

## Topsoil Info from Peer Communities

### **Blaine**

Definition: *Top soil*: Black dirt composed of unconsolidated material, largely undecomposed organic matter with no more than 35% sand. Requires 4 inches. They do inspect but simply lift up sod to verify that topsoil is there. They do not require any documentation regarding the material. The requirement is for both vegetative growth and water conservation.

### **Andover**

Definition: "organic/black topsoil" shall be defined as soil/dirt that has sufficient amounts of organic material to establish a suitable foundation for vegetative growth. The topsoil should contain no more than thirty five percent (35%) sand content.

Requires 4 inches and is encouraged to be tilled in with the existing grade for optimal growth. Do not require load tickets nor do they routinely do any inspections. Originally implemented for water conservation and turf establishment purposes. Only required for lots on municipal sewer and water.

### **Elk River**

Doesn't have a topsoil requirement. ERMU attempted to incorporate into City Code several years ago to assist with water conservation, but it was not well received (presumably by the community/developers) and therefore was never adopted.

### **Big Lake**

Definition: Black dirt consisting of not more than 35% sand. Requires 4 inches across all disturbed areas. There is a basic landscape inspection that is done to verify that the yard is established, trees have been planted, and topsoil was installed. No documentation is required regarding the soil material. Likely established to reduce demand on groundwater for lawn maintenance (water conservation).

### **Ramsey**

Looking back at the cases initially prepared for consideration in 2008, the original proposed definition of topsoil was "Black dirt composed of unconsolidated material, with a sufficient amount of organic matter to establish a suitable foundation for vegetative growth. The composition of topsoil shall be limited to no more than thirty-five percent (35%) sand content."