

West Park Hills Landscaping and Grounds Newsletter - Summer 2025

LAWN CARE (MILLER MAINTENANCE)

Miller Maintenance will **mow on Wednesdays** throughout the summer, weather permitting. Please move hoses and sprinklers from lawns on mowing day so the crew does not have to move them and/or damage them. Walks and patios will be power blown or swept after mowing as required to remove excessive amounts of clippings.

Miller will complete any necessary dirt/seeding to repair snowplow damage beginning mid- to late May. When you notice the lawn repairs, including dirt and seeding, please water so the seed will sprout and take root. Seeded areas need to be kept moist but not saturated to avoid washing away the seed.

Watering guidelines:

- **Just after seeding:** A light watering twice daily is suggested. Keep the top 2 inches of soil moist, but not sopping wet. Water whenever the soil is becoming dry. Feel the soil to see if it's moist or dry. If the soil gets too dry, the germination process will stop and the seeds will die out. When watering, do not water so much that it pools on the soil's surface. Germination time for grass seed ranges from 5 to 30 days.
- **Continuing care:** As the grass seeds germinate and develop roots, continue regular watering to help them become well established. Over the next month, check the seed bed regularly and water it lightly whenever it is dry, much like in the period right after seeding. During dry spells, check the new lawn more often, as it will need more water. Pay particular attention to shady patches of the lawn, as they need watering less often than sun-soaked areas.
- **After establishment:** When the grass seeds are established, water less. Generally, give the lawn about 1 inch of water a week, delivered in one or two sessions (includes both watering and rainfall amounts). Doing so helps the roots of the grass grow deep into the ground and makes the lawn more tolerant of drought.
- Water as early in the day as possible (5am-8am is ideal). This allows sufficient time for the lawn to dry before nightfall and reduces evaporation.
- Avoid watering at night (4pm-4am) – this is prime time for fungus to start growing.

As a reminder, the Association pays for outside watering, so please continue to water following these guidelines during extreme temperatures and dry periods.

Note: Snowplow damage repair is included in our Miller contract at no extra cost. Repair for winter kill or otherwise failing grass is not included and will be reviewed, prioritized and quotes requested for repair. Work will be considered and completed as the Landscaping and Grounds budget allows.

If you sustain any lawn or structural damage you feel is caused by the Miller crew or equipment, you must report the damage within 15 days of the incident in writing, preferably

with pictures. You may submit it to the Association email at westparkhills@live.com or deliver to the black mailbox at 10515 Decatur Circle.

The Association does not have a sprinkler system, so homeowners are asked to water the lawn, young shrubs and young trees (1-2 years old). The Association provides hoses, sprinklers, and outside water. If you need a hose or sprinkler, call the hotline at 612-236-9298 and leave a message, or fill out a request and put it in the black mailbox at 10515 Decatur Circle. As a reminder, all hoses and sprinklers should be stored inside your garage for the winter to prevent damage and extend the life of the equipment. **NOTE: PLEASE SUBMIT ALL SPRINKLER AND HOSE REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION NO LATER THAN MAY 31.**

Additional services provided by Miller Maintenance as part of the contract

- Pre-emergent for crabgrass control with a slow-release fertilizer is to be applied no later than May 15th, weather permitting. Every effort will be taken to give a minimum of 48-hour notice prior to application. Prior approval will be obtained from the Association for an application in less than 48 hours in cases of inclement and impending weather.
- Broadleaf weed control (Trimec or equivalent) to be applied to turf area twice; prior to June 1 and August 30. Additional applications are the responsibility of the Association and will be billed on a time and material basis. Every effort will be taken to give a minimum of 48-hour notice prior to application. Prior approval will be obtained from the Association for an application in less than 48 hours in cases of inclement and impending weather.
- Manual control and/or chemical control of weeds in rock beds, flowers, and shrub beds throughout the Association to include concrete and asphalt areas to be completed twice—around June 15 and August 15. This does not include homeowner plantings. Every effort will be taken to give a minimum of 48-hour notice prior to application. Prior approval will be obtained from the Association for an application in less than 48 hours in cases of inclement and impending weather.
- A slow-release granular fertilizer is to be applied three times annually (including application with pre-emergent) to turf areas prior to May 15, July 1, and September 15. Excess fertilizer will be swept or blown from walks and driveways. Every effort will be taken to give a minimum of 48-hour notice prior to application. Prior approval will be obtained from the Association for an application in less than 48 hours in cases of inclement and impending weather.
- Trimming of planted shrubs will be performed once annually to enhance the natural shape. All debris will be removed from the property. Removal of dead wood and suckering will also be performed to reduce hazards and ensure shrub vitality.
- Edging (slice method) of all walks and curbs is to be completed, upon request, by July 15 for an additional fee.
- Miller Maintenance will also pick up foreign debris (i.e., paper, cans, trash) from the area as a service during the weekly mowing.
- All dates are dependent on weather and ground conditions.

WANT TO TRIM YOUR OWN SHRUBS?

Shrub trimming is scheduled for completion in July. We will notify you in advance via email and/or posted notifications on the mailboxes when Miller Maintenance will be on the property to complete shrub trimming. If you wish to trim one or more of the shrubs on your property, you will be required to mark those specific shrubs with a visible ribbon, shoelace or flag of some kind indicating Miller should not trim. All shrubs not marked will be trimmed.

LANDSCAPING REQUESTS

If you have a request for tree, lawn or landscape work to be reviewed or completed, please submit it in writing and place the completed form in the black mailbox at 10515 Decatur Circle or submit a form to the Association email at westparkhills@live.com. Please include pictures and/or drawings as necessary. Requests will be reviewed, considered and prioritized according to the Landscaping and Grounds available budget.

If you wish to complete your own landscaping project, please submit your request in writing and place the completed form in the black mailbox at 10515 Decatur Circle or submit a form to the Association email at westparkhills@live.com. Please include pictures and/or drawings as necessary. If you complete landscaping work yourself, you are responsible for the disposal of materials/debris in a timely manner.

LANDSCAPING BLOCKS AND BLACK EDGING AROUND TREES AND FLOWER GARDENS

If you have landscaping blocks or black edging around a tree or flower garden on your property, you are responsible for ensuring that they are maintained (i.e., make sure they are in good condition, pleasing to the eye and not in disarray). If you no longer wish to maintain the landscaping blocks or black edging around a tree(s), please remove them yourself and dispose of the blocks.

How do I dispose of landscape blocks? Pavers, rocks and sand cannot be disposed of in the regular trash. You can give away or sell for reuse or bring to a business that recycles them into road-based materials. Refer to this Hennepin County website for further information.
<https://www.hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide/items/concrete-asphalt-pavers-rocks-sand>

TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL AND INSTALLATION

A walk-through of the Association will be completed with the contractor's arborist mid-summer to identify tree trimming needs, as well as potential removals and installations. Please submit specific requests to westparkhills@live.com for review and consideration. Final decisions on the project list will be determined based on the overall annual landscape and grounds budget.

AS A REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL ADDRESS WITH ALL REQUESTS.

Thank you.

Lisa Feldner, Landscape and Ground Director
West Park Hills Homeowners' Association