

— City Stats —

2018 Citizen Survey Results

The annual citizen survey was administered in fall 2018 and had a total of 941 respondents.



79%

of respondents were satisfied with the overall quality of life in the city

The major categories of City services that residents thought were most important for the City to provide were:

1

Public safety
services

2

Condition of
City streets

3

City utility
services • water • electric • sewer

4

Solid waste
services

These were also rated as the top four most important City services in the 2017 survey.



of respondents were satisfied with the overall quality of services provided by the City

Full results can be viewed on CoMo.gov

Family Fun Fests summer schedule

Columbia Parks and Recreation will bring the Family Fun Fest series back to Cosmo Park this summer. The Fests are held at Cosmo Park, 1615 Business Loop 70 West, from 6 to 8 p.m. on the third Wednesdays of each month from May through September.

Family Fun Fests are free and offer live performances, art activities, hands-on learning, face painting and balloon art. Food trucks will also be present at the Fests, check the Parks and Recreation Facebook event page to determine specific trucks at each event.

2019 dates and themes are:

May 15: Kindness Carnival

June 19: Explore Outdoors

July 17: Fitness is Fun

Aug. 21: Around the World

Sept. 18: Creative Kids

The Family Fun Fest series is sponsored by the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau, KPLA 101.5 Radio, KOMU 8, ParentLink and Tigers Community Credit Union.



Kids enjoy free fun and interactive learning at Parks and Recreation's Family Fun Fests. The series is back this summer on the third Wednesdays of each month from May through September.

MoDOT plans to close Route AC bridge on Highway 63 for rehab beginning May 30

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) plans to close the Route AC (Grindstone Parkway) bridge on U.S. Route 63 in Columbia from May 30 to Aug. 11, weather permitting.

The project will close the bridge for up to 60 days to rehabilitate the bridge and perform preventative maintenance. Motorists will still be able to use the entrance and exit ramps on both sides of Highway 63 but will not be able to cross over the bridge. Signs will alert motorists of the closed bridge and a detour will be available during construction. The City will share the detour routes on social media once they are available. For more information, contact MoDOT Transportation Project Manager Melissa Wilbers at 573.751.7699 or visit MoDOT.org.



Trail etiquette tips

With temperatures warming up, it's time to get back outside and spend time on Columbia's trails. Keep in mind that the trails are for everyone, so please follow these basic rules of trail etiquette:

- Dogs must be on a leash and reined in to within four feet. Dog handlers must clean up after their dogs and dispose of dog waste in a sanitary manner. (City Ord. 17-143)
- Keep right, pass on the left, move off the trail when stopping.
- Operate a bicycle at a speed that is reasonable and prudent under existing conditions. (City Ord. 17-141)
- Bicyclists should use hand signals, equip bikes with a white front light and red taillight for travel before dawn and after dusk.
- Be respectful of private property.
- Bike helmets are required for persons 15 years of age and younger. (City Ord. 14-509)
- Use authorized trails. Respect closures. Minimize trail erosion by avoiding muddy trails and shortcuts.
- Don't litter. Pack out what you pack in.
- Motorized equipment is prohibited, except: official and emergency vehicles, powered mobility devices for persons with disabilities and pedal-assisted bicycles.



With temperatures warming up and more people visiting Columbia trails, it's a good time to learn about trail etiquette tips. For example, dogs must be leashed and reined within four feet on the City's trails.

Truman Cypress Solar Project moving forward

City Council authorized construction of the two underground electric Rebel Hill circuits for the upcoming Truman Cypress Solar Project. This project will increase the share of the City of Columbia's electric supply coming from renewable energy sources.

The City is working to increase the amount of electricity coming from renewable sources. Plans are being developed by a company called Cypress Creek Renewables (ccrenew.com) to build a 10 megawatt photovoltaic solar panel farm on two tracts of land totaling 140 acres owned by Dunlop Development LLC, east of Burnside Drive and south of I-70 Drive SE.

To bring the 10 megawatts of new electricity into Columbia, the Utilities Department proposed to build two underground 13.8KV three-phase electric feeders from the solar farm to points of connection with the existing 13.8KV Rebel Hill Substation feeders RH211 on St. Charles Road east of Elderbrook Drive, and RH224 on Copse Court, north of Maple Leaf Drive. The new feeders will be installed in existing easements wherever possible, although some new easements will be needed to cross privately owned land to complete the project.

The next step will be for City Council authorization to negotiate for easements needed for the construction of the underground electric feeder lines.

It is predicted that the new Rebel Hill substation circuit feeder extensions will be completed and energized by the end of 2019, coinciding with the completion of the solar generation facility.

Office of Cultural Affairs now located in City Hall

The City of Columbia Office of Cultural Affairs is now located on the second floor of City Hall, 701 E. Broadway.

The City of Columbia flag and the official Commemorative Posters can continue to be purchased at the Convention and Visitors Bureau in the Walton Building, 300 S. Providence Road. Free arts guides are available in the Walton Building and at City Hall.

The mailing address for the Office of Cultural Affairs continues to be P.O. Box 6015, Columbia MO 65205 and all phone numbers and emails for staff members remain unchanged. Contact information can be found on the Office of Cultural Affairs website at CoMo.gov/arts.

2019 Public Works Capital Improvement Program projects focus on safety

The City of Columbia Public Works Department's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) seeks to improve street safety through a Vision Zero approach to project design and construction. All projects pass through a public involvement process, which includes conducting neighborhood meetings, asking for public feedback on proposed plans and public hearings before City Council approval.

"We're very enthusiastic about this year's capital improvement projects," Public Works Director David Nichols said. "Projects are planned in a way to ensure safety of workers during construction and to cause the least amount of traffic disruption as possible. Above all, once completed, these construction projects will greatly enhance road safety for our community members and visitors."

Roundabouts

Three roundabouts, funded through the 2015 Capital Improvement Sales Tax ballot, will be constructed at busy intersections in Columbia this year to increase safety, reduce queue lengths and decrease travel times:

- Forum and Green Meadows: This roundabout will be a partial dual-lane roundabout constructed at the intersection of Forum and Green Meadows. The estimated investment is \$1.2 million.
- Nifong and Old Mill Creek: This roundabout will be a single-lane roundabout, expandable to a partial dual-lane roundtable, constructed at the intersection of Nifong and Old Mill Creek Road. Vawter School Road and Country Wood Road also intersect at this roundabout. The estimated investment is \$1.2 million. (A second roundabout will be constructed in the summer of 2020 at the intersection of Nifong and Sinclair Street.)
- Keene and I-70 Drive Southeast: This roundabout will be a single-lane roundabout constructed at the intersection of Keene and I-70 Drive Southeast in fall 2019. The estimated investment is \$832,000. MoDOT is funding 50 percent of the construction cost through its cost-share program.

Sidewalks

Two sidewalk projects will be constructed this year to increase safety for pedestrians.

- Carter Lane Sidewalk: A concrete sidewalk with integral curb will be constructed on the east side of Carter Lane from Foxfire Drive to Huntridge Drive. The estimated investment is \$161,800 paid for through the 2015 Capital Improvement Sales Tax ballot and MoDOT TAP Funding.
- Lynn-Oak-Sexton Sidewalks: Concrete sidewalks will be constructed to fill in the sidewalk gaps along the blocks of Lynn Street, Oak Street and Sexton Road. The estimated investment is \$213,000 paid for through the 2015 Capital Improvement Sales Tax ballot and a Community Development Block Grant.

Other Major Projects

A major street in northern Columbia will be widened to improve safety, an alley in a central neighborhood will be restored to improve access and a trail will be constructed to promote nonmotorized transportation.

- Ballenger Lane: The construction of six-foot wide shoulders along Ballenger Lane, from Ria Street to Mexico Gravel Road, will provide a safer path for nonmotorized community members. The widening of the pavement will provide a thoroughfare for pedestrians, bicyclists and other nonmotorized transportation users. Existing sidewalks from neighboring subdivisions will also be connected to the new shoulders. The estimated investment is \$2.2 million paid for through the 2015 Capital Improvement Sales Tax ballot.
- Third Avenue Alley: The construction of a 10-foot wide asphalt pavement within the alley right-of-way of Third Avenue (between Garth Avenue and Grand Avenue) will improve access to the properties along each side of the alley. The estimated investment is \$150,000 paid for through the Transportation Sales Tax.
- Shepard to Rollins Trail: The construction of a 10-foot-wide concrete trail with a bridge across Hinkson Creek will connect the east end of Rollins Street and the Bluffdale Drive cul-de-sac providing a safe passageway for pedestrians, bicyclists and other nonmotorized transportation users. The estimated investment is \$1.74 million paid for through the 2012 Federal Highway Administration's Non-Motorized Transportation grant.

For more information about individual projects, including updates throughout the year, visit [CoMo.gov/PublicWorks](https://www.columbia-mo.gov/CoMo.gov/PublicWorks).



The City of Columbia Public Works Department's Capital Improvement Program projects in 2019 include roundabouts, sidewalks and other major projects which all focus on improving safety.

Progress as Promised: Vandiver Drive, Parker Street roundabout completed in January



The roundabout at Vandiver and Parker opened in December 2018. Sidewalks and street lighting were completed in January 2019.

The City of Columbia's newest roundabout opened at Vandiver Drive and Parker Street in December 2018. Street lighting and sidewalks were completed in January 2019. The roundabout, which has a truck apron to accommodate larger commercial vehicles and buses, also included leveling the street and installing splitter islands and crosswalks. Landscaping of the center island will be done by private volunteers as weather permits.

In a four-year period, there were 14 reported collisions at the intersection of

Vandiver Drive and Parker Street with six reported injuries. National and local studies show that roundabouts maintain traffic flow while reducing crashes by 40 percent, injury crashes by nearly 80 percent and fatal/disabling crashes by 90 percent.

The roundabout was approved by the Columbia City Council on July 3, 2017 following the City's public involvement process. Construction began on Aug. 27, 2018. The \$900,000 project investment was funded by the 2018 County Road Tax Rebate and the 2015 Capital Improvement Sales Tax. The contractor was S&A Equipment and Builders.

For more information, visit [CoMo.gov/PublicWorks/Vandiver-Parker](https://www.columbia-mo.gov/PublicWorks/Vandiver-Parker).

Moving? Don't forget your utility account!

Utility Customer Service (UCS) knows that if you are moving you have a very long "to do" list. While marking things off your list, don't forget your utility account. If you're leaving for the summer, please remember to terminate your services. You can do this in person, online at [CoMo.gov](https://www.CoMo.gov) or by calling UCS at 573.874.7380.

Customers who leave temporarily for the summer, or who are required to keep utilities active until their leases expire, may provide UCS with a temporary alternate mailing address. This ensures you receive your bills in a timely manner, allowing you to keep your utility account current. You may also do this by phone or online by selecting the "update your contact information" link. If you have additional questions as your move approaches, contact UCS at 573.874.7380.

Contact Center Connection

Need to get rid of an old appliance? Call 573.874.CITY (2489) at least 24 hours in advance to request a curbside pickup on your normal trash day. A fee of \$22.75 per appliance will be added to your monthly utility bill for appliances containing refrigerant (refrigerators, window air conditioners, etc.) and \$15.19 per appliance for ones without refrigerant (stove, washer, dryer, dishwasher, etc.). If the appliance is removed before the morning of collection, call 573.874.CITY (2489) to avoid the charge. You can also email your request to City@CoMo.gov or submit a form online at [CoMo.gov](https://www.CoMo.gov).

Code Corner: Landscape Management

On Feb. 4, the Columbia City Council adopted changes to Chapter 11 of City Code that was formerly titled "Weeds." The code now refers to "Landscape Management" and has added a number of definitions and references to better address native plantings.

It is the hope of staff that this ordinance change will provide more clarity to property owners who want to have a managed native or ornamental yard while still providing an enforcement tool for properties that are not maintained.

However, there are a couple of things that haven't changed. Turf grass and weeds must still be mowed or trimmed to a height of not more than 12 inches. Additionally, the City still has the ability to abate properties in violation and issuing a special tax bill against the property.

If you have questions about the new ordinance, or any code issue in your neighborhood, contact the Office of Neighborhood Services at 573.817.5050 or Neighborhood@CoMo.gov.

Public Health and Human Services releases 2018 Community Health Assessment

The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) released the 2018 Columbia/Boone County Community Health Assessment. PHHS works with local organizations to publish the document every five years to provide data to community partners for their own planning purposes. The process also includes gathering feedback from residents to determine the desires of the community.

PHHS has spent the last year revitalizing community partnerships and reassessing the needs of Boone County. The Community Health Assessment shares the results through all phases of the process and identified four strategic issue areas: mental health; basic needs; medical and dental; and safe, healthy and affordable housing. The Community Health Assessment can be viewed online at CoMo.gov/Health/About-Us/Reports.

International Compost Awareness Week Activities



Columbia resident empties household food waste into drop-off container at Capen Park. We invite you to join us for the education events being held during International Compost Awareness Week.

Community members are invited to attend several events being held during International Compost Awareness Week May 5-11.

Community Food Waste Collection—Tuesday, May 7 from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. at Capen Park, 1600 Capen Park Drive. Residents may store food waste in a bucket then empty contents into a collection container at Capen Park. Fruits, vegetables, meat, bones, dairy, soups, bread, pasta, coffee grounds and other food items will be accepted. This material will be added to the City's Compost Operation, so it is important to exclude plastic and paper products such as bags, plates, cups, utensils, etc.

Compost Workshops—The City will host two free composting workshops on Saturday, May 11 at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at the Columbia Farmers Market. Though registration is not required, it is recommended. Register at CoMo.gov by searching "compost workshops."

Facility Tours—The City will offer a free tour of its compost operation and recycling facility on Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at 5700 Peabody Road. All are welcome to attend the tour and learn about Columbia's waste diversion efforts. We also welcome any suggestions for improvement. Attendees should drive to the left of the scale house and take the first right-hand turn. The tour will begin at the Material Recovery Facility, located on the right side of the road.

Please be part of the solution and help divert this valuable resource from Columbia's landfill!

Parks and Recreation Calendar

Call 573.874.7460
for more information

MAY

- 1 Tons of Trucks, Target parking lot at Columbia Mall, 4-7 p.m., Free
- 2 Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series, Mr. Stinky Feet and the Hiccups, 6 p.m., Free
- 4 MLB Pitch, Hit and Run, Albert-Oakland Park, 9:30 a.m. check in, Free
- 4 MLB Jr. Home Run Derby, Albert-Oakland Park, 12:30 p.m. check in, Free
- 4 Douglass Skateboard Competition, Douglass Park, 2-5 p.m., \$5 per participant
- 10 Movies in the Park: The Greatest Showman, Cosmo Park, 8:30 p.m., Free
- 11 Heritage Day Block Party, Douglass Park, 4-8 p.m., Free
- 11-19 18th Annual Bike, Walk and Wheel Week
- 15 Family Fun Fest: Kindness Carnival, Cosmo Park, 6-8 p.m., Free

Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following boards, commissions or task forces:

Application deadline is May 3 at 5 p.m.

- Columbia Housing Authority Board
- Disabilities Commission
- Environment and Energy Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Youth Advisory Council

Boards and commissions are a way for citizens to be involved in local government and to represent the voices of their fellow community members. Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at CoMo.gov or at the City Clerk's Office. Call 573.874.7208 for more information.

Volunteer of the Month: Baha'i Faith



Baha'i Faith members

One of the loveliest flowerbeds in the city of Columbia is located on Broadfield Drive, thanks to the devoted volunteers from the Baha'i Faith. We are honored to name them our April Volunteer of the Month.

For over 14 years, Columbia's Baha'i Faith community—of 45 members—has dedicated their time and service to managing this bed. Farah Nieuwenhuizen, a member of Baha'i Faith, said they enjoy their spot due to the "encouragement they receive from people walking or driving, and the positive comments over the beautiful Adopt-a-Spot bed, are what they like most about caring for the bed."

However, the work is not without its tests.

"Cars drive very fast on the one-lane road each way. It makes weeding and safety a challenge," she said.

Baha'i Faith volunteered for Adopt-a-Spot as a symbol of service they wanted to provide for their city. The group has also adopted Broadfield Drive for litter pickup.

"We appreciate the chance to give this service to our city. As the Baha'i writing states, 'Service to humanity is service to God,'" Nieuwenhuizen said.

Columbia's Baha'i Faith would like to thank the City of Columbia for their continued support. The City provides water for their flowerbed and retrieves bags of discarded weeds.

The City of Columbia says thank you to Baha'i Faith for their dedicated volunteer service. To get involved as a volunteer, visit [CoMo.gov](https://www.columbiagov.com) or call us at 573.874.7499.

Written by Volunteer Mary Arnold

Get City of Columbia press releases in your inbox

Did you know that you can sign up to receive press releases from the City of Columbia? All press releases can be viewed by the public at any time, but you can also get them sent directly to your email inbox as soon as they are published so you can stay informed about City news and events.

The City issues press releases frequently to notify the public and the media about upcoming events and interested parties meetings, updates from the Columbia Police and Fire departments, upcoming road and sidewalk closures for infrastructure upgrades or repairs, City-related announcements and more.

To see the latest news from the City, simply visit [CoMo.gov](https://www.columbiagov.com) and search "press releases" to view the press release directory, which includes current and past releases. Click "receive press releases in your email inbox" to sign up for emails. Press releases can also be viewed on the CoMoGOV app, which is available for download on Apple and Android devices.



OUR VISION

Columbia is the best place for everyone to live, work, learn and play.

OUR MISSION

To serve the public through democratic, transparent and efficient government.

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CONTACT CENTER
573·874·CITY
CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH ANSWERS

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