



Village of Machesney Park

BUILD MACHESNEY

A Blueprint for the Future

IL 251 Service Drive Improvements Construction Update #20 November 17, 2017

We are pleased to report that the project has nearly reached the point of substantial completion, which essentially means that the vast majority of the improvements are now complete. Restoration crews will be on site to place the final black dirt, seeding, fertilizer and erosion control blanket over the areas that were disturbed by construction activities. We have attached a lawn care guide to this update to help you re-establish the turf grass in the spring.

There will still be work that will be ongoing over the next couple weeks, which for the most part consists of minor "punch list" types of items. There will also be survey crews on site from time to time who will be collecting the "as built" information for the storm sewer system as well as gathering measurements for the areas of the driveways, and the areas that were seeded and blanketed. A few other items to note:

- The Contractor has been reinstalling the permanent mailboxes, and the post office will begin mail service to the permanent boxes by November 20th, if they haven't done so already. The temporary mailbox bank will be removed by November 22nd, so please be sure to remove all items from the temporary mailbox before next Wednesday.
- The final surface course of pavement will be constructed next year (typically this occurs sometime in late August or early September). You will receive a "post card" from the Village before the final lift is placed that will let you know what to expect. Until then, there will continue to be a bump along the roadway side of the curbing.
- ComED has indicated that they will replace a number of poles that are leaning. We expect this work to take place in February or March of 2018.

Finally, this will be the last construction update for the project, and it has been our pleasure to work with you over the past six months. We want to *thank you* for your patience and understanding through the construction process, and we sincerely hope that you are pleased with the improvements. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving Holiday!

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

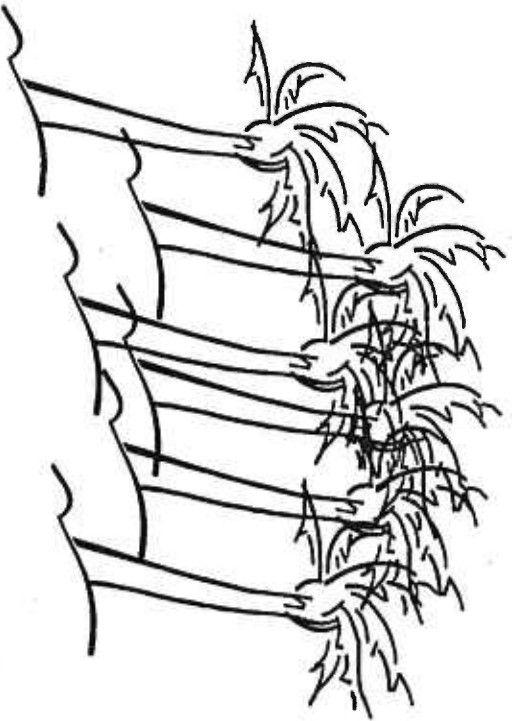
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This brochure has been prepared to give property owners and tenants some basic information about re-establishing good turf, after the Village of Machesney Park's construction and reconstruction projects.

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.