

Mall/Concourse Monthly Report March 2014

As February ends, we're still experiencing extremely cold weather with barely a hint of spring. We've been removing and hauling away accumulated snow so that we'll be able to get the sidewalks cleaned up more quickly when the weather finally does warm.

March is the month we begin preparation for summer. When the threat of winter weather has passed, our snow removal equipment will be removed and stored until next autumn. Mowing decks will be installed and our small mowers and trimmers will be checked over for any possible repair needs. Our grass beds will be raked of winter debris and evaluated for damage since last summer.

Spring flowers are on the way. Plans for the annual pansy installation are finalized, with planting scheduled for the week of April 14th. We certainly hope that we don't have a repeat of last spring's struggle to get the pots thawed in time for planting. We'll also be changing the banners on the pedestrian lights over to the spring images, which are tulips. They may be the only tulips we see for a while.

The Mall Maintenance service area will be expanding as of April 1st. We will be adding the blocks of 400 N. Broom Street and 300 W. Gorham Street, adjacent to and south of State Street. These areas will begin receiving sidewalk picking, sweeping, and cleaning services immediately, and will of course be folded into our snow removal route next winter. Some of these sidewalks are narrower than the rest of our service area, however, and will present some challenges as we work to find the best equipment to use. The sidewalk width may also present impediments to the siting of additional benches, bike racks, and trash cans. What may seem like plenty of room in the summer months can suddenly become woefully inadequate when there is a foot of snow to clear.

The special event season starts slowly, as usual. Look for the Shamrock Shuffle and St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 16.