



## **BUILD MACHESNEY**

*A Blueprint for the Future*

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### **Scott Ln & Heron Dr Improvements Construction Update #14 September 2, 2016**

#### **Week of September 5 - 9:**

- The Contractor will not be working on Monday, September 5 in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.
- Sidewalk at the intersection of Heron and Mildred may be completed during the week.
- The Contractor will also be rough grading behind the curb.
- Restoration, including topsoil, seed and erosion control blanket is tentatively scheduled for later in the week. A bio-degradable straw blanket will be placed over the seeded areas, and we expect the blanket to fully biodegrade by early spring. The blanket will help retain moisture during the initial germination of grass seed, fostering growth and protecting the young grass through germination. We recommend setting your mowers to their highest level to avoid catching the erosion blanket until the erosion blanket has biodegraded. Watering of the newly seeded area is a must in order for the new seed to take. Please refer to the watering guide that is provided with this update.
- The Contractor will likely be installing mailboxes during the week of September 12. Please locate your mail box or if you plan to purchase a new mailbox please do so and have it available.
- In the event that construction activities change, the Contractor will notify residents of any activities affecting their property.
- Please be aware that the placement of the barricades may change from day to day as construction progresses.
- There will be survey crews on site from time to time collecting the "as built" information for the storm sewer system as well as gathering measurements for the road improvements and areas that were seeded and blanketed.

Please continue to exercise caution and drive **SLOWLY** through and around the construction zone. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Have a safe and enjoyable Labor Day weekend.**

If you have any comments or questions feel free to contact:

N-TRAK Group,  
Danielle Schlichting at 815-282-3000

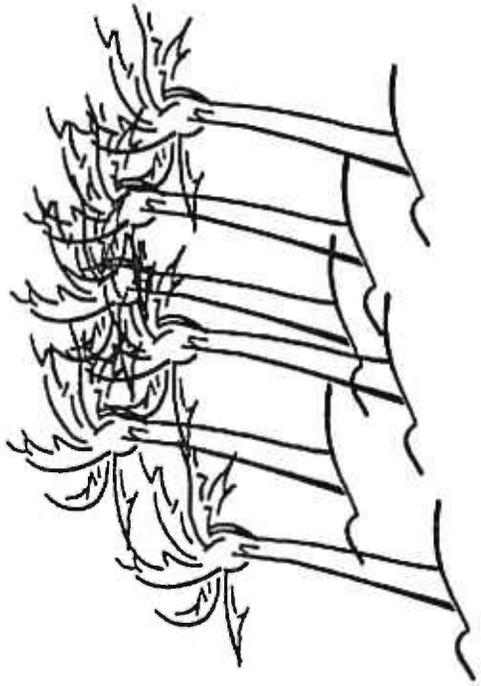
Or

McMahon,  
Jim Kroeplin or Chris Dopkins at 815-636-9590

This brochure has been prepared to give property owners and tenants some basic information about re-establishing good turf, after the Village of Machesney Park's construction and reconstruction projects.

Due to the Village of Machesney Park's geographic location, street and sidewalk construction projects are limited to the summer season. The Village, however, makes every effort to restore the disturbed areas, although establishing good turf in hot summer months is difficult. All Village contracts contain requirements for the contractor to place humus bearing topsoil and to sow a high quality seed mix. Moisture is necessary, of course, to germinate the grass seeds. This can be difficult to accomplish during the hot and dry periods since germinating grass seeds and young seedlings are very susceptible to injury and death due to lack of soil moisture.

Property owners and tenants can help by watering the newly seeded areas at a fraction of the cost that the Village's contractor would require. Keep the new seeding moist. Water lightly every day until the grass has been mowed once or twice. Then water more heavily and less frequently. When property owners and tenants assist in this manner they are also helping to reduce the overall cost of the project involved.



One of the most common complaints from residents is the presence of weeds shortly after grass seeds have been sown. The typical statement is "The contractor used weed seeds instead of grass seeds." Weed seeds lie dormant in all soils, some for as many as 20-50 years. The problem arises when topsoil is excavated from one location, loaded, transported, dumped, and re-leveled at a new location. The weed seeds that were lying dormant at one location have now been tumbled and redistributed over a new area causing many of them to germinate. When water is applied, the weeds begin to grow. Since weed seeds germinate rapidly and weeds grow faster than grass, it becomes extremely important that maintenance of the turf area be started early. Property owners and tenants can help with this problem by cutting the weeds every time they mow their lawns. Since most weeds are of an annual variety, they will freeze and die at the first hard frost and will not be a problem the following year.

Mowing the turfgrass is the most fundamental and usually the most frequent maintenance practice. It does require some planning. The general health and vigor of turfgrasses are affected by both mowing height and frequency. The mowing schedule should be based entirely on the grass growth rate. The rule of thumb is that you should not remove over 40% of the leaves and shoots of grasses at one time. Since maintaining a lawn height of 2 to 2 1/2 inches is preferable, mow before the grass reaches a height of approximately 3 1/2 inches. Allowing grass to get too tall between mowings does not benefit the grass. Root growth may cease or root tip dieback may occur. This problem is most severe during periods of heat and drought.

We hope that this pamphlet answers some questions that you may have concerning turfgrass and lawn restoration after a construction or reconstruction project. It is extremely important that the homeowner becomes involved with the care of his/her new lawn, so the new turf grows quickly and stays healthy. If you have any questions, please contact the Village of Machesney Park at 877-5432.