



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Friendship Park Repairs Underway** *Work will take until the end of the year*

CINCINNATI – The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) has begun a major construction project to repair a sinkhole in Cincinnati's Friendship Park caused by the collapse of a large stone sewer pipe. The work is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year.

The area of the collapse in Friendship Park has been cordoned off to park visitors since late August 2016. Since then, MSD has been performing preliminary engineering design and geotechnical work and obtaining necessary permits. This area of the park will remain closed until the end of the year after construction is completed.

Initial work involves stabilizing the area along the Ohio River where the cave-in occurred and where recent heavy rains are causing the sinkhole to expand.

MSD will then install a new segment of 7-foot-diameter sewer pipe from the north side of Riverside Drive to the Ohio River and build a new outfall structure on the riverbank about 16 feet above the current pool stage. The new pipe will be installed via micro-tunneling, which involves the use of a boring machine and two large pits.

Following the sewer construction, the collapsed sewer pipe will be sealed, filled, and abandoned in place, and the sinkhole in Friendship Park will be repaired and the area fully restored.

Traffic will be periodically impacted along Riverside Drive beginning on May 8 and continuing throughout the summer.

The sinkhole was discovered by a Parks official shortly after the historic rainfall of August 28, 2016. The stone pipe - about 8 feet in diameter and more than 100 years old – likely failed due to its age and the massive volume of rainwater received during the storm. Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 447, which is permitted by the Ohio EPA, discharges to the Ohio River through this pipe.

MSD is constructing a new sewer pipe because the collapsed pipe cannot be repaired. It has been under water since 1963 when construction of the Markland Locks and Dam raised the normal river pool stage by about 13 feet.

MSD has been working with the Ohio EPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, railroad owners, and affected City Departments (DOTE, GCWW, Parks, Community & Economic Development) to ensure project success.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$2 million.

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