



## **BUILD MACHESNEY**

*A Blueprint for the Future*

---

### **Prairie & Dorothea Improvements Construction Update #15 October 21, 2016**

#### **Week of October 24-28**

- Restoration, including topsoil, seed and erosion control blanket is complete. A biodegradable straw blanket has been 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 included with this update.
- Work will continue next week on the storm water infiltration pond at the corner of Prairie and Dorothea. Please be aware of the truck traffic during this work.
- The Contractor will be installing mailboxes during the week. Please locate your mail box or if you plan to purchase a new mailbox please do so and have it available. Once all mailboxes are installed we will coordinate with the post office for normal mail delivery and advise you accordingly.

Please continue to drive slowly in the construction area.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Contractor: Northern Illinois Service Co.,  
Contact: Paul Munson, 815-874-4422

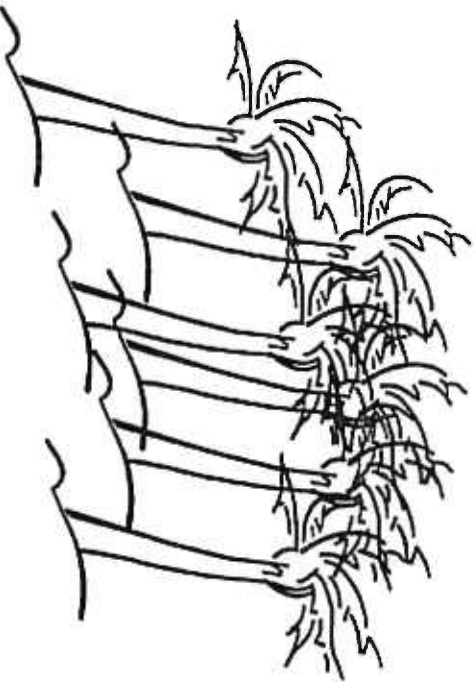
Engineer: McMAHON (815) 636-9590  
Contact Jim Kroeplin & Chris Dopkins

*Driving for a better  
Machesney Park*

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 culting 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.