

Storm Sewers and Sanitary Sewers in Warson Woods

Have you ever thought about what happens after you flush? Most of us haven't – or at least not until something goes wrong. Did you know that if the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) serves you, that your toilets, sinks, and tubs connect to a wastewater system consisting of more than 6,500 miles of pipe?

The underground maze of sewers leads to seven regional treatment plants that treat more than 350 million gallons of wastewater per day on average. MSD maintains those miles of sewers that handle wastewater, and also maintains more than 3,000 miles of pipes that handle only stormwater that are not a part of the wastewater collection and treatment system. Every day, MSD serves 1.3 million residents in the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County.

MSD is a public/government agency that is a special district under Missouri's constitution. Approved in 1954, MSD started operation and maintenance activities in January 1956 and its responsibilities include the interception, collection, and treatment of wastewater, as well as stormwater management.

The sewer system MSD manages is one of the largest and most complex systems in the United States. In terms of wastewater sewers alone, MSD manages the 4th largest system in the nation, approximately the same size as the wastewater system in Los Angeles, California. The District's current boundaries cover 525 square miles and encompass all of the City of St. Louis and approximately 90% of St. Louis County.

Within MSD's service area are two distinct sewer systems that handle wastewater. A combined sewer system handles both wastewater and stormwater within the same sewer pipe. A separate, stand-alone, sewer system handles only wastewater within the sewer pipe. Depending on what part of MSD's service area you live in, you are either served by a combined sewer system or a separate sewer system.

The City of Warson Woods has a separate sewer system. In Wards 2, 3, and 4, there are separate sanitary and storm sewers located throughout the City. Large portions of Ward 1 are served only by a sanitary sewer system and storm water sewers are located sporadically throughout this section (usually via trench drains and separate inlets at the base of many streets). There is currently an MSD project pending to construct storm sewers in order to alleviate storm water problems on Forest View, North, Brookhurst, and Timberlane Drives.

So in the eyes of your friends at MSD, the wastewater system is never just about a straight flush. It's about maintaining a system that keeps those flushes moving!

MSD by the numbers:

- 7 treatment plants
- 1,800+ miles of combined sewers

- 4,700+ miles of separate wastewater sewers
- 3,000+ miles of storm sewers
- 1.3 million residents served
- 350+ average gallons/day treated