

May 20, 2015

**Re: Sod Replacement**  
**Phase 5 & 6 Areas (Lakeview Drive, Willow Lane, Willow Lane Circle, & Elm Drive)**  
**City Project No. 14-101A – Chateaulin/Parkwood South Area**

Dear Property Owner:

The sod installed along the street in your neighborhood has reached the end of its warranty period. This means that the Contractor will no longer be responsible for its care.

Over the past week, City staff have reviewed the sod conditions in the area, and determined a number of locations that suffered from both salt damage and general winter kill. The Contractor has started work this week to replace areas of dead sod with new sod, and in some cases where spot repairs are necessary, new seed. Work will continue into the week of May 26<sup>th</sup>.

In areas that are repaired, the Contractor will remain responsible for watering the new sod and seed for an additional 20 days. At that time, and in all other areas, care of the sod will be the full responsibility of the property owner. Any sod that has passed the inspection and then in the future does not survive **will not be replaced by the City**.

Please be aware that sod and seed needs a great deal of water, much more than an established lawn for the first two years. Sod farmers say that if you can walk on your sod without it feeling squishy, it is too dry. Typically, sod needs a minimum of 2" of water each week. That equates to approximately 6 hours of watering. Any rainfall received during the week can be included in your two inch a week watering total. Sod on the north and west sides of the streets receive more sun and therefore need more water to avoid burning.

We need your help to ensure the sod survives and thrives. A sod care sheet is enclosed for easy reference.

Sincerely,

**City of Burnsville**



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cc: Nils Hudyma, City Inspector  
Ryan Peterson, City Engineer  
Steve Albrecht, Public Works Director

## CARING FOR YOUR NEW SOD

Now that the new sod is in place along the street and driveway areas, care must be taken to insure its survival. We ask for your assistance to help insure that the sod receives adequate water and maintenance.

### **WATERING**

The Contractor will water the sod for the first 30 days only. After the first 30 days, it will be entirely up to you to water the new sod. Your actions over the next two years will be especially important if there are hot temperatures and little rainfall.

The rule of thumb for watering mature lawns is a minimum of one inch per week. New sod requires twice as much water (or two inches per week) done in three or four applications. More frequent, lighter waterings are not desirable - they encourage shallow roots. Lawns need deep roots to help them withstand periods of little or no rain. During extended hot, dry periods, new sod should be thoroughly soaked every other 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 two inch a week watering total. You should continue watering the new sod for the remainder of the summer and fall and again the following year. Two years of extra watering is recommended to promote deep root growth. This is especially important with boulevard sod as it has to overcome salt and sand damage caused throughout the winter months.

### **MOWING**

It is recommended that you set the mower deck at the highest setting and cut the new sod with this setting for the remainder of the year. This will allow for the grass to receive the most sunlight.

### **FERTILIZING**

Your new sod was fertilized at the place it was grown; therefore, it will not need fertilizer until the fall. If you fertilize sooner, you risk killing the sod.

### **FUTURE MAINTENANCE**

Remember, even after your new sod appears to have taken hold, it is not as sturdy as an established lawn. It takes awhile for the roots to reach their mature length - usually around two years. Until the roots are mature, the sod is still susceptible to dry conditions. Remember to deeply water. It is also advisable to let the sod grow a little longer than normal when conditions are dry. Fertilize lightly if the sod begins to yellow.

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