We take our role in completing citizen requests for service very seriously, as the individual citizens are the ultimate customers of municipal government. Since we receive over 650 citizen requests per year, we cannot always investigate your requests as quickly as we would like to. However, we will respond after carefully evaluating your request. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

OTHER PUBLIC WORKS BROCHURES:

- REQUEST FOR SERVICE
- STOP SIGNS
- SPEED BUMPS AND ZONES
- STREET LIGHTS
- TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEMS
- CHILDREN AT PLAY
- CITIZEN & COMMUNITY TRAFFIC CONTROL PROGRAM
- MOSQUITO CONTROL AND SPRAYING

Department of Public Works
1522 Texas Parkway
Missouri City, Texas 77489

CITY OF MISSOURI CITY

BIRDBATHS

An informative brochure created by the:

Public Works Department

INTRODUCTION

"Birdbath" is the name given to a low spot in the roadway where water accumulates and will not drain. Birdbaths are common occurrences all over the gulf coastal plain. There is no bedrock in this geographic area to help stabilize the soil. Instead, the roads are built on 600 feet of topsoil which is constantly shifting, contracting, and expanding with the wet and dry seasons. The depressions, which are caused by the swelling and shrinking of the soil retaining water, are less likely to drain due to the very flat terrain.

Birdbaths are nuisances. The vast majority are eyesores only and are not hazardous. Because they do not impact traffic safety, birdbaths are not given high priority for city resources. Those that do impact public safety are moved up to the top of the reported list and repaired.

DEFINITION

Because of the sheer number of these depressions, the city has established a minimum criteria for reportable birdbaths.

Locations that qualify as birdbaths are those that possess the following characteristics after the gutter line has been flooded and water has stopped flowing due to gravity:

- Water projects at least three feet into street from the face of the curb.
- Depth of the water at the gutter line is 1/2 inch or more.

SOLUTION

The city catalogs and repairs birdbaths on an ongoing basis. The most cost effective methods of repairing birdbaths is to bid out a number of the highest priority jobs for repair on a periodic basis as funds become available.

The city strives to make the most efficient use of citizens' tax dollars. Given the lack of potential hazards presented by birdbaths they naturally fall further down the priority repair list.

There are hundreds of reported birdbaths in Missouri City that are awaiting repair when funds become available. Many more have not been reported. The city encourages citizens to report birdbaths so that they can be inspected and logged into the system for eventual repair.

There is currently a two year backlog of birdbaths needing repair. Efforts are currently under way to increase the rate of repair as well as step up maintenance activities to limit future street repairs.

PROCEDURE

The following procedure can be used to report and register birdbaths for repair:

1. Contact the Public Works Department to report a possible birdbath. Please call (281) 403-8500
2. City staff will investigate to determine if the reported item meets the definition of a birdbath.
3. If it is determined to be a birdbath it will be added to the existing list.
4. Birdbath will be monitored, reclassified as necessary, and repaired as resources become available.