

# 2016 Street and Utility Improvement Project Elysian, Le Sueur County, Minnesota



ELYSI 133849

# Project Update

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This letter is being sent to inform you of construction activity on the above-referenced project.

Engineering and Public Works staff will be conducting a review over the next week of the project for any outstanding items or warranty related issues that should be addressed. If you have any concerns that have not been addressed or taken care of to your liking, please contact me at your earliest convenience so I can add them to the punch list and relay the information to the contractor. The contractor will be in the project area at various times during the month of May addressing punch list items and preparing for the placement of the final layer of pavement prior to final completion of the project.

There likely will only be one or two additional project updates as the project is wrapped up this spring.

### **Early-Spring Inspection of Project Turf Establishment**

Engineering and City Staff have conducted a preliminary spring review of the progress of turf establishment throughout the project area which was seeded last season. Some of the earliest seeded areas already meet the requirements for project acceptance. Much of the later seeded areas still need some more time, but appear to be progressing quite well. However, there are also a few areas that appear to need some additional attention and we found one area that looks as though no seed was placed at all last fall. Those areas will require follow up and attention by the contractor.

While the Contractor is required to maintain the seeded areas for 60 days (beginning on April 1<sup>st</sup>), there are some key things each resident can do to ensure the lawn continues to mature and thicken and become the lawn you expect. **Please see the “Caring for your New Lawn” flier attached to this project update, as well as the tips below.** (Similar info was sent out last fall, but it is important to remind folks of these items.)

First note that a person’s lawn and lawn care is a VERY personal item. What one person may find acceptable another may find unacceptable. It is important to note that every lawn in the project area was prepared and seeded in the same manner; you may begin to notice that some lawns will begin to look different from one to the next. There are many variables that will effect each lawn (such as: sun, shade, mowing height, mowing frequency, mowing timing, fertilizer, weed control, pests, frequency of watering, etc.).

As noted above there are some areas that will need attention by the contractor and the contractor will be addressing those areas shortly. For the majority of the lawns, however, time and proper care is all that is needed to ensure the lawn continues to thicken and mature.

**Remember, the seeded area is “young and tender” and not the same as your mature lawn. There are some very simple but important things**

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**you can do to assure your lawn matures properly:**

- Mow the seeded areas at the highest setting of your mower (3 inches to 4 inches)
- Avoid mowing when the forecast is for warm or dry weather and avoid mowing in the heat of the day.
- Mulch your grass clippings. Do NOT bag. The grass clippings feed and protect the soil and grass.
- Spot spray weeds. Broadcast weed spraying can kill young turf. (Check your herbicide labels.)
- Overseed your lawn or thin areas with your favorite grass seed this spring. Whether you are on the contractor's list or not, a few dollars of grass seed now can be cheap assurance that the lawn thickens up to your satisfaction.
- Overseed again this fall. You can overseed twice in the fall to help ensure an even thicker lawn the next season. A good rule of thumb for fall overseeding is: once around Labor Day and again around Halloween.

Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Lee Istvanovich, EIT | Resident Project Representative

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## Project Update

**2016 Street and Utility Improvement Project  
Elysian, Le Sueur County, Minnesota**



Building a Better World  
for All of Us®

# Caring for Your New Lawn

Please help us take care of your new lawn!

Now that the project area has been seeded, care must be taken to ensure the seed germinates and the lawn matures. We ask for your assistance to help ensure that the lawn receives adequate water and proper maintenance. **Keep all traffic (including people and pets) out of the seeded area during the establishment period.**

## WATERING

Grass seed needs moisture to germinate. The new grass seedlings are very tender and will die if they dry out. It is very important to water any seeded area until the grass is well established. Lightly water the grass seed during germination to avoid washing away the seed. Once the seed has sprouted, it needs about one to two inches of water per week. This should be applied in three or four applications.

## FUTURE MAINTENANCE

Once the turf begins to thicken and is being mowed, watering can be reduced to about 1 inch per week. Be sure to water deeply and infrequently. Frequent light watering causes the grass to grow shallow roots and sets your lawn up for trouble in hot weather. Avoid watering between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., the hottest part of the day. It is best to water between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.; there's less wind, less hot sun, and your lawn has a full day to dry. Watering at night invites mildew and fungus, but if you can't water in the morning and must water in the evening, aim for around 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

During dry periods you must remember to give the young lawn a little extra water than you would your established lawn and let it grow a little longer before mowing. Fertilize as described below if the grass begins to yellow.

## MOWING

Your new seed should not be mowed until either the grass lays over and mats down when wetted or the grass goes to seed. It may take longer than 30 days for these conditions to occur. Prior to mowing, set the mower deck at the highest setting and cut the new grass with this setting for the remainder of the year. **Your new lawn will die if you cut it too short or during hot weather.**

## FERTILIZING

Fertilizer may be needed if the grass begins to yellow. Phosphorous-free fertilizer is required on mature lawns. We recommend a slow-release fertilizer such as 10-0-10 or 22-0-10. Phosphorous type fertilizers may be used on new lawns but should be avoided if the area drains to the storm sewer, ponds, lakes or wetlands.

## WEEDS

It happens. Weeds pop among newly planted grass. That's because dormant weed seeds are always present in the soil, and they're waiting to sprout when they get a chance. A good rule of thumb is to wait until you've mowed your new grass at least 4 times before you treat the weeds with a weed-control product. As always, remember to read the product label for specific information related to the weed-control product you are using.

If you have any questions or problems with your lawn, please call Lee Istvanovich, Resident Project Representative, at 507.676.2202.

***Your efforts should result in a healthy, vigorous lawn. We appreciate your assistance.***