

2024 Street & Utility Improvements Construction Newsletter

April 25, 2024

Construction:

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

Construction schedule:

Tentative Start: May 1, 2024

Finish: October 25, 2024

Final Lift: June 30, 2025

City of Blue Earth

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Project Website

A website is available to provide updates and information about the street project in Blue Earth this summer. On the website, you will be able to sign up for email or text notifications with project updates. **Newsletters and email updates throughout the project will be provided through this website.** This website is also a great resource for residents to get information on what to expect during construction!

www.blueearthconstructionprojects.com

A link to the website can also be found on the City of Blue Earth's website.

Overview

As you know, the City of Blue Earth is undertaking a construction project this summer. The project will consist of a full street reconstruction and a mill & overlay with utility improvements.

Full Street Reconstruction Area will consist of replacing the sanitary sewer, watermain, and storm sewer along with new bituminous street construction of Rice Street (from 7th Street to 1st Street), 2nd Street (from Gorman Street to Rice Street), and 1st Street (from dead end to Rice Street).

Mill & Overlay Area will consist of replacing watermain, concrete sidewalk and driveways along 10th Street (from Ramsey Street to Rice Street). The existing bituminous pavement along 10th Street and 11th Street (from Ramsey Street to Rice Street) will also be grinded down 2-inches. A new 2-inch layer of bituminous will be placed on top.

Newsletters like this one will be sent 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 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 the Bolton & Menk's representatives listed on the lower left side.

Project Timeline

Competitive bids for the work were received on April 1, 2024, and the project was awarded to Holtmeier Construction, Inc. from Mankato, Minnesota. In addition to their own staff, Holtmeier Construction will employ several subcontractors for the project.

As of now, Holtmeier is expecting to begin pavement removals along Rice Street from 7th Street to 4th Street the week of May 20. This schedule may change due to weather or other unforeseen conditions. We will keep you posted as we learn more regarding the schedule.

Tree removals are expected to begin on or around May 1. Tree removals are necessary due to underground utility conflicts, street width changes, and the emerald ash bore disease. **Trees that need to be removed will be marked with pink paint or ribbon starting the week of April 29.**

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What to Expect During Construction

Work Area

It is very common on these types of projects that area residents (especially children) become quite curious about the work the contractor is performing. We ask that you please be respectful of and stay well clear of construction zones. Many hazards and dangers exist from heavy machinery, trenches, loose material, confined spaces, hot asphalt, etc. and oftentimes are not recognizable by the general public. The contractor has the responsibility to ensure safety on the project and within the construction area. Any direction from the contractor regarding safety must be heeded; likewise, if you observe an unsafe condition, please report it to Wade Bartz immediately.

Questions

Utilities

CenterPoint Energy will be working in the area to relocate some of their existing utility lines along 2nd Street and 1st Street. 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.

Trees

Unfortunately, some tree removals are necessary to construct the street and utility improvements. Trees planned to be removed within the street right of way, have been carefully considered by Bolton and Menk and City staff. Trees planned for removal will be marked with pink paint or ribbon prior to being removed. These trees will be marked at the beginning of the project. If you have any questions about your tree, please contact Wade Bartz. See the **“Tree Reimbursement Form”** under the Helpful Links section for information about installing new trees.

Water Shutdowns

Occasional water shutdowns 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 shutdowns required. Typically, we will try to ensure at least a one-day notice is given for shutdowns and the outage is limited between 2 to 8 hours long.

Private Improvements in Right-of-Way

If you have improvements such as landscaping, retaining walls, shrubs, bushes, flowers, sheds, irrigation systems, etc. in the right-of-way, it is not the contractor’s responsibility to work around them. The property owner is responsible for securing these private improvements and moving them, if necessary, to allow the project to be constructed. Neither the contractor nor City is responsible for damages incurred to private improvements in the right-of-way. Any underground irrigation lines and heads, dog fences, etc., should be located and marked so they are readily visible.

Concrete Construction

With concrete sidewalk, curb, and driveway construction planned, please note that you should not park or drive on any newly placed concrete before it is open to traffic. This can cause undue stress and permanent damage to the concrete. New concrete should be allowed at least 7 days to cure.

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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 regularly throughout the project. You may contact Wade Bartz to discuss your needs and concerns.



Garbage, Recycling & Mail

During construction, 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 the evening before it is supposed to be picked up. This will help the contractor know that garbage and recycling bins need to be moved to areas it is accessible to be picked up. The contractor will contact and coordinate with the pick-up companies. Please write or display your house number notably 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.



Sump Pump Information

The new streets will contain six-inch subsurface drains installed at the bottom of the roadway section to remove subsurface moisture and reduce the risk of frost heaves. These subsurface drains will be located one foot behind the back of curb and will run parallel with the street. These subsurface drains will allow residents to connect their sump pump discharge lines to avoid the surface discharge that commonly occurs causing pavement deterioration. The sump pump line will be stubbed out to the property line. As construction progresses, Wade Bartz will coordinate the location of these sump connections with the homeowner. Roof drains are not allowed to be connected to the subsurface drains.



Turf Restoration

Turf will be restored following underground construction and surface grading. For this project, sod will be used. The sod will be maintained by the contractor for 30 days. "Maintain" as defined in the contract includes, weed control and watering. If you notice problems with the placement and/or condition of your sod, please contact Wade Bartz before the end of the 30-day period.

After that period, it becomes the property owner's responsibility to maintain the new turf as part of their lawn - providing water, mowing, and other necessary care. Mowing too soon or too short can damage or even kill new turf. **See the "Caring For Newly Sodded Lawns" section for helpful tips and guidance.**



Punch List

After the project is substantially complete, the contractor will be provided with a "punch list" of minor defects or uncompleted tasks. That work may take several weeks to complete and may even be in the following spring prior to the final lift of asphalt being placed. This punch list work will require both your cooperation and patience. Please contact Wade Bartz for any issues you feel have not been satisfactorily addressed.