

REPORT ON MALL CONCOURSE MAINTENANCE AND SPECIAL EVENTS
Submitted to the DOWNTOWN COORDINATING COMMITTEE on October 17, 2013

MALL CONCOURSE – TOM SKAIFE, SUPERVISOR; LAURA BAUER, LEADWORKER
SEPTEMBER REPORT

August was a very productive month with a variety of projects. As mowing operations slowed, crews were able to focus efforts on weeding and pruning throughout the parks. West Parks hosted Ride The Drive, and crews spent a great deal of time detailing at Rennebohm and Garner Parks prior to the event as well as setting up and cleaning up for the event the day of. We hosted Days of Caring projects at Elver, Vilas, Brittingham and Olin, where a total of 52 volunteers did a number of projects including weeding and pruning throughout the parks and removing invasive species from no mow areas. The summer softball season came to an end mid-month, and the athletic crew switched gears to begin working on football and soccer fields for the fall season. Operation Fresh Start concluded their services at the end of the month after an additional two and a half weeks with us that consisted of them weeding at Goodman Pool, painting picnic tables, replacing rotted bench boards, removing invasive species from the no mows at Olin and Vilas, as well as assisting with clearing brush to gain vehicular access through Quarry Park. Meadowood Meet and Eat's also concluded at the end of the month. As the month drew to a close, all of our students returned to school, reducing our seasonal staff to about half.

Going into September, we will be wrapping up our recycling program and returning the containers to Streets. We will also be working on athletic field renovations at Vilas, Rennebohm and Wingra in particular, as well as beginning broader scale fall aeration towards the end of the month. Mid month, we will be renting a forestry mower to expand on the work we started at Walnut Grove's dog park in July. As the Goldenrod begins to fade, our field mowing operations will move into full swing. Hayrides begin early in the month, so we are preparing current seasonal staff for the early rides, and we will be training new seasonal staff for later in the season. Avant Gardening will be working at Olin to aerate and overseed areas affected by Great Taste of the Midwest. Staff will continue to work on detailing projects throughout the parks, including continuing with the Marshall Park project we started earlier this summer and keeping up with the Leopold clearing we had done last fall. Going into fall, it looks to be another fast-paced month.

OCTOBER REPORT

The main story at Mall/Concourse in October is leaf removal. Though many of the State Street trees were replaced during the street's reconstruction, these new trees are beginning to mature, to provide much-needed shade, and to contribute significantly to our leaf removal duties. Additionally, leaves from the very old oaks on the Capitol side of the street are always blowing onto our sidewalk just as they always have. We find that even with a crew dedicated to leaf pickup all day, it seems that we never really catch up until late October. We love the shade, but it's quite clear that it comes with a price.

Freakfest preparations are well underway. Several years' practice results in a smoother process, but there are always small changes to be accommodated. This year there is discussion about moving the Gilman stage slightly, and also about the best way to safely accommodate crowds there and at the top of State Street.

With the grass growth slowing, October is also the month we begin preparing our equipment for the winter season. Mowing decks will be removed and plows attached. Everything will be checked over to make sure it is ready to go, as we often see our first snowfall in November.

SPECIAL EVENTS - KELLI LAMBERTY, COMMUNITY EVENTS COORDINATOR

The following tables show the number of events, block parties and amplification permits for the period of January through June for both 2012 and 2013.

2013 Permitted Activities

Madison, WI

	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	TOTAL
Events	0	1	2	15	28	39	85
Block Parties	0	0	0	0	2	14	16
Amp Permits	0	0	0	3	3	13	19
Total	0	1	2	18	33	66	120

2012 Permitted Activities

Madison, WI

	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	TOTAL
Events	0	3	4	12	31	34	84
Block Parties	0	0	0	1	1	12	14
Amp Permits	0	0	2	1	3	15	21
Total	0	3	6	14	35	61	119