



**Construction Update No. 2
W. 44th Street (Brookside Terrace to France Avenue) Improvement Project
Contract No. ENG 11-7**

September 15, 2011

Dear Resident:

The letter is intended to describe the restoration methods for this project.

Restoration

The boulevard and yard areas that have been disturbed by construction are planned to be restored with a hydromulch application in the upcoming weeks. The City of St. Louis Park has had success in applying hydromulch on similar types of projects and we will be implementing this with the W 44th Street project. Hydromulching is an alternative method of restoration than the typical method of placing sod. Since the disturbed areas along the roadway and sidewalk are relatively small and are subject to higher traffic volumes, hydromulching is a more sustainable method to restore these types of areas than sod.

Schedule

The contractor completing this work is Heikes Farms Inc. They plan to start this work the week of September 19 between France Avenue and Wooddale Avenue. Restoration between Wooddale Avenue and Mackey Avenue is anticipated to start the week of October 3.

Frequently Asked Questions

Below are some frequently asked questions and answers to provide you with more information on the hydromulch product:

What is hydromulch?

Hydromulch, is also sometimes called Hydroseeding. The hydromulch application is a spray on grass seed application that incorporates seed, fertilizer, cellulose fiber, wood fiber, green dye and an envirotack, in one efficient application.

How will it be applied?

The hydromulch is applied with a piece of equipment called a Hydro-seeder. Basically, it is a large water tanker that has two large paddles in it. The paddles mix up all the ingredients. When the solution is properly mixed, it will be sprayed onto the soil in a uniform fashion to create a blanket on the exposed soil. The contractor will first apply the seed to the soil before spraying the hydromulch material.

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How does hydromulch compare to sod?

If applied and maintained correctly, hydromulch will result in a healthier more disease resistant lawn. Like sod, hydromulch must be watered to keep the mulch material moist, this allows the best growing conditions for the germinating seed; however, hydromulch requires comparatively less watering than sod. A lawn that has been hydromulched will have a better root structure than sod because it will accept and grow into the native soil, which will also help the grass survive in drought conditions. Sod, often in the long term, may not “take” and you may notice that many times it looks as though you could roll it right back up. This is because the root structure has not grown or rooted into the native soil underneath. In addition, the hydromulch fiber is ecologically safe and decomposes over time, organically enriching the soil.

The hydromulch mixture will be tailored to the site, taking into consideration, sun exposure, soil type, planned maintenance, etc. Conversely, there is very little diversity in a sod field, most all are 100% bluegrass and those characteristics may not fit with the site.

The downside of hydromulching is that you don't get the instant satisfaction or appearance of sod. In most applications hydromulched areas will begin to germinate within 14 days. We are anticipating this to occur in the areas between France Avenue and Wooddale Avenue. Between Wooddale Avenue and Mackey Avenue, the areas will be applied with a dormant seed mixture, where it will begin to germinate next spring.

What is the contractor's responsibility?

After the hydromulch is applied, the contractor will be responsible for maintaining the areas, including watering, for a period of six (6) weeks from the date of installation. If the six week period does not conclude by November 1, 2011, then the remaining balance of the maintenance period will carry over starting from April 15, 2012. If the seed does not germinate, the contractor will be responsible for replacing the seed within the maintenance period.

Towards the end of the contractor maintenance period, an inspection of the restored areas will be completed by the City and maintenance will be turned over to the homeowner upon acceptance.

What is the homeowner's responsibility?

You will receive a notice identifying the date of when your responsibility starts for maintaining the restored areas. Given the time of year, it may be that you will not need to mow the restored area until next spring. If you chose to mow the newly restored area, please do not mow it until the grass is at least 3-inches tall. For the first mowing, please only cut 1 inch of your new grass to allow for proper growth.

What watering restrictions apply after the area is restored?

If you are going to water the restored area during the contractor maintenance period, please only do so once a day. Overwatering will hinder the establishment of

your new grass. Watering restrictions for the City of Edina and the City of St. Louis Park will not apply during the establishment of your grass. After the grass has been established, watering restrictions will apply.

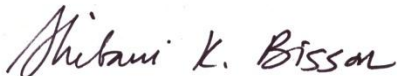
Project Communication

If you have any questions related to restoration of your yard or general project information, please contact me at 763-287-7162, sbisson@wsbeng.com , or you can contact our on-site inspector, George Bender, at 612-360-1321.

We will continue to provide weekly email updates via the City Extra email notification service <http://cityextra.cityofedina.com>. You can view previous City Extra email notifications for the project and other project information by going to http://www.ci.edina.mn.us/Departments/L5_ConstructionProjects_BA383W44thSt.htm. If you do not have access to email or the internet, please call me and I will have hard copy correspondence sent to you to keep you informed.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this busy construction season.

Sincerely,



Shibani K Bisson, PE
Senior Project Manager
WSB & Associates, Inc.

Enclosure

cc: Wayne D. Houle, City of Edina
Scott Brink, City of St. Louis Park