

2016 Street and Utility Improvement Project Weekly Update



June 22, 2017

Current Events – Care of your new sod

- **Sod Notes Phase 1:** The maintenance period ended in October. Please follow the instructions in the sod tips about mowing and watering to ensure your sod stays healthy. (See the reverse side of this Weekly Update for “Caring for your new sod.”)
- **Sod Notes Phase 2:** The sod maintenance period ended this spring. Please follow the instructions in “Caring for your new sod” located on the reverse side of this Weekly Update.
- **2017 Sod Repairs:** There were some sod repairs that took place Spring of 2017. The sod maintenance period for these repairs has ended. It is very important to follow the instructions on the reverse side of this Weekly Update.

Please Note:

The contractor’s maintenance period for new sod in the entire 2016 street project area has expired and it will be YOUR responsibility to take care of the sod. The contractor is not responsible for any further watering or maintenance of the sod. In addition, the contractor and city will not be responsible for any future sod repairs or other sod-related issues.

Project Contacts

Project Construction Observer: Jim Klein, 612-518-8327

Project Manager: Eric Eckman, 763-512-5257

After Hours Emergency Number: 763-427-1212 - Ask for the Centennial Utilities on-call person.

(Over)

CARING FOR YOUR NEW SOD

WATERING

- **Beginning mid-June 2017, sod should be watered at a rate of 2 inches per week in three to four applications. Continue this schedule throughout the summer.**
- Water early in the morning to maximize water being absorbed in your lawn. If watering is done in the evening, grass stays wet all night which increases the risk of disease. Watering during the day can cause scalding and burning of the sod.
- Additional watering is required on steep slopes to promote absorption of the water as it can run off more quickly on steep slopes.
- To prevent water loss, don't water your lawn when it is windy.
- **The City will waive sprinkling restrictions for the year 2017 on new sod.**

MOWING

- **Sod height for the first months should be between 3 and 4 inches. Mow grass no shorter than 3 inches** to promote deep roots and lawns that tolerate dry conditions. If the sod height gets much longer than 4 inches, weeds tend to establish a foothold.
- **Set the mower deck at least 3 inches high or at the highest setting.** In all cases mow in moderation as to the length of the leaf blades cut off during each cutting. A good rule is to not cut more than one-third the height of the grass off each time. The longer leaf blades are needed until the roots are able to grow and get deeper into the soil. As the cutting season continues into late summer, the sod height can be maintained at the 3-inch height goal. If hot and dry weather is encountered, you can adjust both the watering and the cutting height to protect the sod.
- **Don't mow during the heat of the day**, especially when conditions are dry. Newly cut grass loses water quickly.

FERTILIZING

- **Your sod was fertilized in the fall of 2016: therefore, it will not need fertilizer until the fall of 2017, prior to the onset of winter.**
- If you fertilize during the heat of the summer, you risk killing the sod. Proper fertilizing promotes deep roots and drought tolerance. Improper fertilizing can have the opposite effect. Don't fertilize dry lawns — high concentrations of nutrients draw moisture out of the soil.

OTHER TIPS

- **Control weeds** to reduce competition for soil moisture. This can be done by hand or with careful use of herbicides.
- **Do not aerate your lawn in 2017** since the roots are still fragile. Aeration can begin in 2018.
- Keep children, foot traffic and equipment off of the new sod.

Following these steps will restore your lawn to its prior beauty as quickly as possible. It will take a little time and patience, and we thank you for both.