

Lawn Maintenance Tips

December 14, 2016



www.TheParksatMillCreek.com

Questions are welcomed:
TheParksACC@msn.com

What's the Secret?

The ACC is often asked for tips on what can be done to help our lawns thrive in our neighborhood's environment. This isn't always easy but with a little effort and planning it can be done. The soil in The Parks is clay and rock; left to us as a "gift" from the developer. Combined with our wet weather conditions this makes things more conducive to moss, clover and weeds invading our lawns than they are to vigorous lawn growth. But do not despair, with some regular maintenance over time you can have an outstanding looking lawn that gets easier to care for year to year and truly enhances the curb appeal of your home.

Here is a routine used by some in The Parks that has proven good results over time:

- Thatch every Fall.
- Aerate every 1 to 2 years in Fall or Spring.
- Over-seed in Spring and Fall.
- Top dress with thin layer of lawn soil in Spring and Fall. Not so thick as to prevent the grass seed from germinating...just enough to hide the seed from the birds and to help amend the soil.
- Fertilize with an organic fertilizer about every 6 weeks during growing season with one last application in Fall after the grass has stopped growing.
- Apply Lime at the same time as fertilizer. This is key to controlling moss in your lawn
- Water lawn with 1" of water every week (with average water pressure here it takes 2 to 2.5 hours to apply 1" of water to the average front yard lawn). You may have to do this 2 times a week during hot spells. Using a container to act as a "rain gauge" helps in the beginning until you understand your sprinkler's coverage rate.
- Hand water parking strip every 1 to 2 days (depending on temperatures) for 20 to 30 minutes). The parking strips are prone to drying out faster due to the heat from the adjacent pavement. Naturally, watering can be done by a sprinkler but you will likely experience more waste in runoff.
- Weed control is best done by hand from an environmental standpoint. However you may need to do something more aggressive to kick start your weed, clover or moss removal. Pick your method and products carefully; any runoff will make its way to the waterways in our area since they are the outlet for our storm water system. Also, many products will use chemicals that stain surrounding concrete, such as the iron in many moss killers, creating an additional problem to deal with.
- New lawns of sod or seed require more frequent watering in the beginning to insure they don't dry out while germinating or taking root.
- And don't forget to mow at least once a week during the growing season.



It is really just that simple, a little sweat but not complicated.

Happy gardening!

P.S. For the purist among us, combining the steps above with the ultimate optional step of removing your current lawn and soil down 12 inches, back filling with good topsoil and seeding or sodding a new lawn can give you a tremendous boost to a great looking lawn.