Known as the Grounds Department until 1990, Campus Facilities-Landscape Services is the department responsible for landscape maintenance, litter removal, and, perhaps most importantly at this time of year, snow removal.

In the event of winter weather, the Snow Removal Crew clears miles of sidewalks, campus streets and parking lots on the MU campus and University Hospital and Clinics grounds. How much ground does that constitute? 27.5 miles of campus sidewalks and seven miles of campus streets and drives (a map is available at http://umcspace.missouri.edu/snowremoval/).

Using 11 truck plows, 12 sidewalk plows, four cinder salt spreaders and a host of snow shovels and sand spreaders, the Crew spends more than 2,500 labor hours and uses more than 20 tons of potassium chloride (an environmentally friendly de-icer) and 100 tons of sand a year. They are assisted by their “snow brothers in arms” from Campus Facilities-Facility Operations and Campus Facilities-Construction Services, who play some very critical roles in clearing the campus.

The high priority routes are cleared of snow or ice and ice melt is applied no later than 7 a.m. This means no matter how bad the weather conditions or how slick the roads might be, the Crew works through the pre-dawn hours to ensure that staff and patients can get to the Hospitals and Clinics, and faculty, staff, and students can safely traverse the campus.

Pete Millier, Director of Campus Facilities-Landscape Services and Mizzou Botanic Garden, notes that “We believe that in addition to contributing to this effort we are here to support the University's mission of education, research, and extension and actively pursue opportunities to do so… I do not believe that an outside contractor could provide the level of care and deliver the services that CF-LS does in as efficient and effective manner.”

This multi-talented group of staff has received accolades not only for their winter weather work but for their fair-weather efforts and their environmental work. In 1994 and 1999 Landscape Services was recognized for National Honors by the Professional Grounds Managers Society. In 2004 the department was awarded the Missouri Arbor Award of Excellence by the Department of Natural Resources. In 2006 CF-LS won the University division in the America in Bloom competition as well as special recognition for the Urban Forestry program. They are also very proud of the great strides made with Tiger Tailgate Recycling that began in 2005 and the first Tiger Treasures event in 2007.

On behalf of the MU campus and the University Hospitals and Clinics, the Staff Advisory Council salutes Campus Facilities-Landscape Services for all they do.