

TERREBONNE PARISH / CITY OF HOUMA

DRAINAGE SYSTEM INSPECTION / MAINTENANCE PROCEDURE

The Superintendent of Gravity Drainage and the Superintendent of Forced Drainage are responsible for the administration of the inspection and maintenance procedures for the drainage system of Terrebonne Parish and the City of Houma.

Gravity Drainage covers all the canals, roadside and lateral ditches, culverts and catch basins in the gravity drainage area within the City of Houma and the developed areas of Terrebonne Parish. Forced Drainage covers all the pumps stations, canals and laterals within the forced drainage area of the City of Houma and developed areas of Terrebonne Parish.

Gravity Drainage has the authority to inspect and maintain drainage system components on private property and along state highways. Drainage ditches, canals, etc. on private property are the responsibility of the property owner, however, the parish has the authority to perform required maintenance when it is not accomplished by the owner or is an emergency. Gravity drainage will also perform required maintenance on drainage components along state highways when it is not provided in a timely manner by the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation.

The drainage system components within the Gravity Drainage and Forced Drainage areas are inspected at least monthly. The drainage system is also inspected within 24 hours after any storm event that could have an adverse impact on the capacity of the system. Drainage staff also responds to citizen's complaints or notifications of problems with the drainage system. These complaints are usually handled within 1-2 hours.

In addition to regular inspections, the following areas are inspected once per month due to recurring accumulation of debris: screw gates and culverts not associated with pump stations.

Whenever a problem is noted during a routine inspection or responding to a citizen's complaint, a work order is completed and workers are assigned to correct the problem. All trash, garbage, rubber tires or other materials, vegetative growth, and any type of minor or major obstruction will be removed. The materials removed from the drainage canals, ditches, etc. will be transported to a landfill or suitable repository.

A record of the inspections performed and maintenance work orders will be kept to document that problems have been corrected.