

## **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). An MSD storm water project was completed in late 2015-early 2016 to construct storm sewers in order to alleviate storm water problems on Forest View, North, Brookhurst, and Timberlane Drives in Ward 1. Another MSD stormwater project was completed in 2019 to alleviate storm water problems on Beaucaire Drive and Avignon Court in Ward 3.

There are a number of MSD stormwater projects affecting Warson Woods that are currently in the design process with construction scheduled in fiscal year (FY) 23 (which begins 1 July 2022). The City works with MSD in identifying, scheduling, and prioritizing these projects. These projects have been funded through the Deer Creek Operations, Maintenance, and Capital Improvement (OMCI) Fund, which Warson Woods residents and

residents of other municipalities in the Deer Creek watershed fund through their property taxes. These projects include:

1. Mark Drive-Monaco Drive Storm Sewer (Project Number 12757) (Wards 3-4).
2. Beaucaire Drive Storm Sewer (Project Number 12469) (Ward 3).
3. Dearborn Drive Storm Sewer (Project Number 11205) (Ward 1).
4. Meadow Creek Lane 508 Storm Sewer (Project Number 11972) (Ward 3).
5. Renderer Drive Streambank Stabilization (Project Number 13287) (Ward 2). Note that this project will be included in the design and construction of the WW-2 and WW-3 Warson Woods Sanitary Relief project mentioned below.

In addition to the stormwater projects above, there is a major sanitary sewer replacement project to replace the sanitary sewer underneath Warson Woods Drive and through Memorial Park. This project is named WW-2 and WW-3 Warson Woods Sanitary Relief (<https://msdprojectclear.org/projects/new-construction/ww-2-and-ww-3-warson-woods-sanitary-relief/>) (Project Number 12302). This project is also in the design phase with construction estimated to start in the spring/ summer 2022.

If Warson Woods residents have sewer backups or experience issues due to yard or residence flooding as a result of storm water flow, they should contact MSD to report the issue at once. MSD's customer service line is 314-768-6260. Customer service issues that they can assist with are found on their website at <https://www.stlmsd.com/customer-service/service-issues>

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