



Strachauer Park D Neighborhood Roadway Reconstruction

July 3, 2014

Dear Resident:

The reconstruction project in your neighborhood is soon nearing completion.

Crews are currently working on site cleanup and miscellaneous restoration items such as sign replacement, tree plantings in the park, and eventually paving the final layer of bituminous asphalt. The contractor will return in the coming weeks to hydro-seed areas that were disturbed by construction activities.

If you have an irrigation system or a pet fence that was damaged from construction and have not been contacted by the contractor, please let me know. I will pass your information on to our contractor so they can begin restoring your systems.

Due to recent heavy rainfall and saturated ground conditions, the contractor is going to wait until later this summer to pave the final layer of bituminous asphalt. Allowing the ground to dry before placing the asphalt will ensure a better product. We do not have an exact date yet for the final paving but it will be done by the end of August. We will keep you updated in future City Extras and a door hanger notice just before the work begins.

We have received a few questions concerning “why hydro-seed and not sod?”

In past projects, lawns disturbed by roadway construction have typically been restored with the use of sod. The contractor was responsible for the establishment of sod for a period of six weeks (42 days) from the date of installation. After the six-week maintenance period, the property owner is then responsible for the sod.

During 2012, residents and staff noticed portions of sod installed during previous construction seasons were not healthy. 2012 saw drought conditions for most of the year. Most of the new sod areas were brown, dormant and/or dead. This reflected badly on the construction project even though continued maintenance of the sod is the responsibility of the homeowner.

Staff hosted a “Construction Contractor Think Tank” meeting in January 2013 to determine the advantages and disadvantages of sod and hydro-seed. We wanted a turf product that property owners could properly maintain to establish long-lasting turf. Staff invited industry experts to this meeting including turf experts, contractors and consultants familiar with City of Edina’s practices and customers.

Topics discussed included cost, watering, maintenance periods, proper long-term care, turf color, installation techniques, drought, fertilizer, chemical treatments, equipment, installation dates and foot traffic. It was determined that all construction projects moving forward would be hydro-seeded in lieu of sod in an effort to keep costs down and provide a long-lasting product that can withstand long-term dry weather conditions. This product and process was used in all of the 2013 street reconstruction and sidewalk projects with great success.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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A final inspection of all hydro-seeded areas will be made as the maintenance period nears completion. Please note the contractor is required to maintain hydro-seeded areas for a period of 90 growing days from the date of installation. If the maintenance period does not end by Nov. 1, the remaining balance of the maintenance will carry over to 2015 and begin on April 15. Any turf areas deemed unacceptable at the end of the maintenance period will be re-hydro-seeded at no cost to the contract. The contractor may apply a selected herbicide later in the year to control weeds as needed. Healthy lawns are the best defense against weeds.

The green mulch material is placed to keep the soil underneath moist for ideal growing conditions. In some cases, the grass may not appear through the mulch material right away. The plant needs to establish a root system that is strong enough to get through the mulch material.

This may be the final letter you receive from us. The final assessment amount will not be known until around September 2015. At that time, you will receive a notice of the final assessment amount, the date of the assessment hearing and details of the payment options.

Upon completion, the project will be placed in a 2-year warranty period. McNamara Contracting, Inc. and the City of Edina staff thank you for your patience and cooperation over the past few months of reconstruction.

Regards,
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