

Becker Park Neighborhood

Street Reconstruction

2013 – Phase 13 Becker Park Neighborhood Street Reconstruction

May 14, 2014

Newsletter No. 8 (Final)

RECONSTRUCTION RESUMES.....

Sod Maintenance

Crystal, New Hope, SEH, and the Contractor jointly inspected the sod that was placed last year, and in nearly all cases the sod was found to be in good condition.

The sod **needs** your attention so its roots can grow deep and become mature established turf. You **must** continue to water your sod again this year, a minimum of 1 ½ inches per week (use a cake pan to measure).

The Contractor's obligation to maintain the sod has now ended.

The replacement of any sod that dies is now the responsibility of the property owner.

Please do not fertilize your new sod this spring! The Contractor will fertilize your sod this spring. Remember. **You must continue to water and care for your new sod after this year!** New sod requires up to three years to become mature, established turf.

Overall Schedule

Between May 15th and mid June,

the following street reconstruction activities will be completed, including:

- Adjusting manhole lids in the streets to match the final street paving elevations.
- Repair of damaged curb or sidewalk.
- Placement of concrete valley gutters in select intersections.
- Installation of boulevard trees to replace those that were removed to make way for reconstruction activities.
- Installation of rain garden plantings (see Rain Garden section).
- Repair sections of blacktop street pavement that might have broken or blown out during the winter.
- Administer private driveway warranty work.

Final Paving

By the end of June, there will be a final cleanup of the project area and the new streets will receive a final layer of blacktop. Finally, the pavement will be sawed and sealed and crosswalk pavement markings will be placed at select locations.

A more accurate update on the date of the final layer of blacktop will be available for viewing when it is available on Crystal's website at:

http://www.crystalmn.gov/city_departments/phase_13.php

Rain Gardens

For residents that have volunteered to have and maintain a rain garden in front of your home, the contractor will supply and install the plants that you selected from the questionnaire/agreement by mid June.

Please recall that the City will assist with yearly maintenance for weeding, mulching, and plant replacement for a period of two years after the initial installation/planting. After two years, it will be entirely up to you to maintain the rain garden! Please also remember that it is your responsibility to water the rain garden plantings, beginning immediately after their installation.

Remember. **You must water and care for your new rain garden plantings immediately after planting!**

Resident Input

If you had your sanitary sewer service repaired last year, we **must know immediately** if you have any concerns about the repair. We must resolve these occurrences with the Contractor before placing the final

Important Reminders

Safety First: To date, we've had no major accidents within the project. Please continue to drive carefully and remind your children to stay clear of construction activities.

Care of Private Driveways: Please read the suggestions for care of your new driveway on the back side of the estimate form.

layer of blacktop in order to achieve the best reconstruction results. Please call Dave Fritzke of the City of Crystal at 763.531.1163 or dave.fritzke@crystalmn.gov. After hours, you can put project related written correspondence in the utility payment mailbox located near the front door outside Crystal City Hall or the community center.

Special Assessment Balance - Crystal Residents

If in 2013 you let your assessment go onto your property taxes, you can continue to let it be billed on your taxes over the remaining 14 years. If in any year you decide to pay off the balance, you must do so prior to November 15 to avoid

paying interest charges for the entire following year. Contact Gail at Crystal City Hall at 763.531.1118 or Gail.VanKrevelen@crystalmn.gov.

Thank you

We are sincerely interested in hearing what you think about how the street reconstruction process went for you. We need to know the good things along with things that fell short of your expectations. We will use this feedback to help us keep doing the positive things and improve where we fell short on future projects. Please drop us a line or give us a call.

Finally!

From all of us at the Cities of Crystal and New Hope, SEH, and

Palda and Sons to the residents of the Becker Park Reconstruction Area, you have our deep appreciation for the patience, tolerance, and understanding you have shown throughout this entire reconstruction process. It has been our pleasure serving you!

Contacts

Please direct your questions or comments to either Mick or Chris.

- Mick Cyert, Crystal Engineering Department (763.531.1161 or mick.cyert@crystalmn.gov)
- Chris McKenzie, SEH (952.912.2607 or cmckenzie@sehinc.com).



Caring for Your New Sod



You must take care of your new sod!

Now that sod has been placed next to your reconstructed street and/or driveway area, care must be taken to help it survive. We need your help to ensure the sod receives adequate water and maintenance.

Please continue watering your new sod as soon possible. Your efforts will help the sod grow so your lawn looks its best. Your actions will be especially important if there is little rainfall and hot temperatures. The Contractor's obligation to maintain the sod has ended. **The replacement of any sod that dies is now the responsibility of the property owner.**

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 waterings are not desirable, as they encourage shallow roots instead of deep roots. The roots of new sod require about a year to reach their full length. Lawns need deep roots to help them withstand periods of little or no rain.

During extended hot and dry periods, new sod should be thoroughly soaked every day. Checking to see if you are watering enough is easily 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-inch a week watering total. You should continue watering the new sod for 2 or 3 growing seasons to ensure good established root growth.

Sod placed along the edges of driveways reconstructed on private property

If you reconstructed your driveway beyond your front property line using the City's contractor, **you** are responsible for watering the sod that may have been placed along the edges of your driveway on your private property. Please continue watering this sod using the instructions given above.

Mowing

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 remainder of the year. **Your new sod will die if you cut it at the same setting as the one you ordinarily use to cut your mature lawn.**

Fertilizing

The contractor will fertilize the sod in the spring of 2014; therefore, **you will not need to fertilize the sod** until the fall of 2014 or the spring of 2015. **If you fertilize sooner, you risk killing the sod.** When you do fertilize, use a 10-10-10, 12-12-12 or similar mixture and follow manufacturer's instructions on application rates. After one year switch back to a "0" phosphorous fertilizer (the middle number) as required by state law.

If you have any questions or problems with your sod, please contact Mick Cyert (763.531.1161 or mick.cyert@crystalmn.gov) or Chris McKenzie (952.912.2607 or cmckenzie@sehinc.com).

The combined efforts of you and the contractor should result in a healthy, vigorous lawn. We appreciate your assistance.

City of Crystal and Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.