

2023 Street and Utility Improvement Project
Elysian, Minnesota

Project Update



ELYSI 168159

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

IF YOU ARE A LANDLORD, PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR RENTERS/TENANTS.

The contractor continues to make progress towards completing their work this season. This week they have been placing and grading topsoil in remaining areas in preparation for dormant hydroseeding that will be applied later this month. While some recently seeded areas appear to be well on their way to becoming a mature lawn with the recent heat and rain, this weather will not last much longer this year. Areas that are dormant seeded this year will be re-seeded in the spring with a normal seed mixture to match other areas of the project.

Falling temperatures also bring falling leaves. **Areas with grass over 3 to 4 inches in length should be mowed with the mower set to maximum height.** Please be careful when raking in newly established areas to avoid damaging the grass or roots. You may apply a slow release fertilizer but please avoid any weed control this autumn unless areas have been mowed at least four times.

Any areas that fail to show growth next spring will be reseeded. **Please review the attached information sheets titled “Caring for Your Newly Seeded Area” and “Continued Care for Your New Lawn”.** Following these guidelines will help in the establishment of your lawn. Next spring, we will need your help to ensure the lawn receives adequate water and maintenance.

If you have any outstanding issues or concerns that have not been addressed or taken care of to your liking, please contact me at your earliest convenience so I can relay the information to the contractor. Keep in mind the contractor will be back on the project next year to place the final layer of bituminous pavement and address any warranty items prior to final completion of the project.

Please remember that schedules can change at a moment's notice because of weather, delays by subcontractors, and other unforeseen events.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me or City Engineer/Project Manager Brent Kavitz.

Lee Istvanovich, Resident Project Representative
507.676.2202

Caring for Your Newly Seeded Area

Please help us establish your new lawn!

Once the turf 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 seed area receives adequate water and proper maintenance. **Keep all traffic (including people and pets) out of the seeded area during the germination and establishment period.**

WATERING

Grass seed needs moisture to germinate. After germination, 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 inch 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 continue at about one 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 such as 10-10-10 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 four 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.

Continued Care for Your New Lawn

Please help us take care of your new lawn!

Once the seeded area has germinated and begun to mature, some additional care must be taken as the lawn continues to develop. 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

Germinated and maturing grass only requires about one inch per week in order to continue developing. Be sure to water deeply and infrequently. This should be applied in three or four applications. 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.

MOWING

Your developing lawn should be mowed with your mower at its highest setting, or approximately 3 1/2 inches. Mowing your new lawn too short will stress the plants and cause them to die out.

WEEDS

Weeds popping up in newly planted areas is unavoidable due to dormant seeds that are always present in the soil, but steps will soon be taken to help control and eliminate them. A good rule of thumb is to wait until you've mowed your new grass at least four times before you treat the weeds with a weed-control product. Spot spraying is preferred in young lawns. As always, remember to read the product label for specific information related to the weed-control product you are using. **We ask that you refrain from applying any weed control product this fall due to additional treatments the contractor will be applying shortly. Additional details are below.**

ADDITIONAL STEPS BEING TAKEN

Now that things have had a chance to develop, there may be some areas which need a little more attention than others. The contractor will be planning on applying additional seed to areas with thin coverage. Enough time is left in the growing season that this seed should germinate and fill in. A weed control product is also planned to be employed in areas that require it. **Please ensure your lawns are mowed to make sure these measures are effective. Mowing to cut down weeds will help reduce the opportunity of the weeds going to seed and prepare the area for weed control measures. If you have any concerns about weed control applications, do not hesitate to inform me.**

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.