



The construction season is upon us. Here's what you need to know as we head into a productive 2023 construction season.

The City of Davenport has updated its Supplemental Specifications and added new Supplemental Design Specifications. With this year's update, the engineering, design and construction community should be aware addendum(s) to the supplemental specifications may occur multiple times during the year. You can stay on top of changes by subscribing to notifications at www.davenportiowa.com/ss.

As we focus on the upcoming year and specification changes, we do need to highlight a few areas of concern. Together, our role, is to design, construct, and deliver infrastructure improvements that meet the standards established by the City. As such, the citizens of Davenport expect us to be fiscally responsible stewards of our resources and environment. This expectation extends to all involved in the delivery of infrastructure projects and improvements.

2023 Highlighted Points of Concern | Inadequate Compliance and Required Improvement

- **Construction Survey.** SUDAS Section 11010 provides guidance for what is expected from the Contractor providing construction survey for a given project. Recently, contractors have not been providing verification of benchmarks, staking records, and/or hubs or lath at the prescribed intervals for various layout tasks. This construction season, and in future construction seasons, City staff will be focusing on requiring the contractor to verify the benchmarks used for construction and providing hubs and associated lath as described in SUDAS 11010.

As part of the construction survey scope, Contractors are expected to assist utility companies with any utility relocations that may be needed to complete the project. At the Engineer's request, the Contractor shall provide limited staking (lath and hubs) sufficient for a given utility to ascertain a new location for a utility to be relocated.

- **Seeding.** Restoring healthy, relatively weed free and debris free, grass has been an ongoing issue for City staff and affected property owners. To remedy this issue, City staff has new property owner notification requirements, and will be more focused on adherence to SUDAS Section 9010.
 - **Property Owner Notice.** Contractors will be provided seeding letter templates by the City. Contractors will be required to update and distribute these seeding/turf restoration notices to affected properties upon seeding, 7 days before the acceptance period ends, and with temporary/out-of-growing season seeding that may be performed.
 - **Example of Adequate Coverage.** Find examples of adequate coverage on the website, www.davenportiowa.com/ss.
 - **Restoration Period.** Watering, care, maintenance and repair are left to the discretion of the contractor with the understanding that final payment will only be made when 70% coverage of healthy, relatively weed free and debris free, grass is achieved in restored areas. Also refer to Section 1070, 2.08 C of SUDAS.

- **Watering.** While watering is only required as needed during the first three-week seeding window, we recommend contractors water as frequently as needed to achieve the established restoration benchmark.
 - **Mowing.** Contractors will be required to mow grass reaching three to four inches during the restoration period. Mowing should only be conducted with well-maintained equipment and removing only 1/3 of the growth or approximately one inch.
 - **Weeding.** Weeding frequency is at the discretion of the contractor. Keep in mind a key to successfully seeding an area and achieving acceptance is weed prevention.
 - **Solid Waste.** Litter and debris should be managed on the job site and disturbed areas at all time.
 - **Repair.** The contractor is responsible to repair damages as a result of construction and maintenance of disturbed areas. Should repair issue be the result of property owner activities consult the Project Manager.
- **Temporary Seeding (Out-of-Growing Season).** The Project Manager will direct the Contractor during out-of-growing season applications. The contractor will be compensated for temporary and in-season seeding when temporary seeding is necessary.
 - **Acceptance and Final Payment.** Final payment will only be made for “seeded areas that are in a live, healthy, growing and well-established condition without eroded areas, bare spot, weeds, undesirable grasses, disease or insects” no sooner than 60-days from the date that all activities were completed.”

Should areas be over seeded during the acceptance period, acceptance may be delayed until the seeded areas are suitable for acceptance. If new seed is placed, after the 60-day acceptance period, to repair bare areas, the 60-day acceptance period will restart on the date of the new seeding.

- **Compaction of Subgrade behind the Curb.** Lack of compaction between the curb and sidewalk is indirectly related to some of the seeding issues experienced on recent City projects. Contractors are expected to provide the same compactive effort to subgrade soils behind the curb as they are in any other location – 95% of Maximum Standard Proctor, prior to placement of topsoil. City staff will focus on ensuring that this is done on each City project.
- **Intake and Manhole Castings.** There has been some confusion between the SUDAS specifications and the City of Davenport Supplemental Specifications as to when new castings are required for manholes and/or inlets. This will be formally clarified with the release of the City of Davenport’s 2023 Supplemental Specifications, but is generally clarified as follows: *All new storm or sanitary manholes or stormwater inlets shall receive new castings. For major or minor adjustments, all storm or sanitary sewer manholes shall receive new castings (this is true of chimney seals also). All inlets indicated to receive major or minor adjustments shall reuse existing castings, unless otherwise indicated in the plans.*
- **Use of Maturity Method.** The City of Davenport will no longer provide concrete cylinder testing services for City projects. Rather, the time for opening pavement will be determined by use of maturity testing. Maturity testing(s) to be provided by Contractor, following SUDAS specifications.