

July 15, 2011

McCauley Heights Neighborhood Reconstruction

Dear Resident:

The construction is nearing completion, manholes and gate valves in the street have been started to be raised, restoration of sod has been scheduled for next week and the irrigation systems should be fixed by the middle of next week. Please remember the contractor is **ONLY** responsible for watering the sod for the first 42 days. Your assistance is very important to ensure healthy grass – especially during the hot summer months when new sod is easily stressed without adequate water. Please refer to the “CARING FOR YOUR NEW SOD FACT SHEET” attached below for more detailed information.

Safety

Please remind your children to stay away from construction sites, construction machinery, and stockpiled materials. These sites, machines, and materials can be dangerous. Job site safety is our number one concern.

Who to Contact in an Emergency

During a life or property-threatening emergency, call 911. If construction equipment or materials need to be moved as part of dealing with the emergency, 911 has a list of the contractor's emergency contacts. If it is not an emergency, you can also get a hold of the Edina Police Dept. on their non-emergency phone number at 952-826-1600.

Who to Contact with Questions and Concerns

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached in the office at 952-826-0448 or jfrahm@ci.edina.mn.us

The City of Edina and Northwest Asphalt, Inc. would like to thank you for your cooperation during this project.

Jeff Frahm - Project Manager, City of Edina

City Extra #8

McCauley Heights Neighborhood Reconstruction – July 15, 2011

CARING FOR YOUR NEW SOD FACT SHEET - 2011

Crews will soon begin to restore the sod on the project. Care must be taken in order that it survives. We ask for your assistance to help ensure the sod receives adequate water and maintenance. Please avoid walking on your new sod for the first two weeks. The combined efforts of you and the contractor should result in a healthy, vigorous lawn. Please follow the information below

WATERING

Please begin watering your new sod as soon as it has been placed. Your efforts, when combined with the contractor watering the sod for the required 42-day maintenance period, will help ensure the sod will grow and your lawn looking its best. After the initial 42-day sod maintenance period, it will be entirely up to you to water the sod. **Neither the contractor nor the City of Edina will be responsible for replacing dead sod after the initial 42-day growing period.** Your actions will be especially important if there is little rainfall and hot temperatures. The rule of thumb for watering mature lawns is a minimum of 1 inch per week. **New sod requires twice as much water, or 2 inches per week done in 3 or 4 applications.** More frequent, lighter watering is not desirable. They encourage shallow roots instead of deep roots. Lawns need deep roots to help them withstand periods of little or no rain. During extended hot and dry periods, new sod should be thoroughly soaked every day if allowed by the City's watering restrictions. (*For an update on the new watering restrictions, see the CITY CODE below.*) Checking to see if you are watering enough is done by placing a shallow, flat-bottomed container under the sprinkler. Then just measure the water depth in the container. *Any rainfall received during the week can be included in your 2 inches a week watering total.* You should continue watering the new sod for the remainder of the fall until the first few frost events.

There are certain times of the day, and days of the week, that you can water newly placed sod or a seeded area.

The City of Edina has initiated new watering restrictions as follows:

Excerpt from City Code, Section 1115 – Water Emergencies and Irrigation Bans

1115.02 - Irrigation Ban. *Irrigation means using an in-ground irrigation system, mechanical sprinkler attached to a hose or an unattended hose. It does not include hand watering or watering with a hand held hose. City water may be used for irrigation subject to the following:*

*Subd. 1. **Even Numbered Addresses.** All properties with an address ending with an even digit may use city water for irrigation purposes on even-numbered dates only.*

*Subd. 2. **Odd Numbered Addresses.** All properties with an address ending with an odd digit may use city water for irrigation purposes on odd-numbered dates only.*

Subd. 3. Notwithstanding Subd. 1 and Subd. 2, Homeowners' associations and apartment complexes that provide a common irrigation system may water every other day on a day designated by the owner if they registered in advance with the City's Public Works Department.

*Subd. 4. **No Mid-day Watering.** No property may use any water for irrigation purposes during the hours of 11:00 AM through 5:00 PM of any day.*

WATERING DURING A RESTRICTED PERIOD

A permit is not required as this letter alone covers any permitting requirements for you. Daily watering of new sod and seed is recommended for the first 14 days to establish root growth. After two weeks, normal watering should be sufficient for establishing a new lawn. The only requirement is that you cannot water between the hours of 11:00 am through 5:00 pm.

Surcharges for violating the irrigation ban are determined based on the number of water restriction violations issued to the property owner in a 3-year period. A written warning will be issued for the first offense. Second offense is \$50; third offense, \$100; fourth, \$200; and each additional offense, \$300.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department's Utilities Division at 952-826-0376, or visit the City of Edina's web pages at:

http://www.cityofedina.com/Departments/L4_WateringRestrictions.htm

http://www.cityofedina.com/CityCode/L5-01_CityCodeSect1115.htm

MOWING AND FERTILIZING

Do not mow your newly placed sod for 3 weeks. This is the only method by which your sod will develop deep roots. Your new sod should not be mowed until either the grass lies over and mats down when wetted, or the grass goes to seed. Don't be alarmed if either of these conditions does not occur in the first 42 days. **Prior to mowing, set the mower deck at the highest setting and cut the new sod with this setting for the first several months. Your new sod may die if you cut it at the same setting as the one you ordinarily use to cut your mature lawn.**

Your new sod was fertilized at the place it was grown; therefore, it will not need fertilizer until next summer. **If you fertilize sooner, you risk killing the sod.** When you do fertilize for fall, remember to use a phosphorus-free fertilizer (i.e. 15-0-0, middle number is phosphorous and should be zero) and follow the manufacture's instructions on application rates.

FUTURE MAINTENANCE

Remember, even after you new sod appears to have taken hold; it is not as sturdy as an established lawn. It takes a while for the roots to reach their mature length. Until the roots are mature, the sod is still susceptible to dry conditions. Remember to water deeply. It is also advisable to let the sod grow a little longer than normal when conditions are dry. Fertilize as described above if the sod begins to yellow.