I/I REDUCTION AT 44 PROPERTIES.

MSD Stormwater Projects within University City

Oracle Number	Project Name	Status	Project Description
	PARK WAY DRIVE #8000 STORM	FY24 Design,	CONSTRUCT 100 FEET OF 15-INCH RCP STORM SEWER AND
10874	SEWER	FY26 Construction	APPURTENANCES.
	OLD BONHOMMW 8444 STORM	FY24 Design,	CONSTRUCT 1,070 FEET OF 12-INCH TO 42-INCH STORM SEWERS.
13683	SEWERS	FY26 Construction	
	AMHERST - BLACKBERRY 7500 BLOCK		CONSTRUCT 655 FEET OF 6 TO 15 FOOT HIGH BLOCK WALL AND 100 FEET OF
	CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS (UCMB-	Sec. 20 8	BIOSTABILIZED BANK.
10204	120)	Unfunded	
			CONSTRUCT 130 FEET OF CONCRETE RETAINING WALL, 605 FEET OF
			COMPOSITE REVETMENT, 125 FEET OF BIOSTABILIZATION, 300 FEET OF ROCK
	OLIVE 8200 BLOCK BANK		BLOCK TOE, 605 FEET OF HEAVY STONE REVETMENT, AND 15 FEET OF 15-
10316	STABILIZATION (UCSW-110)	Unfunded	INCH STORM SEWER.
	PENNSYLVANIA TO KINGSLAND		REPLACE 1,130 FEET OF CONCRETE CHANNEL DOWNSTREAM OF
11308	CHANNEL REHABILITATION	Unfunded	PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.
			CONSTRUCT 400 FEET OF 15-INCH TO 18-INCH RCP STORM SEWERS .
11310	MILAN AVENUE STORM SEWER	Unfunded	
	JACKSON AVE. AND AHERN AVE.		CONSTRUCT 645 FEET OF 12-INCH TO 18-INCH RCP STORM SEWER .
11312	STORM SEWER	Unfunded	
			CONSTRUCT 970 FEET OF 18-INCH TO 30-INCH RCP STORM SEWER.
11454	BALSON TO STANFORD STORM SEWER	Unfunded	
			CONSTRUCT 690 FEET OF 12-INCH TO 21-INCH RCP STORM SEWER TO
11458	AMHERST #7059 STORM SEWER	Unfunded	SEPARATE THE COMBINED SEWER.
in the same that the same and the			REPLACE 80 FEET OF EXISTING STORM AND COMBINED SEWERS WITH 15-
11459	CORNELL #7117 STORM SEWER	Unfunded	INCH SEWERS.

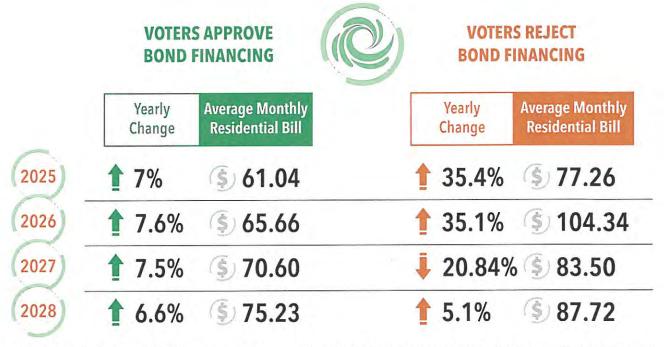


RATE PROPOSALS UPDATE | SPRING 2023

WASTEWATER RATE PROPOSAL

[MSDProjectClear.org/2023RateProposal]

MSD Project Clear is in the midst of a \$6 billion, 28-year improvement program through 2039, part of an agreement with EPA and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment. As of early 2023, these improvements are on schedule and on budget. As part of these required improvements, a bond election will be held in April 2024, asking voters to authorize \$750 million of wastewater revenue bonds for the coming 4-year cycle. Bonding is similar to getting a loan for a large purchase instead of paying cash up front. You pay far less up front, but interest will be added to the total.



For actual dollar increase related to your usage, see pages 6-2 and 7-5 of the rate proposal: MSDProjectClear.org/2023RateProposal

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Although wastewater improvements must be done to protect the public's health, safety, and water environment, and to fulfill our agreements with EPA, MSD Project Clear recognizes the difficulty some of our neighbors in the St. Louis region can have paying utility bills. That's why MSD provides a 50% discount on wastewater service charges for low-income residential customers participating in the MSD Customer Assistance Program (CAP). Approximately 30,000 residential customers are eligible for this program. To learn more about CAP or to sign up, visit MSDProjectClear.org/CAP.











RATE PROPOSALS UPDATE | SPRING 2023

RATE COMMISSION

Since its creation in 2000, the Rate Commission **reviews all proposed changes** in wastewater rates, stormwater rates, tax rates or any change in the structure of rates. The commission **gathers public input**, including public meetings, and then **makes rate recommendations** to MSD's Board of Trustees.

The commission is made up of 15 member organizations representing a broad cross-section of MSD customers and the community it serves. **For more information** about the commission and the 2023 rate proposals, visit MSDProjectClear.org/RateCommission.



STORMWATER RATE PROPOSAL

MSDProjectClear.org/2023RateProposal

Rising flooding and erosion problems are already more than the region's natural (creeks, streams, and rivers) and constructed (stormwater sewers) stormwater systems can handle. The 2023 Stormwater Rate Proposal is designed to address the growing need for flooding and erosion control. It consists of two parts:



For Residential Customers: a 7.5-cent property tax per \$100 valuation. The cost for an average customer (with a home valued at \$175,000) would be \$2.06 per month, or less than \$25 per year.



For Non-Residential Customers: an impervious rate, based on the amount of property which does not absorb stormwater

IF APPROVED BY VOTERS IN APRIL 2024, THE STORMWATER PROPOSAL WOULD FUND:



\$) 700 million

in **stormwater solutions** over the next 20 years

UNIVERSITY CITY

INCLUDING



\$ 300,000

in **annual Municipal Stormwater Grants to University City**, allowing for local decisions on funding priorities











