

September Supervisor's Report Mall/Concourse

The past month has been extremely eventful Downtown! There were a number of special events, including several Live on King Concerts, the conclusion of Jazz at Five, Taste of Madison and Iron Man just to name a few. We adjusted staffing levels for both Taste of Madison and Iron Man to make sure the area was in the best shape possible for all visitors. We began and finished painting light poles around the Square and have started working on the poles on State Street. Our scenery has changed significantly at the Top of State with the removal of the Philosopher Stones and bus shelter, and all sidewalk repairs have been completed.

Without question, the Mall District Expansion has been our biggest priority over the past few weeks. The expansion became effective September 1, so the crew has worked hard to learn the new areas and bring them up to speed. To accommodate the expansion, we have added a Foreperson and two additional Parks Maintenance Workers. Mark Kiesow is the new Foreperson, and we are excited to have him on board. Mark worked on the Mall Maintenance staff for 6 years until he was promoted to an Athletic Field Leadworker in Parks where he has worked the last year and a half. Mark brings with him a wealth of knowledge about the history of the Mall and the work, as well as his expertise in turf and landscape management. We've started our regular sidewalk maintenance and trash pick-up of these walks, and have spent many hours weeding the tree grates and cracks in the area. Furniture has been ordered to help give the area a feel that is consistent with State Street.

Heading into September, we will have a busy couple of weeks of clean-up following Taste of Madison. We will have some set-up for the final Live on King Concert. In addition, we've noticed that leaves have begun falling, so by the end of the month, we will anticipate increasing leaf removal efforts. Our sidewalk washing program continues, as we have nearly completed the square and plan to start washing State Street beginning with the 100 block. We also plan to begin a regular sidewalk scrubbing program to help keep the walks cleaner longer. In addition, we are aerating and overseeding the lawn area, and hopefully with a few tweaks to our program, the grass will begin to turn around. All of our banners are in the process of being changed out. We will continue our painting work and wrap up with all light poles and three bus shelters by early October.