

October 30, 2013

With the 2013 construction season winding down, there are just a few items left to complete on the Nicollet Ave Reconstruction project.

Thomas and Sons has been given a punch list of final items to complete for the project. Most of these items are small issues such as clean-up, replacing broken sidewalk panels, etc. They will be working on these issues at various times.

City concrete crews will also be adding carriage walks in front of some properties in last year's construction area (31st St to 36th St) where they were not already in place. This work is expected to begin soon and only take a few days. This will require short term parking restrictions. Please be mindful of signs and restrictions.

Minneapolis Traffic department still has to complete the signal work at 38th St. They are also completing the installation and wiring of the street lighting between 36th and 40th Streets. The temporary lighting will remain operational until the new lighting is operational. The temporary light poles may stay in place until after winter, depending on when the new lighting is finished.

As part of the Nicollet Ave reconstruction project, boulevards were widened. **Sod was placed in this widened boulevard.** Although, this work was done by a contractor and was inspected to meet certain standards, the proper maintenance of the sod is the property owner's responsibility.

Suggestions for the care of your new sod

Sufficient and timely watering is critical to new sod until the root system is fully established to withstand drought and still come back. This can take a full year at times. The areas with full sun may require more water than shaded areas. **It's important to not let the new sod dry out.**

Proper mowing: A basic rule is to never remove more than 1/3 of the grass height during a single mowing. Example: Cut grass when it's 4" high and set the cutting height to 3". Allowing grass to grow to a height of 6" or more and cutting it very short can injure new sod to the extent it may die. This is especially harmful when watering is insufficient. During the mid-summer heat, a height of 3" is advisable.

Trees are also a new addition to the boulevard. Minneapolis Park Board Forestry has begun to plant trees along Nicollet. Some of the varieties planted include: Maple, Hackberry, White Oak, Elm, and Linden.

Suggestions for the new care of the new trees.

Sufficient and timely watering. Please remember to water the new boulevard trees. (As a general idea, during dry conditions, water trees with a slow stream of water once a week for an hour throughout the growing season.) Minneapolis Forestry also intends to provide water bags for many of the new Nicollet Ave boulevard trees during the next growing season.

(As a side note: Minneapolis Forestry will be responsible for trimming of the new boulevard trees in the future.)

Thank you for your support in keeping the newly reconstructed Nicollet Ave "green" and pedestrian friendly.

We will share any updates as they are available.

PROJECT CONTACTS

On-site project inspector Bob Anthoney 612-210-2269- Call Bob if you have immediate issues on the project

Project Engineer Beverly Warmka 612-673-3762- Call Bev if you have general questions regarding the project

If you have any questions regarding the project, feel free to contact me, Beverly Warmka, Project Engineer at beverly.warmka@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-3762

Additional information regarding the project can be found on the project website at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-102134

As always, thanks everyone for your continued time and interest on this project. I hope you enjoy your new Nicollet Ave.

Beverly Warmka, P.E.