



Date: October 25, 2015  
Attention: 2016 CIP MFT 16-00000-01 GM Concrete Improvement Program Residents  
Reference: Maintenance for New Sod

The seed and sod restoration along the concrete improvement work has been completed as of October 21. **The contractor is responsible for watering, maintenance and care of the new sod during the first month** because the roots are not established yet until the end of the first month. Beginning 30 days after sod placement, the city will inspect the sod for acceptance. Sod will not be replaced following acceptance by the city. Due to the late placement of sod this year, it is highly likely that the sod will go dormant before the roots are established. The City will then inspect the sod for acceptance once the spring growing season has begun. You will receive another notice alerting you whether the sod has been accepted or rejected next spring.

**Once the new sod has been accepted by the City, the homeowner is responsible for watering, maintenance and care of the new sod.** Please be aware that the new sod is more susceptible to drying out next summer than an existing lawn because the roots are only somewhat established. It will take some time for the new sod to withstand extreme heat so additional care by the homeowner, such as watering or cutting at a higher mower height, may be necessary to ensure that the lawn remains alive and vibrant.

**Water Notes**

Grasses typical of the Chicago area need approximately one inch (1”) of water per week in order to remain alive and green.

**WATER SOD, TWICE A WEEK, WITH MINIMALLY HALF-INCH (1/2”) OF WATER.**

Some general watering tips are to water in the morning (avoid dusk/night since it can encourage fungus and other diseases) and to water deeply. However, avoid watering to the point where the soil becomes waterlogged since it deprives the roots of necessary air and can harm the lawn.

**Mowing Notes**

The ideal mowing height of existing lawn is between 2-3 inches, with the lower end of this range during the rapid spring growing season and the higher end during the hot summer.

**NEW SOD SHOULD NOT BE MOWED UNTIL AT LEAST 10 DAYS AFTER INSTALLATION.  
DO NOT MOW LESS THEN 3 ½ INCHES FOR THE FIRST MONTH.**

Some general mowing tips are to keep lawn mower blades sharp and to avoid mowing when the lawn is wet due to the potential for root damage.

**Fertilizer Notes**

No additional fertilizing of the sod is necessary. Simply fertilize the sod along with the rest of your lawn according to your next scheduled fertilizing time.

For more complete information on lawn care, visit the University of Illinois **Lawn Talk** website (<http://www.urbanext.illinois.edu/lawntalk>). If you have any additional questions please contact the City of Des Plaines Public Works and Engineering Department at (847) 391-5390.