

# UPPER RIVER DES PERES AND RIVER DES PERES TRIBUTARIES STORAGE TUNNEL FACT SHEET



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## Overview:

### The Problem

In combined sewer systems, wastewater from homes and businesses mixes with water from streets, rooftops, and other surfaces in the same pipe. When it rains a lot, the system can overflow, causing untreated sewage and rainwater, called combined sewer overflows, to be released directly into nearby rivers and streams.

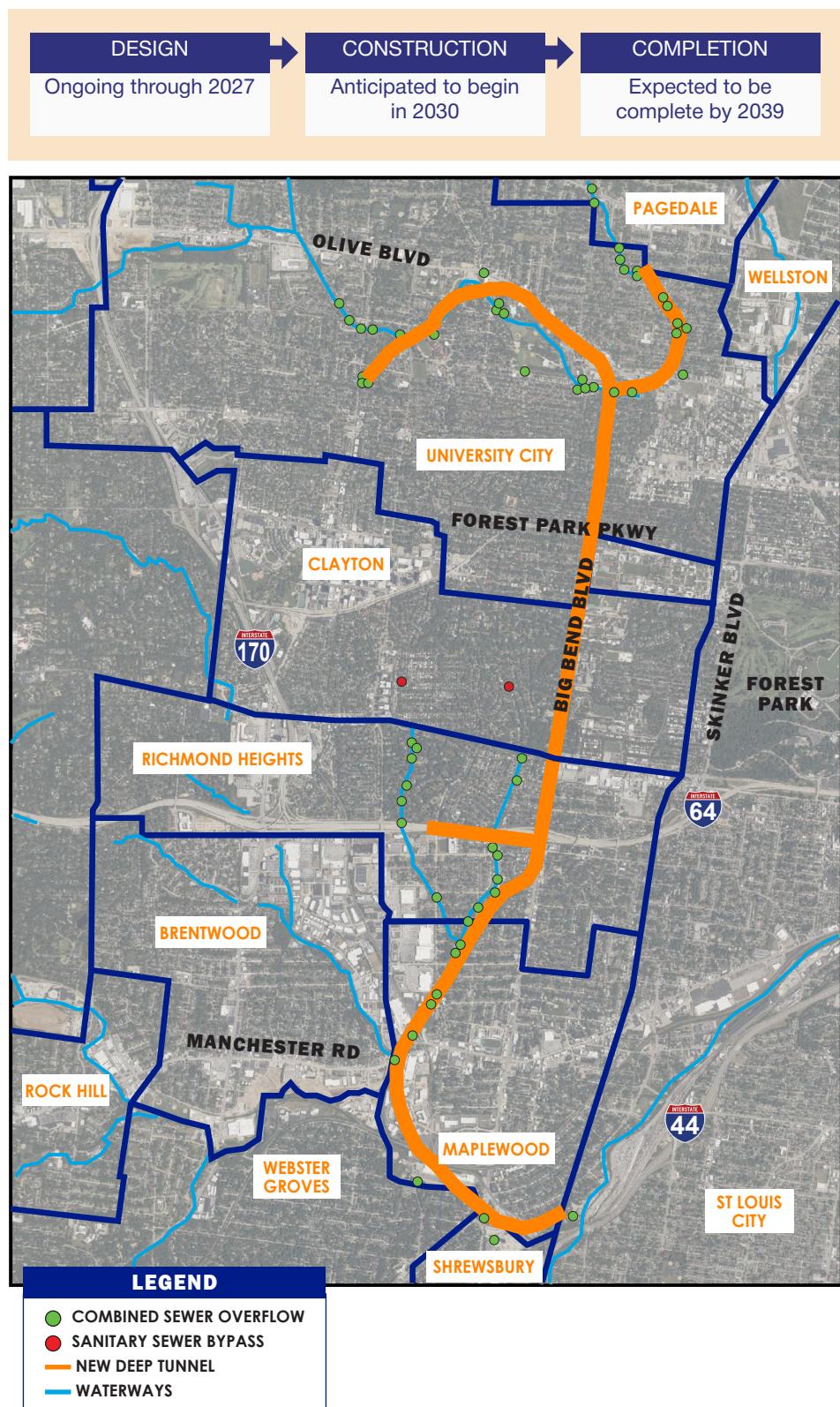
### The Solution

The Upper River Des Peres and River Des Peres Tributaries Storage Tunnel is a major wastewater infrastructure project aimed at improving water quality in the St. Louis region. This tunnel and supporting near-surface sewer projects are part of the larger efforts of MSD Project Clear (MSDPC) to reduce pollution in local waterways, including the River Des Peres. This project will include multiple municipalities.

## Key Project Objectives:

- Improve Water Quality:** This project will improve water quality by reducing combined sewer overflows, capturing much of the excess sewage and stormwater flow that results during heavy rains and storing it in a tunnel until it can be treated.
- Comply with Environmental Regulations:** Assist in meeting the terms of the federal Clean Water Act and MSDPC's consent decree with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In addition, the project will benefit public health by reducing waterborne pathogens found in combined sewer overflows.



## Project Features:

The project includes two key components: a deep storage tunnel and near-surface sewers.

**Storage Tunnel:** The tunnel will store excess combined sewer flows during heavy rainfall events until it can be conveyed for treatment at the Lemay Wastewater Treatment Plant.

- Length: Approximately 6 miles long
- Number of tunnel intake structures: 16
- Number of construction shafts: 5
- Diameter: 18 feet
- Depth: 90-240 feet below surface
- Capacity: At least 58 million gallons

**Near Surface Sewers:** New sewer pipes will convey wastewater flows from the existing sewer network to the tunnel.

## Community Impact:

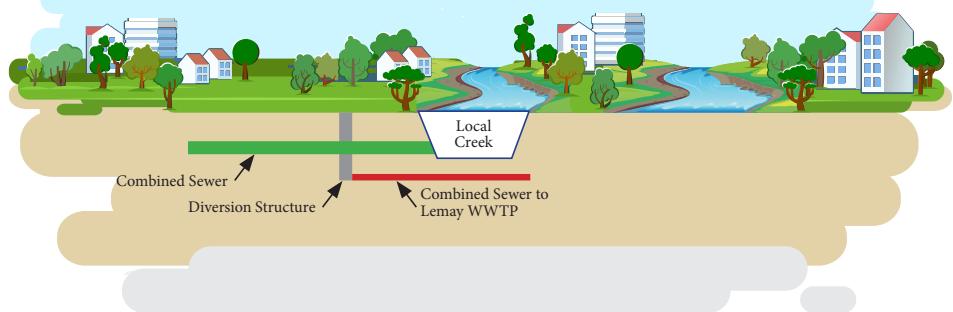
- **Deep Tunnel Excavation:** For most of the tunnel alignment, work will take place deep underground and be invisible to the public. Drop shaft locations will be active construction sites. Noise and truck traffic can be expected at these locations.
- **Near-Surface Sewers:** Temporary inconveniences such as road closures and noise are expected during the construction phase. More information on near-surface sewer projects will be available when preliminary design is complete.

MSDPC is committed to ongoing communication and information sharing with impacted municipalities through project design and construction. Updates will be provided on a regular basis.



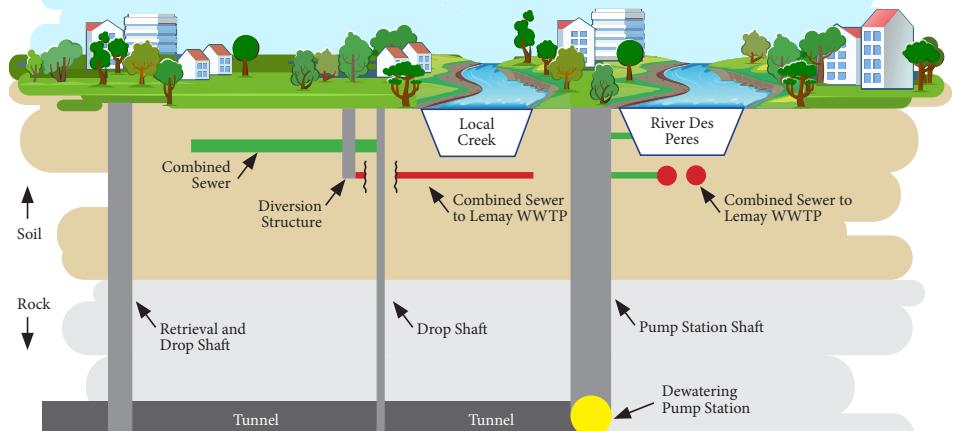
Tunnel boring machine,  
underground view.

## CURRENT



**Current:** Combined sewer pipe conveys wastewater and stormwater. When it rains a lot, there isn't enough capacity in the combined sewer pipe, shown in red. Under those conditions, the extra flow goes to a permitted sewer overflow location like a local creek.

## PROPOSED



**Proposed:** During heavy rains, excess flow will be diverted to the high-capacity storage tunnel deep underground. When the Lemay Wastewater Treatment has capacity to treat it, the overflow will be pumped back up to the combined sewer pipe.



For more information about MSD Upper River Des Peres and River Des Peres Tributaries Storage Tunnel, contact MSDPC:

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For more information about the Project Clear program please visit  
[www.projectclearstl.org](http://www.projectclearstl.org)