



July 3, 2014

Strachauer Park B Roadway Improvements

Dear Resident:

Neighborhood Reconstruction Schedule

Next week, crews will continue to restore irrigation and pet fence systems, and restore all disturbed lawn areas using hydroseed. Hydroseed is a patented product that contains seed, mulch, and fertilizer. It is sprayed directly onto bare soil areas.

Hydroseed is a proven performer, producing robust and healthy lawns in variety of conditions in a short period of time. When mature, seeded lawns are also more resistant to pests and weather than sod, as they are grown in place from a seed mix specially selected for the area. In addition to these benefits, hydroseeding is significantly less costly than sod. This allows us to get the most out of every budget dollar.

Once hydroseed has been applied, there are a few things listed below that you can do to help your lawn:

Watering

After the newly hydroseeded lawn has set for about 24 hours, it's time to water. Keep the lawn moist by sprinkling it lightly. The first 14 days are the most important. If the germinating seedlings dry out, they will die. Depending on temperatures, watering should take place in the morning, late afternoon or early evening hours.

Keep your mulch bed moist, but don't over water. If you see puddling, stop watering. Once you start watering, it is important to continue to do so, especially when temperatures are in the 80s or higher. Lack of water can cause the seed to dry up and expire.

The easiest way to explain it is: keep your mulch wet; don't let it dry out for periods longer than 24 hours.

Fertilizer

A commercial fertilizer is applied with your hydroseed. This initial application of fertilizer should provide the nutrients needed to give the young grass seedlings a healthy start. An additional application of fertilizer could be applied during the following growing season. Depending on the time of year, fertilization requirements will vary. Consult a reputable nursery or seed center in your area for proper fertilization specifications.

Mowing

A new lawn should be mowed as soon as the grass blades are 3 to 4 inches high. Keep the lawn mower blades sharp to prevent bruised and torn grass. Prior to mowing, set the mower deck at the highest setting and cut with this setting for the first few months. Do not collect the clippings. Let them biodegrade within the new turf. This helps feed the soil and grass while accelerating development.

Preventing Weeds

Weeds will likely appear in your new lawn. The weeds come from seeds that are dormant in the soil or that have been carried in by wind or birds. Weeds are best controlled by growing good, healthy grass. Properly watered, mowed and well-fertilized grass generally prevents weeds from gaining a stronghold.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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Maintaining Hydroseed in Shaded Areas

Shaded areas require some additional effort to assure healthy lawn. Lawns in these areas generally suffer in three ways:

- Existing tree root systems rob nutrients from newly established grass blades.
- Lack of sunlight caused by the shading effect of the trees.
- Fallen leaves create a matted condition that prevents the turf from being adequately exposed to sunlight and air.

Thoroughly fertilizing trees and the lawn can provide adequate nutrients. Leaves should be raked early in the spring while the tree branches are still bare to allow the maximum amount of sunlight to reach the grass, which is generally shaded through the remainder of the growing season.

Remember:

Your new lawn is still in its infancy. Just because your lawn looks fully established doesn't mean you can stop watering or change your mowing practices. It takes several months before your lawn is ready for the stress of hot summers and cold winters. Choosing the right fertilizer, keeping your mower blades sharp, proper watering practices and changing the height of mowing throughout the year should guarantee a healthy and beautiful lawn.

Contractor Required Maintenance Period

All hydroseeded areas will be maintained by the contractor, as necessary, for a period of 90 growing days from the date of installation. Maintenance includes watering, weeding, fertilizing and mowing – if needed, to establish turf and create an adequate root system on the hydroseeded areas.

A final inspection of the hydroseeded areas will be made as the maintenance period nears completion.

Remember that all schedules are weather dependent and may change.

Communications

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding this project. You can reach me at 952-826-0444 or akuznia@EdinaMN.gov. For more information about emergencies, non-emergencies, site safety or what to do when you have special events or home improvement projects planned, visit www.EdinaMN.gov/strachauerparkb.

Please encourage your neighbors to sign up for City Extra emails, as this will be our primary method of communication during the project.

The City of Edina and McNamara Construction, Inc. thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation throughout the project.

Regards,
Aaron Kuznia
Senior Engineering Technician