

2024 South Forestview Area Improvements Baxter, Minnesota

Project Newsletter



BAXTE 172114

Project Team

SEH Project Engineer

Neil Heinonen, PE

320.250.2090

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Resident Project Representative

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City of Baxter

Public Works Director/ City Engineer

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General Contractor

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218.405.0280

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Terry Kraemer

RL Larson Excavating, Inc

320.980.4416

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April 2024 | Project Newsletter

Hello, this information is for the *2024 South Forestview Area Improvements Project*. In this newsletter, we will be updating you on the project team, status, and help answer frequently asked questions. If you have not been added to the email distribution list, and wish to receive future Project Updates via email, please provide your email to Neil Heinonen at nheinonen@sehinc.com.

Project updates will be ELECTRONIC ONLY by email or the project website.

Project Website: <https://www.sehinc.com/baxter2024southforestview>

The project team consists of the City of Baxter, SEH, and RL Larson Excavating, Inc. SEH is the engineering firm that serves as the contact between the contractors and residents/property owners. All general project questions should initially be directed to SEH personnel.

Shane Murphy as SEH's Field Representative, will be on-site during active construction to observe project progress. Shane is the fastest link to problem solving because he will communicate directly with everyone on the construction team. Do not hesitate to contact Shane at 612.226.7984 with any questions you may have. If you are unable to reach Shane in the field, please contact Neil Heinonen at 320.250.2090 or (nheinonen@sehinc.com) in the SEH office.

Project Status and Schedule

The City of Baxter publicly bid the project and awarded the construction contract to the low bidder RL Larson Excavating, Inc. of St. Cloud, MN. RL Larson Excavating is the General Contractor responsible for the overall project.

You have probably noticed private utility companies (electricity, natural gas, telephone, cable TV, etc.) marking their private utilities and working in the project area already. This will continue throughout the construction process. Relocation of private utilities is necessary to avoid construction conflicts with proposed street and public utility construction. Utility relocation work is anticipated to occur within project areas. This includes work by service providers such as Xcel Energy, Crow Wing Power, or communication companies. Any service interruption will be communicated by each utility provider. Note, the City and RL Larson Excavating do not direct or control the operations for these private utilities.

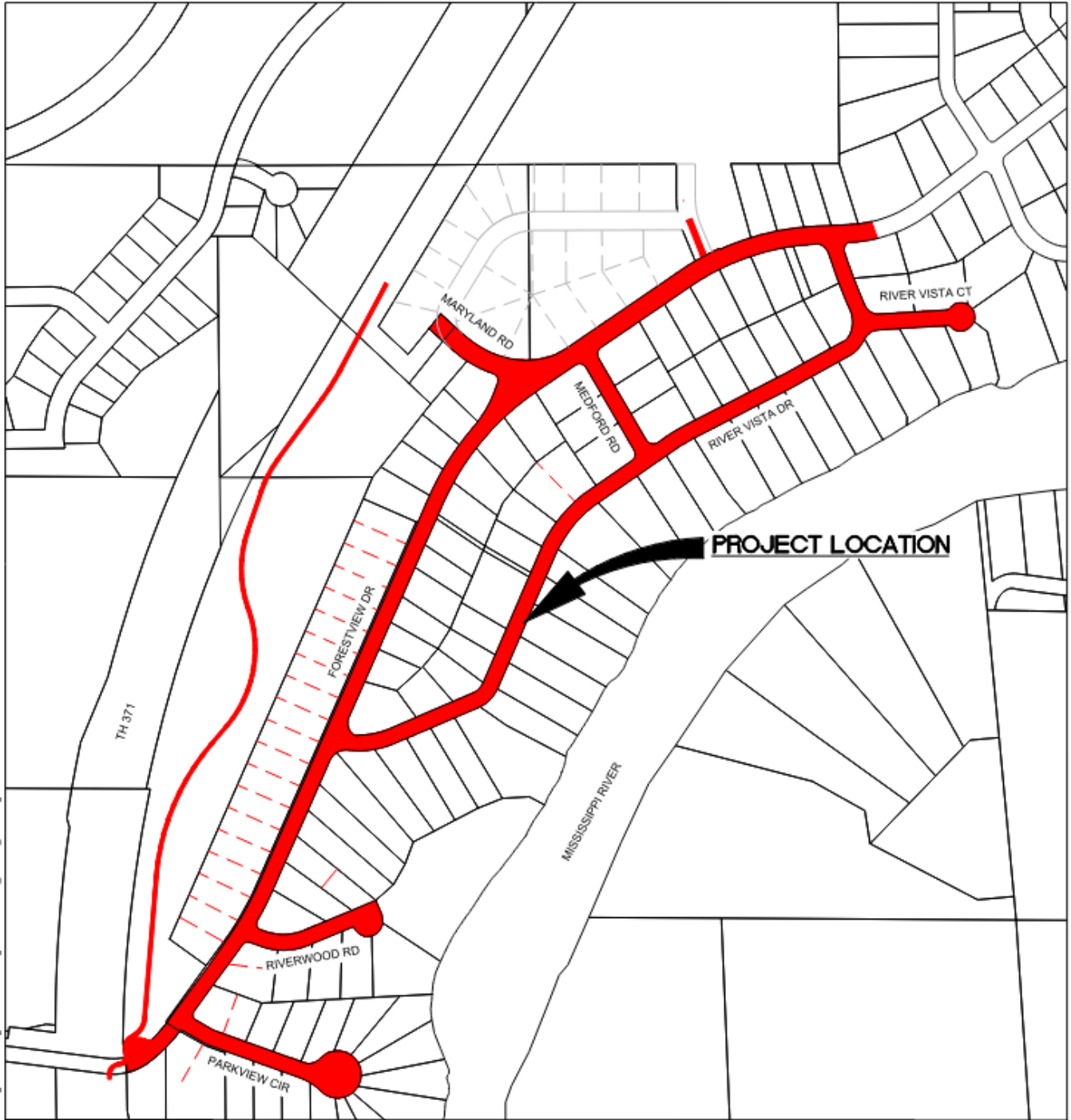
In addition to private utility activity, the Contractor plans to have a crews on site for grading, topsoil stripping and removal of pavement. The crews will start with stump removal, and continue with grading and pavement removals. The pavement removal and excavation work is **proposed to start on River Vista Drive the week of April 15th**. Note, all construction work and schedules are subject to change and weather.

SEH has been assisting the City to monitor the private utility activities, observe Contractor construction progress, and respond to property owner questions. There has been and will continue to be ongoing periodic survey crew activity by SEH, installing wood lath with paint/ribbons. Please do not disturb the survey stakes and utility flags as they are necessary for assisting with construction activities and for safety.

Description of Project

The project consists of road and utility work along various streets in the South Forestview Neighborhood. The work also includes trail construction and construction of a trailhead at the south limits of Forestview Drive. Construction items include, sanitary sewer main and sanitary sewer services, lift stations for the sanitary sewer system, watermain and water services, minimal culvert installation work, roadway construction, on-road bike lanes along Forestview Drive and Maryland Road, trail construction, and turf restoration. See the Figure below for the project location.

Project Location



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *What kind of activity can I expect during construction?*

A: Construction activity will include removal of pavement topsoil and excavation for road or ditch grading, general grading throughout the right of way, and deep utility excavations for the sanitary sewer and water mains and services. Construction is tedious, and we understand it can get old quickly. At times, it may even seem like not much is getting done. Remember, patience is the biggest asset that each of you bring to the job. If you keep in mind the fact that this project will be completed, hopefully construction will seem to go faster for you!

Q: *What will be done about construction dust?*

A: The contract provides for the Contractor to spread water on the road to help keep dust from creating an unsafe environment. However, this is an imperfect solution and will not solve the problem completely.

Q: *What will happen to the landscaping, retaining wall blocks, or planters that are near the road?*

A: The Contractor will remove any special landscaping located within the right-of-way. They are not required to protect items within the right of way or easement. If you wish to have items within the road right of way saved, please remove the items. The intent is to remove these features if they are within the project limits. The Contractor will not reinstall any landscaping removed from the right-of-way or easement areas.

Q: *What will happen to my irrigation/sprinkler system during construction?*

A: Due to nature of the project, it is anticipated there may be impacts to irrigation systems adjacent to project streets and trails. **Property owners who have an irrigation system are encouraged to mark their sprinkler heads and to contact Neil Heinenon (or a member of the team onsite) to inquire on potential impacts.** It may be necessary to temporarily remove a portion of your irrigation system within the public right-of-way or public easement area. In most cases, the City and Contractor will restore any damaged components to irrigation systems in conjunction with turf restoration work near the end of the project.

Q: *How will the turf areas disturbed by construction be restored?*

A: The Contractor will repair the disturbed areas of your yard/property with topsoil and sod, however seed is planned for areas that are not currently maintained or in front of undeveloped/empty lots. As the project progresses, it is essential that you water the new seed/sod regularly to help it establish. The Contractor is required to water and maintain the seed/sod for a specific period of time after it has been placed to ensure growth. Most Contractors do this with a tanker truck and hose, which means water is applied quickly in one or two passes every few days. The Contractor will give you a product that will grow, but it will not be perfect. It is essential that you water the new seed/sod regularly if you want a lush, green, well-established lawn.

Q: *What about my garbage and recycling during construction?*

A: You will continue to place your garbage and recycling containers at the usual location as normal until further notice. The General Contractor will collect and get them as necessary to a location the garbage and recycling company can dispose of the items. Please place your bins near the street the night before pick up so that the contractor can relocate them at the start of their day. If moved, Contractor will then bring your container back to your regular location. **Please mark you address number and street on your container.**

URGENT

**IMMEDIATE
ATTENTION NEEDED**

Special Information

It is very important that anyone who may need special consideration related to access or has mobility limitations or disability contact us as soon as possible. We would like to understand this so we can coordinate with emergency response organizations to locate any properties that may require special consideration so we are fully aware of the issues throughout construction and if quick response is needed to any specific property(s), there is a plan in place. Contact Neil Heinenon at 320.250.2090 or nheinonen@sehinc.com

Preservation of Construction Stakes and Utility Flags We need your help!

Please do not remove any wooden stakes you will see temporarily placed on the boulevards. These stakes are used by the Contractor to construct the project and are expensive to replace.

Also, please do not remove or relocate the colored utility location flags. These flags, in conjunction with the spray paint markings on the ground, are necessary for the Contractor to locate buried utilities. We understand these flags may be unsightly and difficult to mow around, but we need your help to protect the construction crews and residents/employees/patrons in your neighborhood.

Your help in keeping bystanders away from the construction area will ensure the project will progress safely.

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

Q: *How will I receive my mail during construction (not applicable for PO boxes)?*

A: Mail will be delivered to a central location illustrated in the map below. Mail will be switched to this location in groups as construction progresses. Mail delivery will be impacted for residents along River Vista Drive, River Vista Court, and Medford Road beginning Monday April 15. Additional communication will be provided prior to this change for residents along the other project roadways. A mailbox cluster will be placed on Fuschia Drive just south of Land O Lakes Road, *refer to the map below.*



Q: *Coordinating Sewer and Water Services (what are these green and blue stakes in my yard?)*

A: For those that have not finalized the service locations, you should notice survey stakes placed along the project limits near your property line along the roadway. We are placing stakes with green or blue ribbon at each property. In some cases our team members set stakes for property owners to reset or modify, while in other cases we left stakes on your property for you to have placed in the desired location. If you have not seen survey lath (stakes), you will see them soon. The intent is for each property owner to seek input of the best location of the service stubs from the parties that would complete the installation to the home. Once the stub location have been finalized, we are asking that you make a note on the stakes with your house number or some other marking to identify that you have set the stakes in a desirable location. After this is completed, please email one of our team members.

Q: *What impacts are expected with package deliveries as the project progresses?*

A: Coordinating delivery of packages (Fed Ex / UPS / USPS) has been a concern on previous projects. We will work with the parcel service companies on deliveries, but in some cases packages may need to be picked up at an alternate location. If you are having concerns with packages, reach out to Neil Heinonen or Shane Murphy (SEH).

Q: *Who do I contact if I have an invisible fence for my animal?*

A: If you have Invisible Dog Fences near the road or the edge of your property, please mark them with flags to notify the Contractor of their presence. In addition, notify staff onsite of any of these features. Please reach out to a representative from SEH to alert them of the presence of fences.

Q: What if I want to complete additional paving for the portion of the driveway from the right of way to our home?

A: As several residents have inquired about completing driveway work beyond the project limits. The paving subcontractor on this project is Anderson Brothers. We are providing the contact below if residents are interested in additional driveway work:

Nathan Noyes
Project Manager
Anderson Brothers
Phone: 218-820-9907
Email: nnoyes@andersonbrothers.com

Construction Zone

Detour, barricade, road closure signs will be installed throughout the project area to protect motorists during construction. Please pay careful attention to these construction signs. "Road Closed" and "Detour" signs are used where the road is impassable and closed to all traffic except for the Contractor's equipment or officially authorized vehicles. "Road Closed to Thru Traffic" signs are used where through traffic must detour to avoid a closure some distance beyond the sign, but where local traffic can move up to the point of closure. In this instance, local traffic would be defined as residential/business traffic from the particular street under construction.

There will also be times during construction that direct access to your driveway will be limited, particularly when underground utilities and storm sewer is being installed, the road is being subcut, when concrete is being placed and is curing, and when fresh, hot bituminous is being constructed. Access to your property is important to us, and the Contractor will work to minimize those times that access must be limited.

END OF UPDATE

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