

MILL CREEK COMMUNITY STUDY

INFORMED CONSENT

Dear Southwest Louisville Community Member:

You are being invited to participate in a research study, if you are at least 18 years old and think that you might live, work, or play in the Mill Creek watershed. The Mill Creek watershed is the 34-square-mile area of land within southwestern Louisville that drains to Mill Creek.

The Mill Creek watershed includes parts or all of the following neighborhoods: Cloverleaf, Hazelwood, Iroquois, Jacobs, Pleasure Ridge Park, Riverport, Rubbertown (southern part), Shively, Southwest Dixie, St. Andrews, Valley Station, Heatherfield, Hunters Trace, Parkwood, St. Denis, Riverside Gardens, Valley Village, Meadow Lawn, Valley Downs, Sylvania, Greenwood, & Waverly Hills. During our review of this Informed Consent document, we will show you a map of all watersheds in the Louisville area, in which the Mill Creek watershed is highlighted, so that you can see where it is located.

If you are at least 18 years old and you think that you might live, work, or play in the Mill Creek watershed, you are eligible to participate in this study. It is not necessary to know or investigate whether you are located in the Mill Creek watershed. You are invited to participate in this study even if you don't know anything about Mill Creek.

There are two purposes of this study. The first purpose of the study is to inclusively gather the views and needs of as many community members as possible about environmental and community conditions and share this information in a planning process for the Mill Creek watershed, which is being led by the Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer Department (MSD). The second purpose of the study is to improve knowledge about watershed planning, environmental justice, and community resilience.

This study is conducted by Professor Craig Anthony (Tony) Arnold of the University of Louisville and researchers with the University of Louisville Resilience Justice Project. MSD and other watershed planning partners are not involved in designing or conducting this study; they will see only the study's final results presented by Professor Arnold and the University of Louisville Resilience Justice Project. Any other efforts undertaken by MSD or other organizations to involve Mill Creek community members in watershed planning are separate and different from this study. This study is partially funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW).

Your participation in the study will involve answering 31 interview questions. The study will take approximately 45 minutes to complete. The interview will take place on a virtual video conferencing platform in a meeting to which only you and the study researchers will be granted access. Your interview will be digitally recorded in both audio and video, and a text transcription of your interview will be generated and stored automatically with the recording on this platform. Even if the interview occurs in person, the study researchers will use a virtual video conferencing platform to create a digital audio and video recording and automatic text transcription of your interview.

There are no known risks for your participation in this research study. The information you provide will be synthesized or combined with the information provided by all other participants in the study. These combined results will be published in a written report that will be shared with MSD, other Mill Creek watershed planning partners (government, environmental and community organizations), and the public, as well as being included in academic publications. Your identity will not be shared with MSD, watershed planning partners, EPA, KDOW, or others.

Your information, including the audio and video recording of your interview and the text transcription of your interview, will be stored on a virtual video conferencing platform and cloud-based electronic data analysis and storage sites, all of which will be password-protected and encrypted.

The information collected might not benefit you directly. The information learned in this study might be helpful to others. Your answers might contribute to the Mill Creek watershed plan, and this plan might lead to changes or improvements in your community (but this cannot be guaranteed). You will not be compensated for participating in this study.

Individuals from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law, the Institutional Review Board (IRB), the Human Subjects Protection Program Office (HSPPO), and other regulatory agencies may inspect these records. In all other respects, however, the data will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Should the data be published, your identity will not be disclosed.

If you participate in this study, identifiable information such as your name or date of birth may be removed from the information collected in this study. After removal, the information may be used for future research or shared with other researchers without additional consent from you.

Taking part in this study is voluntary. By answering interview questions, you agree to take part in this research study. You do not have to answer any questions that make you uncomfortable or that you do not wish to answer. You may choose not to take part at all.

If you decide to be in this study, you may stop taking part at any time. You will not lose any benefits for which you may qualify.

If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about the research study, please contact: Professor Tony Arnold at (502) 852-6388.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may call the Human Subjects Protection Program Office at (502) 852-5188. You can discuss any questions about your rights as a research participant, in private, with a member of the Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB is an independent committee made up of people from the University community, staff of the institutions, as well as people from the community not connected with these institutions. The IRB has reviewed this research study.

If you have concerns or complaints about the research or research staff and you do not wish to give your name, you may call 1-877-852-1167. This is a 24 hour hot line answered by people who do not work at the University of Louisville.

Sincerely,



Craig Anthony (Tony) Arnold
Boehl Chair in Property and Land Use
Professor of Law and Affiliated Professor of Urban and Public Affairs
Director of the Resilience Justice Project
University of Louisville