

DATE:
May 23, 2012

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The
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Sewer District
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Visit by Top USEPA Official Brings Spotlight to MSD Sustainable Infrastructure Efforts *Office of Water Acting Assistant Administrator to Tour Rain Garden*

Cincinnati, OH – Finding sustainable solutions to infrastructure issues has become a hallmark of the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD), and national policymakers are continuing to take note.

The latest nod comes from USEPA Acting Assistant Administrator for Water, Nancy Stoner. During her Cincinnati visit on Thursday, May 24, she will tour MSD's Lower Mill Creek combined sewer system to learn about sustainable infrastructure installations and potential opportunities. Stoner will be in Cincinnati to discuss innovations in water technology with local groups, and to meet with USEPA National Risk Management Research Laboratory staff.

Stoner will also tour the St. Francis Court Apartments rain garden, located on Queen City Ave, to see firsthand one of the many efforts underway by MSD to implement real-world solutions that not only address stormwater and combined sewer challenges, but add value to the local community. The rain garden, installed by MSD on two vacant parking lots, was created to reduce the volume of stormwater entering MSD's combined sewer system, to help recharge groundwater in the area with stormwater cleansed by vegetation, and to provide natural habitat for birds and insects. The area will also offer a community garden where residents can grow their own herbs and vegetables.

"MSD is proud to be included in this visit to Cincinnati by one of USEPA's top officials," said MSD Director Tony Parrott. "We believe our programs can be a model for other communities across the country, and we are pleased to share them with policymakers at all levels."

Stoner has extensive experience in facilitating the use of green infrastructure and low-impact development measures that reduce stormwater flows and sewer overflows. While in Cincinnati, she will also be meeting with leaders of the Mill Creek Restoration Project who, like MSD, are working to create sustainable neighborhoods in the Lower Mill Creek Watershed.

Acting Assistant Administrator Stoner is scheduled to visit the St. Francis Court Apartments rain garden at 12:15 p.m. with MSD officials and City and County leaders.

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Every day, the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) protects the public's health and the environment through professional water reclamation and watershed management. As we collect and treat more than 180 million gallons of sewage daily from 43 municipalities, villages, and townships in Greater Cincinnati through 3,000 miles of sanitary or combined sewers, MSD serves you with honesty, integrity, accountability, and respect.