



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Cincinnati's Lick Run Greenway Officially Open to the Public**

*First Daylighted Stream in the Nation to Control Sewer Overflows*

CINCINNATI – The Lick Run Greenway in South Fairmount (Cincinnati, OH) is officially open to the public for recreation.

On the surface, the Greenway looks like a beautiful park with a mile-long stream running through it. But this \$103 million project is operated and maintained by the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) as a stormwater management project that controls sewer overflows into the Mill Creek.

“The Lick Run Greenway represents a 12-year collaboration between MSD, the city of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, and the South Fairmount Community to create the nation’s first daylighted stream to control sewer overflows,” said Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley. “The Greenway is considered a national model by the EPA for sustainable stormwater management.”

Before this project was implemented, more than a billion gallons of sewage – mixed with rainwater – was overflowing into the Mill Creek each year.

Combined sewer overflows are a massive environmental problem that plague more than 800 older communities across the nation with combined sewer systems built in the 1800s and early 1900s.

Many of these communities are tackling the problem with CSO storage tanks and tunnels, but MSD wanted a solution that was better for the environment, the economy, and the community.

The Greenway is helping dramatically improve water quality in the Mill Creek, which in 1997 was named the most endangered urban waterway in America.

“With completion of this project, MSD has reduced combined sewer overflows across Hamilton County by 6 billion gallons a year,” said MSD Director Diana Christy. “We are now seeing the return of fish species in the Mill Creek, including smallmouth bass, which is a genuine sign of water quality improvements.”

The Greenway also provides an opportunity for economic improvements in the South Fairmount neighborhood.

“The Greenway is the result of a very specific question being asked,” said Hamilton County Commission President Stephanie Summerow Dumas. “What if a sewer project could do more than just fix a sewer. What if it could help a community rebuild.”

The Greenway also offers recreational and social opportunities for South Fairmount that it hasn’t had in a long time.

“If the tunnel project had been built, South Fairmount wouldn’t have this beautiful park,” said Jim Casey, president of the South Fairmount Community Council. “Now, we have a place for both adults and kids, a place where people can walk and ride their bikes, walk their dogs, have a picnic, enjoy nature in the midst of city living, and even learn about the history of South Fairmount.”

Additionally, the Lick Run Greenway, combined with several other green projects across the City, saved ratepayers more than \$200 million over the cost of the tunnel.

For more information, please visit the project website at [www.projectgroundwork.org/lickrun](http://www.projectgroundwork.org/lickrun).

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