The topsoil preservation requirements described above must be met no later than at the time the lot or lots have reached final stabilization.
Any development plans submitted to the City shall comply with Statewide Urban Design and Specifications (SUDAS). A minimum of 6 inches of topsoil shall be placed over the disturbed area prior to final stabilization with permanent seeding or sodding (Chapter 7 Section 7E-24 & Section 7E-25). On-site topsoil shall be used unless compost-amended or off-site topsoil is specified. Off-site topsoil may be allowed upon approval of the city engineer. The topsoil may be moved directly to an area where it is to be used, or may be stockpiled for future use (Division 2 Part 2.01 & Part 3.02).

**Provide Stockpile Protection**
Stockpiles need to be protected throughout the construction project to minimize erosion. Straw mulch, hydromulch, erosion control blankets, and tarps can be used to provide protection.

**Decompack Soils First**
Decompack subsurface soils before adding topsoil. A soil ripper (used in agricultural fields), soil spader or tilling equipment can be used to decompack soils. Then resspread topsoil at a depth specified by local requirements. Care should be taken when resspreading topsoil to provide a good bed that is decompacked as well. There is final finishing equipment that can be used for this. A soil penetrometer can be used to monitor soil compaction. Recommendations are to have readings less than 200 psi in the top 8 inches to ensure that grasses and plants will thrive.

**What if More Topsoil is Needed?**
Compost can be used in place of topsoil. One inch of compost is equal to three inches of topsoil as indicated in Iowa SUDAS. The Iowa Stormwater Management Manual, Design Guidelines, Chapter 5, Section 6 on Soil Quality Management and Restoration provides guidance on additional soil quality restoration methods to achieve 8 inches of a healthy topsoil. Additional guidance is provided for amending to create other soil textures.

**More Information**
Contact your local stormwater coordinator or visit [www.IowaStormwater.org](http://www.IowaStormwater.org) for more information on topsoil regulations. Learn More, Do More!