



Construction Update No. 5
Highlands Neighborhood Reconstruction
Contract No. ENG 08-8

City of Edina

April 17, 2009

Highlands Neighborhood Project Resident
Edina, MN

Resident,

The contractor will be back on site in the next month or so to complete some miscellaneous warranty work for the project. Please use caution around construction activities as crews will be working to complete outstanding items.

The sod that was placed last fall on the project is under a warranty period until May 25th, 2009. The contractor will be required to replace any dead or weak sod prior to the completion of the 42-day warranty period this spring. Please refer to the “**Caring for your new sod fact sheet**” attached to this letter to keep your warranty in place. It will give you some great information on your new sod.

If you did not have time last year to repair your irrigation system or pet fence, please have these repairs made as soon as possible. Please have your irrigation or pet fence company send a detailed invoice to the City directly @ 4801 W. 50th St., Edina MN, 55343. (Attn: Aaron Kuznia, Engineering Dept.) **All repair work will be required to be completed in full by June 1, 2009 – NO EXCEPTIONS!**

At this time we do not have the job finalized out with the contractor, and cannot produce a final assessment cost. A letter will be mailed to you at a later this year that will contain information regarding the final assessment hearing information.

Again, the City of Edina and Northwest Asphalt, Inc. thank you for your patience and for making this project a success. Feel free to contact me at 952-826-0444 or at akuznia@ci.edina.mn.us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Aaron Kuznia
Project Manager/Inspector

c: Wayne Houle, Director of Public Works
Jack Sullivan, Assistant City Engineer
Lance Guntzel, Northwest Asphalt, Inc.

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CARING FOR YOUR NEW SOD FACT SHEET

The new sod that was placed late last fall in your front yard needs special attention, and care must be taken to make sure it survives. We ask for your assistance to help the sod receive adequate water and maintenance. Please avoid walking on your new sod as much as possible. The combined efforts of you and the contractor should result in a healthy, vigorous lawn. Please refer to the section below about mowing and fertilizing this spring. It is important you follow these recommendations listed below to keep the full warranty in place. **If you have a lawn service, please share this information with them.**

WATERING

Please begin watering your new sod as soon as you can this spring. 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 warranty period expires.

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. 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.

MOWING AND FERTILIZING

Do not mow your newly placed sod for at least 4 weeks come spring time! 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 30 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 later this summer. If you fertilize sooner, you risk killing the sod. When you do fertilize, 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 your 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.