

Vol. 2, No. 1, February 2023



Annual Report Release

Metro Water Services recently released the 2022 Annual Report: Building Community Through Engagement.

The Annual Report provides financial details for FY22 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022) and highlights progress made during this 12-month period through projects, outreach and partnerships and more.

Read the full report on our [site](#).

Citizens Water Academy Spring 2023

We are excited to invite you to apply to the Spring 2023 Citizen's Water Academy!

The Citizen's Water Academy (CWA) is an opportunity for Metro Water Services (MWS) customers to #DiscoverWater and learn about our most precious natural resource, water, and how Water Services manages it from "river to river." CWA is an in-person interactive five-session program, held over the course of 2.5 weeks. Participants will have the opportunity to interact with MWS Staff and experience the treatment process by touring various MWS facilities - including our Research and Analytical Laboratory and historic Omohundro Water Treatment Plant.

The Spring 2023 CWA program will consist of five two-hour in person sessions where MWS leadership will share details on how our most precious resource, water, is managed from "river to river".

The dates for the Spring 2023 sessions will be...

- Tuesday, April 25th
- Thursday, April 27th
- Tuesday, May 2nd

Drinking Water Week

Drinking Water Week is honored the first full week of May each year, taking place **May 7th - May 13th** this year. This is an opportunity to appreciate our ability to turn your tap and have safe, clean, and reliable water pour out of the faucet, ready to drink.

Over the course of this week, we will be celebrating by bringing attention to Nashville's drinking water in many ways—and we want you to celebrate with us! Join us on social media to highlight the joys of drinkable water straight from your tap. Still want more? [Take a tour](#) to see behind the scenes how we make it happen!

Prevent Backflow

Backflow preventers. You may not recognize this term or be able to pick out what one looks

- Thursday, May 4th
- Tuesday, May 9th

Through CWA, we hope to provide a better understanding of our resource and our processes to build a diverse network of leaders and influencers who are willing to share their knowledge in the community and serve as ambassadors for water.

[Learn more](#) about this program or apply today by filling out [this quick and easy form](#).

Every Other Week Recycling

Recycling is really picking up! In a press release on January 11, Mayor Cooper announced that starting **January 30, 2023**, curbside recycling collection schedule will go from once a month pick up to **every other week pick up**.

“This important increase in our curbside recycling services will divert significant waste from our landfills,” said Mayor Cooper. “Recycling is not just a matter of personal responsibility, it is a collective effort that has the power to transform our city and preserve our neighborhoods – it is a promise to create a future that is worthy of our children. I’m proud that we can deliver this new service to our residents.”

To **view your new collection schedule and sign up for collection reminders**, use the calendar tool on Recycle.Nashville.gov or download the Nashville Waste and Recycling App available on [iOS](#) and [Android](#) mobile devices.

Since collection will occur more frequently, residents who want to return an unused recycling cart can make that request by calling 311 from within Davidson County or by visiting hub.nashville.gov. All residents that receive MWS’ curbside trash pick-up are also eligible for a recycling cart. Eligible residents can

like, but these are a key way we ensure safe, clean, and reliable water service even after it's been delivered to some homes and businesses! Backflow preventers do exactly what they sound like: they prevent unwanted flow in the reverse direction.



Tip of the Quarter

Did you know paper towels can't be recycled? Instead, **put any used paper towels in a compost bin.** Composting helps us divert waste from landfills and returns valuable nutrients back to the soil to help new plants grow. **If you do not have compost bins, put paper towels in the trash.**

request a recycling cart to start recycling through hubNashville at no charge.

[Click here to view the press release.](#)

Leak Detection

Everyone at some point or another has experienced the frustrating drip...drip...drip...

If you don't hear it, you will definitely see it on your water bill! Thankfully, there are steps you can take to catch a leak without wasting any time.

1. **Listen** for leaks.
2. **Look** for pooling water.
3. Do the **dye test!**

The dye test is simple and takes less than 10 minutes to do! Simply place a drop of food dye or another colored liquid (coffee, tea, etc) in the toilet tank. Wait **10 minutes**, then check the toilet bowl -- is it clear or colored? If it is colored, you have a leak!

If you find a leak, MWS may be able to issue a credit once the leak is repaired--to see if you qualify, contact MWS with the date of repair and type of leak.

Stormwater Control Measures

Protecting Our Creeks, Streams, and Rivers

You probably see stormwater control measures (SCM) every day – that deep and empty pond in your subdivision, the ditch planted with decorative grasses, a flowering garden dug down into a yard, and those pavers in the store parking lot. These features, in

TN Smart Yards

MWS is promoting Tennessee Smart Yards – a free certification program that helps protect our waterways one yard at a time. Davidson County residents who certify their yards receive gifts – a Root Nashville tree, 25 lb. bag of our own Music City Gold fertilizer, and a metal yard sign!

You can learn more about this program and begin your own Tennessee Smart Yards journey at tnyards.utk.edu.

Apply to Work with Us!

Are you or someone you know interested in a job that gives you the opportunity to positively impact our community? If so, we are interested in you!

many cases required by regulations, reduce the amount of [polluted stormwater](#) that enter our creeks and streams.

When it rains, stormwater runs over lawns, roads, and other hard surfaces, picking up pollutants along the way. This polluted water then drains to our local waterways where it can impact aquatic life and threaten drinking water supplies.

If you have an SCM on your property, or on your HOA's property, you are responsible for maintaining the feature and submitting annual maintenance reports to Metro if the grading permit requiring the SCM was issued after 2008. Properly maintained SCMs help prevent pollutants from reaching our waterways.

Most SCMs will fall into one of these categories:

- [Bioretention](#), also called a rain garden, is a hole filled with native plantings and special soil mix. It collects and slows stormwater runoff and removes pollutants.
- [Permeable Pavement](#) allows stormwater runoff to drain through the pavement into the soil below where the water is filtered before it enters our system.
- [Wet Retention Ponds](#) allow pollutants to settle out of the water, encourage natural microbial activity that cleans the water, and reduce the overall amount of stormwater runoff.
- [Dry Detention Ponds](#) temporarily store and slowly release stormwater runoff and prevent downstream flooding. Sediment (soil), nutrients, heavy metals, and other pollutants settle out in the pond.
- [Grassy Swales](#) reduce and slow down the flow of stormwater runoff as well as filter out some pollutants.
- [Water Quality Units](#) are placed underground to filter pollutants out of stormwater runoff and release the treated water to the drainage system. The structures have limited pollutant storage and require frequent maintenance.

Online SCM maintenance training, information about finding SCMs on your property, and directions for

MWS is always looking for passionate people looking to make a positive impact to join our team. If you or someone you know is looking for the next step in your career, look no further! Learn more about our current opportunities [here](#).

filing an annual maintenance report are available on our website at scm.nashville.gov. For questions specific to your property, contact our [Stormwater Division](#).

Contact Us

Water, Sewer, & Stormwater

nashville.gov/water

(615) 862-4600

1700 3rd Ave N,
Nashville, TN 37208

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Waste Services

(615) 862-5000 | 311

Hub.Nashville.gov

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[Public Records Requests](#)

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Tree Planting Project at John Overton High School

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Last month, 57 trees were planted at John Overton High School (HS), to the delight of faculty and staff.

MWS Urban Forestry employees teamed up with Mary Lou Snyder, the ecology teacher for John Overton HS, to plan and implement the planting. Mrs. Mary Lou said of the planting, "I am overwhelmed. This is so beautiful...This means so much for this historic school."

The planting was funded by the Tree Bank, a repository of funds that developers contribute to when they are unable to plant the number of trees required by code on new development sites. The money in the Tree Bank can be used to plant trees on any Metro property, including libraries, parks, and schools.

This is **your** newsletter!
What would you like to
read more about? Let us
know [here](#).

Check our ongoing projects!

Click [here](#) to check out
our ongoing
projects. We appreciate
your patience as we
perform regular
maintenance and repair
to our infrastructure!

Did you know?

Our website can be
translated into more than
65 different languages
by clicking the
translation tab on the
header of the
Nashville.gov website!



The number of school properties that the Urban Forestry group is planting on has recently increased. One reason for this is the benefits that trees provide for students – having accessible green space improves mood, cognition, and focus, so planting trees at schools is an obvious choice.

Trees can also be worked into curricula. At John Overton, Mary Lou plans to use the 20 different species of newly planted trees to teach her students about plant identification. She is also pursuing an arboretum certification for the school, made possible by the diversity of trees now present on the campus.

The Urban Forestry group plants trees around the Metro area because trees help reduce stormwater runoff and soil erosion, while also improving soil permeability during flood events. These efforts contribute to RootNashville, a campaign to plant 500,000 trees in Nashville and Davidson County by 2050.

Trees are a vital part of Nashville's stormwater infrastructure. But they have many added benefits, and they will enrich the lives of students and teachers at John Overton HS for years to come.

If you have a suggestion for an area in Davidson county that could use new trees, submit your idea to [hubNashville here](#).

Join us!

MWS holds monthly Facebook Live events with our Director, Scott Potter, providing viewers an opportunity to get a glimpse inside many of our facilities and learn more

about our processes. Follow us on Facebook for notifications! If you are unable to join us live, you can also watch all past events on our page.

Join us, March 2nd through March 5th, at the Nashville Fairgrounds for the 2023 Nashville Lawn and Garden Show! There will be live gardens, a floral design gallery, free lecture presentations on a variety of horticultural topics, and over 200 booths to browse. Visit us at the Metro Tree Advisory Committee booth where we will be giving out tree seedlings and samples of our fertilizer, Music City Gold. We will also have information on TN Smart Yards, a great program that guides Tennesseans on how to create healthier and more ecologically-sound outdoor spaces. Click [here](#) for more information and to buy tickets to the show!

Join us for a tour of one of our facilities! Learn more about the water you drink or the water you're sending back our way. We offer both adult and student tours of our KR Harrington Water Treatment Plant as well as our Whites Creek Water Reclamation Facility.

Sign up for a tour of KR Harrington Water Treatment Plant on Thursday, 3/16 at 9:00 or Tuesday, 4/4 at 2:00 by clicking [here](#).

Sign up for a tour of Whites Creek Water Reclamation Facility on Tuesday, 3/14 at 9:00 or Thursday, 4/6 at 2:00 by clicking [here](#).

[Learn more](#) about these tours or [schedule one today](#).



Do you have any friends, family, or neighbors who you think would be interested in receiving this quarterly update? Send them to [this link](#) or have them email us to join the list at MWSCcommunications@groups.Nashville.gov

No longer interested in receiving this quarterly update? Email us with the subject line "Unsubscribe" at MWSCcommunications@groups.Nashville.gov

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