

Monthly Parks Report for April Central Parks

We're hoping winter is behind us. Although it was a fairly mild winter overall, we had a nice, long ice season once it started, with March 6 being the last day of the season. We quickly switched gears by removing hockey boards at Vilas and cleaning and disassembling our warming houses. Crews began repairing and painting tables and trash barrels in preparation for the season. As the snow melted and temperatures warmed up, we posted all of our fields closed in an effort to keep eager park users from damaging the turf. Our seasonal hiring process is well under way. In addition, we began picking trash, performing spring clean-up and repairing snow plow damage on our routes. Staff worked along with Parks Construction staff to add wood mulch to the playground surfacing of Olive Jones Park during spring break.

As we begin April, crews continue to work on their routes. Crews are tending to tree stumps that remain from EAB efforts last year. We've begun prepping baseball and softball diamonds, and practices and games are in full swing. Shelter sides are in the process of coming down. Everything is starting to come to life.

April will be a very busy month as always. Reservations begin mid-month, as will weekend coverage. Crews will continue to prepare parks for the season, by keeping them clean, delivering trash cans and picnic tables, and more than likely mowing very soon. By the end of the month, we will be bringing in seasonal staff as needed. As we bring in seasonal staff, we will conduct seasonal orientations to prepare them for the season.

Monthly Parks Report for April Mall/Concourse Maintenance

March brought us a little bit of everything. We had a couple sizeable snow events that kept us removing snow for days following the events. We had some excitement with St. Patrick's Day festivities, which brought sizeable crowds to the area. All banners were changed over from spring to winter, and snowflake lights were removed. Temperatures were so beautiful mid-month that businesses started bringing out their outdoor cafes, and sidewalks filled with people just enjoying the first signs of Spring. We prepared and responded to March Madness celebrations, particularly following the Elite Eight games through the Championship game. For the Championship game, which brought at least 12,000 people downtown, we worked with Streets for clean-up efforts similar to Freakfest operations, and had the walks and street clear by 5 am, in time for regular bus traffic.

As we continue into April, crews are working to prepare planters for spring flowers by removing winter displays, adding soil and placing pots that were kept in storage over winter. Crews have begun and will continue mulching our landscaped beds, and we will be aerating, fertilizing and overseeding our turf areas. Crews are in the process of replacing aged street furniture and working with our vendors to have it refurbished according to our plans. As conditions warrant, we will also begin our sidewalk washing program for the season. Contractors from the Library Mall construction project are looking to begin installing landscape plans towards the end of the month as well. Events will pick up considerably by the end of the month.