

City of Louisville and Jefferson County, KY

CASE STUDY



CASE CONCENTRATION:

As part of a Cooperating Technical Partner agreement, the Louisville and Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) developed a local business plan to identify mapping needs and priorities, and develop an approach for addressing the region's long history of flooding. This plan is a continuation of MSD's ongoing commitment to public safety and the protection of property.

PROJECT SCOPE

With the largest population in the state of Kentucky, the City of Louisville and Jefferson County metropolitan area is the economic engine for the region. Located along the Ohio River, this area has a long history of flooding. The key to the region's continued success is tied to its ability to address floodplain challenges.

After severe flooding in 1997, the MSD initiated partnerships among the MSD, private businesses, residents, and local, State, and Federal governments. These partnerships help address historical flooding, assess impacts of future economic growth, and protect the region's quality of life. These partnerships also provide an excellent example of Federal agencies, local government, and businesses working together to address flood concerns and economic sustainability as their combined efforts pay off with win-win results to build a safer region.

One area that the MSD is particularly focused on is known as the Renaissance Zone, a federally, State, and locally backed re-development project. Approximately 60 percent of the Renaissance Zone is in the floodplain. For the region to sustain economic vibrancy, the MSD addressed existing and anticipated flooding from new development. To protect their investments, businesses invested in addressing the area's flood hazards. The Renaissance Zone showcases Map Modernization - leveraging funds, partnership and the use of new technology to provide an ideal platform for change.

MAPPING ACTIVITY

The MSD met the challenges presented by outdated mapping with innovation, partnership and funds.

Responding to the community's needs, the MSD implemented an aggressive floodplain management ordinance. Funding became available to study approximate zones in more detail. New topography yielded better definition of the floodplain, allowing the MSD to perform floodplain management more accurately. Through the use of Geographic Information Systems technology, FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps were digitized to provide a modernized mapping product. Hydrology, changed as a result of development in the region, is more effectively modeled through the



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availability of new information on flood frequencies.

Updated modeling and modernized maps position the MSD to better facilitate bringing local businesses and industries together to construct cost effective flood control projects and implement needed watershed management initiatives. Ultimately, the MSD's goal is to establish full, local ownership and maintenance of floodplain data.

RESULTS

The Renaissance Zone is a microcosm that offers a vision for the future of Map Modernization. MSD's balanced approach and commitment to protecting its citizens through innovation and partnership has earned it recognition as a national leader in storm water management.

