

Walnut, Third & Hood Street Improvements Construction Newsletter

May 7, 2021

Construction:

- Bituminous Streets
- Concrete Streets
- Sanitary Sewer
- Watermain
- Water & Sewer Services
- Storm Sewer

Construction schedule:

Start: May 12th, 2021
Finish: June 15th, 2022

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Project Website

A website was recently created to provide updates and information about the various projects going on in Blue Earth this summer. Go to the link below to find information and to sign up for email or text notifications with project updates. Newsletters and email updates will be provided through this website.

<https://clients.bolton-menk.com/be2021>

Overview

As you know, the City of Blue Earth is undertaking a construction project to improve the city streets and utilities along Walnut Street from (6th Street to 2nd Street), 3rd Street from (Walnut Street to the Railroad Tracks), and Hood Street (from 2nd Street to Leland Parkway). This project is a part of the 10th and Nicollet Street Improvements project and will be constructed by the same contractor. The project will include the removal and replacement of sanitary sewer, watermain and storm sewer facilities along with new asphalt and concrete street construction. Newsletters like this one will be sent out to the email group during certain milestones of the project to help keep residents informed. In addition to this, small updates will be provided weekly to keep you up to speed. It is important to note that information and scheduling might change due to weather and unforeseen issues. We will do our best to keep you up to date with the construction progress and changes. Bolton & Menk, Inc. is the City's engineer for the project. They will act as an extension of City Staff in monitoring construction work and interacting with the contractor daily. Should any questions or concerns arise during the construction process, please contact Bolton & Menk's representatives listed on the lower left side.

Project Timeline

The project was awarded to Ulland Brothers from Albert Lea, Minnesota on April 19, 2021. In addition to their own staff, Ulland Brothers will employ several subcontractors for the project. Today Ben Rosol will be marking tree removals throughout the project. These trees need to be removed due to curb, sidewalk, and service impacts. More Information regarding tree removals can be found on the back. Underground construction is currently estimated to begin the first of June on Hood Street and take approximately 4 weeks. Depending on weather and progress, construction will begin on Walnut and 3rd Street the beginning of July. As the underground work is completed, the contractor will place aggregate base (gravel) for temporary access to driveways. Concrete curb and street restoration will likely be done later in the season once several areas are ready. More information will be provided as construction progresses.

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Questions

Private Utilities

CenterPoint Energy will also be working in the area to relocate the gas lines. This work is not under the direction or supervision of the City but is necessary to prepare for the proposed utility and street construction and to update their aging facilities. CenterPoint's work is planned to begin in the next few weeks.

Trees

Some tree removals are necessary to construct the street improvements. Trees that are identified for removal will be marked with pink ribbon later this week. Tree removals will begin on May 12th. If you have any questions about your tree, please contact Ben Rosol. A new 2" diameter Autumn Blaze Maple tree will be installed for every tree removed on the project. Ben will coordinate the location of the new tree with you.

Water Shutdowns

Occasional water shut-downs will be required for the crews to make connections to the existing water lines. We ask for your patience and understanding, as the Contractor will do their best to provide reasonable notice and reduce the length of any water shut downs required. Typically we will try to ensure at least a one-day notice is given for shutdowns and the outage limited between 2 to 8 hours long.

Access

As the project moves forward, parking and access to your property will continue to change. When construction is being conducted adjacent to your property you may have to park in the alley, at a neighbor's house or on a side street, where your vehicle is safe and out of the way. Access will be intermittent during underground construction and for longer periods during street grading, curb and pavement construction. Rain will also have an impact on property access. We realize access will be difficult and thank you for your patience. We will communicate access restrictions on a regular basis throughout the project. You may contact Ben to discuss your needs and concerns.

Garbage, Recycling & Mail

Until further notice, continue to place your garbage and recycling bins where you normally place them for each scheduled pick-up. We ask that you please have your garbage or recycling bins at the end of your driveway by 7:00 a.m. the day it is supposed to be picked up. This will help the contractor know that garbage and recycling bins need to be moved to side streets. The contractor will contact and coordinate with the pick-up companies. Please write or display your house number prominently on your bins so they can be returned to you.

The contractor will contact and coordinate with the postal service on how mail will be delivered during the project. Temporary mailboxes will be installed where needed.