



— City Stats —

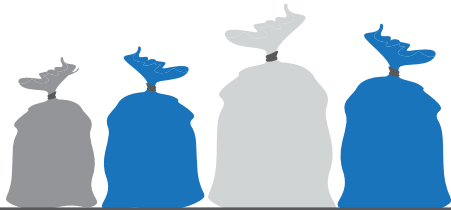
Volunteering in the
time of COVID-19

Adopt-A-Spot Beautification

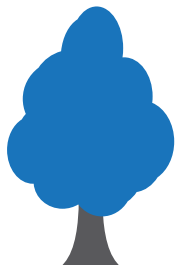
99 areas at street intersections,
in medians or in roundabouts
currently cared for by volunteers
with new
opportunities
coming in 2021!



Adopt-A-Spot Litter
76 active adopters
in FY2019 picking up litter
along City streets.



Adopt-A-Trail
14.25 miles of City
trail are adopted by
more than 50
individuals and groups
who work to remove
invasive species.



City requests public input on Columbia Imagined status report

The Planning and Zoning Commission, alongside City staff, are currently working on a five-year status report for the City's comprehensive land use plan, Columbia Imagined—The Plan for How We Live & Grow. Columbia Imagined was adopted by the City Council on October 7, 2013. The plan provides residents, appointed boards and commissions and elected officials with guidance on land use, growth management and quality of life considerations.

The status report will provide City Council with an evaluation of the plan's goals and objectives, implementation efforts, and present recommendations for new and evolving trends and community priorities that would be incorporated in the next full plan update, which is anticipated to begin in early 2022. The status report will also provide opportunities for renewed public engagement with community stakeholders and residents relating to the City's comprehensive planning process.

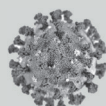
Beginning this fall, a series of surveys and virtual public engagement sessions will be held to solicit input from the public to develop the status report. To learn more about Columbia Imagined and to participate in the public input process, visit CoMo.gov/community-development/planning/five-year-status-report/ or call 573.874.7239.

Strategic Plan: Importance of strategic planning

While the City's 2020 Strategic Plan is on hold due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), leaders are still working to ensure the community's priorities are incorporated.

Strategic planning is important because it includes creating priorities based on information from residents and City employees, then setting outcome objectives to achieve. The planning process includes identifying the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats we face as an organization and community. Going through the strategic planning process also helps City staff members identify ways to improve and be more efficient.

One of the overall process goals is to align the Strategic Plan with the budget to make sure the City is funding the timely priorities set using community input. While the 2020 Strategic Plan is delayed, City leaders will be working to ensure that the plan is inclusive of the current climate in our community.



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Official Information
Visit CoMo.gov/Coronavirus



Progress as Promised: Shepard to Rollins connector of Hinkson Creek Trail opened July 1



The new 10-foot wide trail provides non-motorized transportation access from Ward 6 to the University of Missouri campus.

The new Shepard to Rollins connector of the Hinkson Creek Trail opened on July 1. The connector links the east end of Rollins Street to the Bluffdale Drive cul-de-sac.

Construction of the fully accessible trail began in November 2019. The 10-foot wide concrete trail crosses the Hinkson Creek and provides non-motorized transportation access from Ward 6 to the University of Missouri campus. An additional trail connecting to Stadium Boulevard and the Hinkson Creek Trail will be completed by Columbia Parks and Recreation.

Together, the two trail projects will provide an important link in the north-south section of the 30-mile trail loop around Columbia, allowing residents north of I-70 access to the MKT Trail, the University campus and downtown Columbia.

With the construction of the Shepard to Rollins connector complete, Parks and Recreation staff will start implementation of a tree reforestation and replanting plan. City staff will work with neighbors and interested parties to replant and restore trees and native plantings along the trail.

The Shepard to Rollins trail is a joint project between Parks and Recreation and Columbia Public Works GetAbout Columbia project. The construction project was budgeted at \$1.83 million; funding came from federal GetAbout Phase II funds.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 573.874.7460.

Columbia Police Department reminds drivers to stop for school buses

As a new school year approaches, the Columbia Police Department wants to remind drivers to stop for school buses to help protect children on their way to or from school.

All school buses used to transport children to public school that you will see in Columbia are painted bright yellow and have "SCHOOL BUS" clearly marked. Yellow lights will flash when a school bus slows down to pick up or drop off students. Red lights will flash and a stop sign will appear once the bus comes to a full stop.

As per city ordinance 14-168 "Duties of drivers meeting or overtaking school buses," all vehicles must come to a full and complete stop while the lights on the bus are flashing red.

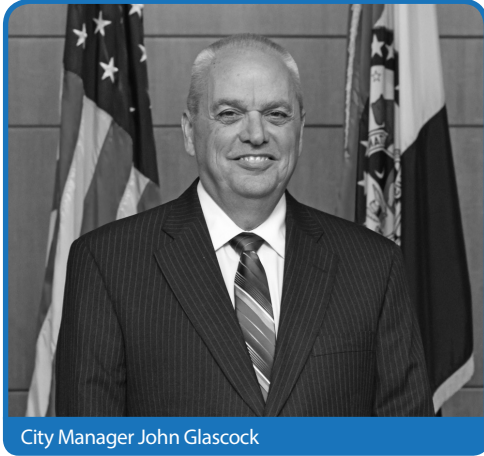
Drivers must stop on a two-lane road where the vehicles travel in either direction and on a two-lane road that is a one-way street. Drivers do not need to stop when traveling the opposite direction of a school bus on a highway divided by a median where the vehicles traveling one direction are on a totally separate road from the vehicles traveling the opposite direction nor when traveling the opposite direction of a school bus on a highway containing four or more lanes of traffic.

No convenience fees to pay utility bill online or by phone

Utility Customer Service (UCS) would like to remind several no-contact ways to pay utility bills. Customers may pay from the safety of their own homes by going online to MyUtilityBill.CoMo.gov or calling the automated payment line at 573.874.7694. There are no convenience fees when paying online or over the phone. Customers may also mail a check or use the payment drop-box behind City Hall at 701 E. Broadway. Payments are also accepted in the drive-through window, which is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

For customers who may need extra time to pay their utility bills, payment extensions may be possible. Please call Utility Customer Service at 573.874.7380 for more information.

Letter from City Manager John Glascock



City Manager John Glascock

City of Columbia residents,

Last month, I wrote to you about budget reductions, I asked each department director to make recommendations to help cut spending. I want to make sure you know what some of those proposed cuts are.

The proposed cuts include materials and supplies, reducing services, delaying projects, employee training and workforce reduction. Citywide, the proposed cuts amount to \$13.9 million, with \$3.2 million of the total in the General Fund. The proposed workforce reduction includes 78.50 full-time equivalent (FTE) citywide, with 28.60 FTE of the total in the General Fund. Of the positions included in workforce reduction, 11 are currently filled and the rest are vacant.

While this isn't a complete list, it includes some of the major items proposed in the budget:

- Discontinue curbside recycling and customers would no longer receive black bags for trash or blue bags for recycling.
- No School Resource Officers in schools, as these positions would be transitioned over to the Community Outreach Unit.
- Eliminate transit fares.
- Reduction in the CARE Program by 32 trainees and three job coaches.
- Eliminate funding for the Neighborhood Watch program, which may mean they have to reduce their services.
- Reduction in Community Development staff, which would mean Building and Site Development may have delays in getting inspections completed if development pace increases.
- Reduction in CDL operator positions in the Streets and Engineering Division, which could mean increased instability to respond to natural disasters, perform the crack seal program, marking ability, mowing and right-of-way maintenance frequency and reduce dig out repair frequency.
- Reduction in Electric Utility programs, including Trade-A-Tree, Tree Power, energy efficiency and energy audits.
- Close Little Mates Cove facility in Twin Lakes Recreation Area.
- Move the citizen survey to every other year instead of every year. This information is used to help inform the budget and Strategic Plan.

This budget is only a proposed budget. It has to go to City Council, where they will take feedback from the public and make changes as they see fit. After public hearings and adjustments from Council, they will vote for the budget to be approved before the 2021 fiscal year begins on Oct. 1, 2020.


Columbia City Manager

Census takers to visit homes soon

U.S. Census Bureau workers will soon start to visit households that have not filled out the 2020 Census.

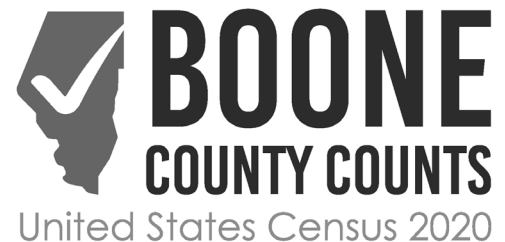
Census takers can be identified by their Census Bureau identification badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date.

Census Bureau employees will follow local public health guidelines when they visit, and all census takers complete a virtual COVID-19 training on social distancing and other health and safety protocols before beginning their work in neighborhoods.

If no one is home when the census taker visits, the individual will leave a notice of their visit with information about how to respond online, by phone or by mail.

A census taker is less likely to have to visit your home to collect your response if you fill out the census on your own. Filling out the census only takes 10 minutes and is important for our community. You can complete the Census by visiting my2020census.gov, calling 844.330.2020 or filling out the paper form that was sent to your home.

You can find information about Boone County's efforts to achieve a complete census count by visiting BooneCountyCounts.com or [@BooneCountyCounts](#) on Facebook and Instagram.



Do you know your “shed”?

Curious what the blue signs with wavy lines popping up along your route around the City are?

These signs are part of a collaborative effort between the City of Columbia Storm Water Utility, Office of Sustainability and Public Works Traffic Operations to promote clean, healthy watersheds by identifying your entry into each of the 15 watersheds that can be found within Columbia city limits.

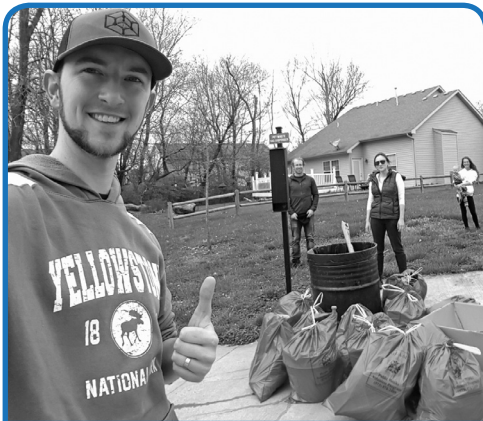
Watershed refers to the land over and through which rainwater runs off and flows to reach a common water body, such as a creek, stream, river or lake and eventually, the ocean. A watershed is identified by the name of the water body that serves as the collecting basin for that drainage area, such as Hinkson Creek, County House, Grindstone, Mill Creek or Bear Creek. All land is a part of some watershed.

Here are some steps you can take to help protect your local watershed:

- Take toxic household chemicals to household hazardous waste drop off locations, don't pour down storm drain inlets or on the ground.
- Minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers on your lawn. Consider using organic or slow-release fertilizers instead.
- Recycle yard waste in a compost pile and use a mulching mower.
- Never pour used oil or antifreeze into the storm drain or on the street.
- Pick up after your dog, and dispose of the waste in the trash.

To learn more watersheds visit CoMo.gov/watersheds.

Volunteers stay busy during the COVID-19 Pandemic



Eric Wiedmeyer along with his wife, Emily VanBooven, and son, Grant, organized a cleanup of the Eastport Village neighborhood complete with social distancing.

City of Columbia volunteers have continued to stay busy throughout the coronavirus pandemic. The City of Columbia has several volunteer opportunities where individuals or families can work safely and independently.

Litter pickup is a popular way for residents to help their community. Volunteers participate through the Adopt-A-Spot Litter Control Program, organized monthly Litter Team events or one-time pickups. Other volunteers work in our parks, through programs like Park Patrol or the Adopt-A-Trail Program, where they can work at a safe distance from others.

Emily VanBooven, who organized a litter pickup in her neighborhood, says, “During these uncertain times, the experience of volunteering was a reminder that many parts of life can safely go on, and that taking care of the earth is still a top priority for the health and well-being of all humans.”

Volunteers have also been busy with the Adopt-A-Spot Beautification Program. The Battle High School baseball team is one of the nearly 100 volunteer adopters. Parent Tina DeClue, who works with the team on their roundabout at Clark Lane and St. Charles Road, says, “Battle Baseball has enjoyed volunteering together during COVID because it has given them a sense of purpose and connection with their teammates.”

The City of Columbia appreciates the dedicated service of our volunteers. If you are interested in serving visit CoMo.gov/volunteer or contact us at volunteer@CoMo.gov or 573.874.7499.

Ways to slow the spread of COVID-19



You can protect yourself and help our community slow the spread of COVID-19 by:

- Staying home if you are sick.
- Avoiding close contact with others by social distancing from individuals outside of your household. This is especially important as many people who are infected can spread COVID-19 even if they do not have a fever or any other symptoms.
- Wearing a mask when around others, which is now required within the city limits. According to the CDC, cloth face coverings are recommended as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the cloth face covering coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. This is called source control. COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet), so the use of cloth face coverings is particularly important in settings where people are close to each other or where social distancing is difficult to maintain.
- Following all guidelines when visiting businesses in Boone County.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Covering coughs and sneezes.
- Contacting your primary care physician or local health care system immediately if you begin to experience any symptoms of COVID-19.

By working together and preventing the spread of COVID-19 we can protect our loved ones and fellow community members.

Water and Light Department is offering Solar and Energy Efficiency Rebates



With rising temperatures, see how we can keep you cool with energy savings.

The City of Columbia Water and Light Department is pleased to announce that the solar and energy efficiency rebate, incentive and loan programs are still available. With rising temperatures, this may be a great time for residential electric customers to participate in the Home Performance with Energy Star program. Financing is available for energy efficiency improvements through our rebates and loans.

Items eligible for a rebate:

- Efficient air conditioner and heat pump: Up to \$1,600, plus \$200 rebate for a qualified heat pump
- Replacing windows and doors: Up to \$500 in rebates
- Reducing air leakage: Up to \$420 in rebates
- Reducing ductwork leakage: Up to \$300 in rebates
- Adding insulation: Up to \$500 in rebates

Items eligible for a loan:

- Energy efficiency assessment by a certified contractor
- Air conditioner
- Heat pump/heat pump water heater
- Insulation (attic, walls, floor joists, ductwork)
- Sealing air leaks
- Windows and doors
- Natural gas furnace (with air conditioner or heat pump)
- Upgrade electric wiring to install insulation

We look forward to working with you to advance energy efficiency and renewable energy in Columbia. For more information, visit ColumbiaPowerPartners.com.

Code Corner: Keep the sidewalk path clear

As summer continues, please check that vegetation, including tree branches or ornamental grasses, are not encroaching the sidewalk path, driving path or causing a visual issue for drivers. The City Code of Ordinances addresses this issue in two places:

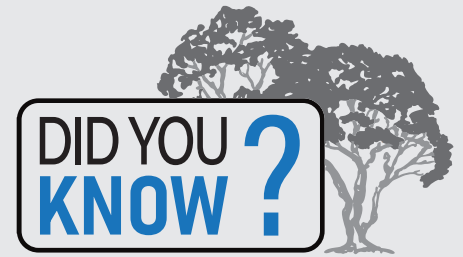
- **Sec. 11-230**–Nuisances enumerated: (6) A tree or any tree limb that could interfere with the passage of motor vehicles, bicycles, motor propelled scooters, or pedestrians on any public right-of-way.
- **Sec. 24-6**–Overhanging branches, limbs, etc.

Please assist in ensuring our sidewalks are accessible and take a minute to cut these back so they do not cause a problem.

If you have an issue, please contact Neighborhood Services at 573.817.5050 or neighborhood@CoMo.gov.

Parks and Recreation Events

Columbia Parks and Recreation is modifying and adding to the list of community special events to ensure compliance with local Health Department orders and social distancing guidelines. For current information, please visit CoMo.gov/parksandrec or call 573.874.7460. You may also visit the Parks and Recreation Facebook page at Facebook.com/ComoParksandRec/



Scientists have found that spending time in nature increases cognitive performance.

Board and commission vacancies

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

Application deadline is Sept. 4 at 5 p.m.

- City of Columbia New Century Fund Inc. Board
- Convention and Visitors Advisory Board
- Personnel Advisory Board

Boards and commissions are a way for residents 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: Kelly Mason



Kelly Mason volunteers as a Recycling Ambassador by educating elementary students about recycling.

Kelly Mason believes everyone has the ability to contribute to their community, "they just need to find something they are passionate about," she said. Kelly is passionate about the environment and sustainability and has shared these passions as a volunteer Recycling Ambassador. For her efforts, Kelly is recognized as our August Volunteer of the Month.

Kelly committed to making others aware of waste reduction techniques. In her role as a Recycling Ambassador, Kelly carved out her own niche educating elementary students about recycling. She provides the students with a recycling starter kit including a certificate qualifying them to teach others.

In her role as a rental property manager, Kelly shared her knowledge of recycling with other members of the Columbia Apartment Association so recycling efforts could improve at rental properties throughout the City.

Kelly believes that since the reward for recycling aren't immediate, it is hard for people understand the importance of their actions. Kelly hopes that by teaching a younger generation the why, what and how of recycling they will have the confidence to pass that knowledge onto others.

To Kelly, the greatest thing about volunteering is helping your community while being the best version of yourself, "If we all strived for that version, imagine what we could do," she said.

To learn more about Columbia's Volunteer Programs call 573.874.7499 or visit volunteer@CoMo.gov for information.

Recycling drop off locations

The City of Columbia currently has 11 convenient recycling drop off locations. Solid Waste is currently exploring additional locations for drop off recycling, especially on the north side of Columbia. A map of the current locations can be found at CoMo.gov/utilities/solidwaste. The drop off locations are:

- Columbia College Dulany Hall (near 8th Street and Hickman Avenue)
- Columbia College Wrightman Building (south end of Pannell Street)
- The Armory (north parking lot at 7th Street and Park Avenue)
- 10th Street and Cherry Street (south side of the Cherry Street Parking Structure)
- Home Depot (3215 Clark Lane)
- Moser's on Keene (900 North Keene Street)
- Moser's Supermarket (705 West Business Loop 70)
- 3601 South Providence Road (outer road north of Nifong)
- State Farm Parkway (on Nifong just east of Grindstone)
- University of Missouri (Bluford Hall on Kentucky Avenue)
- University of Missouri (Shurz Hall on Ashland Road east of College Avenue)



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.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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CITY OF COLUMBIA ✕
CONTACT CENTER
573·874·CITY
CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH ANSWERS

The City of Columbia does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, receipt of governmental assistance, alienage or citizenship status, status as a victim of sexual or domestic violence or order of protection status.

CITY OF COLUMBIA

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