

Monumental task: National Park Service plows away 61,875 tons of snow from National Mall

By Jennifer Harper, Tuesday, January 26, 2016



It was a monumental task - with much vulnerable marble and history to consider. The National Park Service took special care when crews went to the aid of the memorials and sidewalks along the National Mall, hidden under snow during the blizzard that recently paralyzed Washington. The crews ultimately plowed and shoveled away 61,875 tons of the white stuff. Carefully. The federal agency has shared some secrets of success.

“Crews take special care when shoveling at the monuments and memorials to ensure that these icons are not chipped or damaged, especially the soft Colorado Yule marble of the Lincoln Memorial steps, or the pink Tennessee marble of the floors at the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials,” the service said Tuesday.

“National Park Service maintenance crews use a concrete-friendly calcium magnesium compound to melt snow and ice on sidewalks, and a salt sand mixture to melt snow and ice on roadways.”

This is major snow moving. Crews removed 8.25 million cubic feet of snow from the memorials and the access ways. It is “enough to fill the Washington Monument 18.4 times. And the weight of that snow is 1.6 times heavier than the entire Lincoln Memorial,” the park service noted.

In total, the intrepid crews tended to 55 miles of sidewalks, 47 miles of roadways, plus 600,000 square feet of plazas.

Care for a peek? Find the Washington Monument live [EarthCam here](#)