

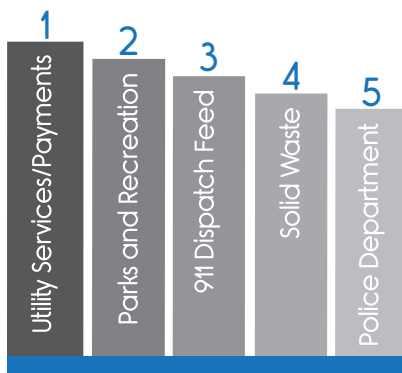
— City Stats —

CoMo.gov stats from 2018



438,494
pageviews on
homepage in 2018

Top five areas visited
based on total pageviews:



Highest volume of visitors:



22nd annual Columbia Values Diversity Award winners

The 22nd annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards were presented at the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration on Jan. 17. Each year, the awards are given to an individual and a group that have made significant contributions promoting appreciation for diversity and cultural understanding in our community.

The 2019 Diversity Award for groups was presented to Room at the Inn



The 2019 Diversity Award for groups was presented to Room at the Inn.

For 10 years, Room at the Inn has provided a safe, warm shelter for Columbia's homeless population during the winter months. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concern to the broader concern of all humanity." Room at the Inn has taken concern for their neighbors and acted by treating each individual with care, recognizing the dignity of each individual.

The 2019 Diversity Award for an individual was presented to Kari Utterback

Kari Utterback has worked to promote appreciation for diversity in every facet of her life. In her work at the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services, Kari has continually sought to expand her cultural understanding and worked to educate City employees as a Facilitator of the Building Inclusive Communities program. She is also a member of the Matters of Social Justice Committee and an active facilitator of the Journey Towards Inclusive Excellence. The decision committee noted that, "when something is happening in the community, Kari is there."



The 2019 Diversity Award for an individual was presented to Kari Utterback.

Congratulations to the award winners: Room at the Inn and Kari Utterback. Mark your calendars for next year's event on Jan. 16, 2020. We hope to see you there to honor more outstanding organizations and individuals.

Did you receive your bag vouchers?

Each January, curbside customers receive vouchers which are redeemable for recycling and trash bags. To receive bags free of charge, take your voucher(s) to a partnering retail store (full list at CoMo.gov), pick up bags from the shelf and present the voucher(s) at checkout. Additional vouchers will be mailed in June. If you need additional blue recycling bags prior to then, you may request another voucher by calling WasteZero, Inc. at 800.866.3954.

Street Talk: Pothole patching process heating up



The City purchased an Asphalt Recycler in 2018 for making an asphalt hot mix to repair potholes throughout the year.

Pavement expands and contracts during extreme hot and cold spells. This leads to potholes. The City of Columbia Street Division is now using an Asphalt Recycler to make a hot mix for repairing potholes on city streets throughout the year. A Hotbox trailer is then used to transport the mix to the street while keeping it a steamy 350 degrees all day.

Hot mix can be used any time of year as long as the street is relatively dry and free of snow. It's also more effective and reduces the cost of pothole repair by up to 40 percent. Once a pothole has been spotted or reported, it's the goal of

Public Works to repair it as soon as possible, within 24 to 48 hours, weather permitting. If you see a pothole, please report it by calling the City of Columbia Contact Center at 573.874.CITY (2489).

For more details about how the pothole repair process works, visit us online at CoMo.gov/PublicWorks/Potholes.

Did you know: Fair Chance Hiring Law

Did you know that the City of Columbia has the Fair Chance Hiring Law? Inspired by the national "Ban the Box" movement, this legislation removes questions about a job applicant's criminal record from applications and pushes questions about an applicant's criminal history until later in the hiring process.

How does it work in Columbia?

The City of Columbia Council passed a "Fair Chance Hiring Law" on December 1, 2014. The City of Columbia's ordinance applies to all employers within the city limits of Columbia and was effective after the date of passage. The legislation prohibits employers from having questions about an applicant's criminal history on a job application, and from inquiring about an applicant's criminal history, such as a background check, until after a conditional job offer. A conditional job offer means that employment is contingent upon the results of a criminal background check, much in the same way that a drug test works. The legislation does encourage employers to consider the nature of an offense, time passed since the offense, and actions taken after the offense to be considered for applicants found to have a record.

Why was it passed?

The implementation of "Fair Chance" legislation was one of the recommendations from the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence, which was charged with bringing forward recommendations to reduce violence in Columbia. The legislation creates a fairer employment process for returning offenders. Questions about criminal history can be a deterrent for applicants with a record, and can be used to easily screen out ex-offenders before their other qualifications are considered. Full-time employment is the best predictor for reducing the chance that an ex-offender will reoffend. There are numerous benefits for lowering recidivism rates and getting ex-offenders back into society with gainful full-time employment.

When can an employer ask about an applicant's criminal record?

Employers are not prohibited from running a background check and they are not required to hire ex-offenders. The legislation requires that inquiries into an applicant's criminal history take place with a conditional job offer after all other qualifications have been considered.

For more information, please visit CoMo.gov, call the Law Department at 573.817.5024 or email HumanRights@CoMo.gov.

Rock Quarry Road cleanup scheduled for March 9

Rock Quarry Road is a designated Scenic Roadway winding through Columbia. Each year a dedicated group of volunteers turn out to provide this beautiful roadway with much needed TLC. You are invited to join us!

On Saturday, March 9 volunteers will meet at 7:15 a.m. at Capen Park for an early morning litter pick up of the roadway. The City's Public Works Street Division provides traffic control to keep the volunteers safe. To learn more about this project or other opportunities to volunteer with the City, email Volunteer@CoMo.gov or call 573.874.6271.



Lea Langdon, Quentin Hamilton, Alan Luger along with fellow volunteers work their way up Rock Quarry road in March of 2018.

Registration open for Molly's Miles

On Saturday, April 13, families, friends, co-workers, and supporters of law enforcement officers will gather together at the Molly Bowden Memorial Park, 900 W. Nifong Blvd., to walk and run in memory of those who have died in the line of duty and to honor their surviving families.

Molly's Miles is a family-friendly walk/run in its third year. Molly's Miles is named after Columbia Police Officer Molly Bowden who was shot and killed in the line of duty in 2005. All proceeds from the event benefit the Missouri Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.). The event includes a 5K, 10K, as well as a Virtual Run option for those who are unable to attend in person.

Registration for the 5K is \$30 for adults and \$30 for kids (12 & under) or \$100.00 for the family 4-pack. Registration for the 10K is \$35 for adults. Registration for the Virtual Run is \$20. Prices will increase \$5 after the first 500 registrants. Participants in the 5K and 10K will receive a shirt, a finisher medal, chip timing and live results. We can't wait to see you there! To register or for more information, visit MollysMilesRun.com.

City of Columbia, Voluntary Action Center partner on bus pass program

The City of Columbia, Go COMO and the Voluntary Action Center (VAC) have partnered to distribute free bus passes to income-eligible individuals in our community. The annual bus pass allows a rider unlimited access to the fixed route buses for 2019 without having to pay a fare.

This continued program is intended to improve access to reliable transportation for low-income residents and to better connect the community in a manner consistent with the City's Strategic Plan. Bus passes are limited. Non-profits may apply to receive small batch passes for clients, and individuals may apply for one pass per family member by submitting a brief application.

If you are interested in receiving a bus pass, please contact the Voluntary Action Center at 573.874.2273 or email vac@vacmo.org. If you have questions about the program or how to donate a pass, please contact Heather Cole at the City of Columbia at 573.874.6338 or email Heather.Cole@CoMo.gov.

Progress as Promised: Sidewalk on Clark Lane complete

A newly completed sidewalk on Clark Lane and a new signalized crosswalk at the Highway 63 Connector greatly improves safety for pedestrians and nonmotorized transportation users along these busy roads.

The sidewalk was constructed along the north side of Clark Lane from Paris Road to Lambeth Drive. The signalized crosswalk was installed at the intersection of Clark Lane and the Highway 63 Connector.

The project was approved by City Council on Sept. 8, 2015 through the City's public involvement process. The contractor for the project was S&A Equipment & Builders. The \$1.03 million project investment was funded by a nonmotorized transportation grant from the Federal Highway Administration.

Smoke alarm safety

Smoke alarms save lives, and can cut the risk of dying in a fire in half. However, smoke alarms must be installed, maintained and working properly to do so. The Columbia Fire Department offers the following tips to stay safe:

Installation

- At least one smoke alarm should be located on every level of the home, including the basement, as well as in every sleeping room and outside each sleeping area.
- The National Fire Protection Association strongly recommends either installing combination smoke alarms, or both ionization and photoelectric alarms, in the home. An ionization alarm is typically more responsive to a flaming fire, such as a pan fire. A photoelectric alarm is typically more responsive to a smoldering fire, as might occur where a lighted cigarette is dropped on a sofa. Combination smoke alarms have ionization and photoelectric capabilities.
- Whatever type of smoke alarms you choose, they should carry the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Interconnected smoke alarms offer the best protection; when one sounds, they all do. This is particularly important in larger or multi-story homes, where the sound from distant smoke alarms may be reduced to the point that it may not be loud enough to provide proper warning, especially for sleeping individuals.
- A licensed electrician can install either hard-wired multiple-station alarms or wireless alarms, which manufacturers have more recently begun producing. An electrician can also replace existing hard-wired smoke alarms with wireless interconnection capabilities.

Maintenance and Testing

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, and make sure everyone in your home knows their sound.
- If an alarm “chirps,” warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they’re 10 years old (or sooner) if they do not respond properly when tested.

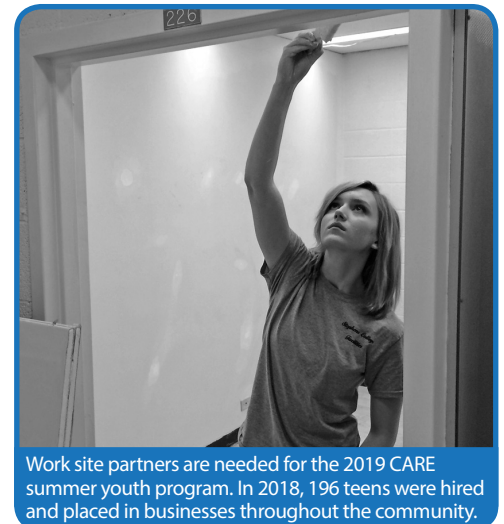
CARE summer applications close Feb. 28, work site partners needed

Applications for the City of Columbia’s Career Awareness Related Experience (CARE) summer youth program will close on Thursday, Feb. 28. The summer program will take place this year from June 2 through July 24.

The CARE program hires at-risk 14- to 20-year-olds who live in the city of Columbia and/or attend a Columbia school. Youth go through a job interview process and are placed at local businesses where they gain real-world hands-on work experience while getting paid. Applications may be made online at GoCoMoJobs.com. For those needing assistance with the application, please call the CARE office at 573.874.6300.

CARE depends on partnerships with businesses and agencies to make the program successful. All of the trainees’ wages are paid by the City of Columbia through the Parks and Recreation Department. There is no financial cost to the work site partners.

If your business or agency would like to become a work site partner, please contact CARE Coordinator Ron Schmidt at Ron.Schmidt@CoMo.gov or 573.874.6300.



Consider signing up for budget billing

Are you interested in new ways to manage utility bills? March is enrollment month for the budget billing program. Budget billing allows customers to pay the same amount for their utilities each month whether the actual usage amount is lower or higher. The monthly budget billing amount is determined by using the last 12 months of bills and dividing the total by 11.

Current budget billing customers will receive their settle up statements in March, and their program participation will automatically renew as long as they continue to meet the program requirements. They will receive their new budget billing monthly amount on the April statement.

To qualify for budget billing, customers must have a full 12-month history at the current address and be current on their payments. Find out more about budget billing at CoMo.gov or call 573.874.7380. Detailed information will also be included on a tear-off flap in the March utility statement. Submit the tear-off form, complete an online application or call Utility Customer Service at 573.874.7380 to enroll in budget billing.

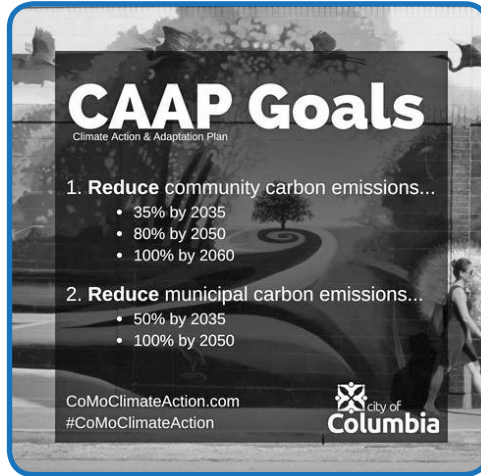
Climate Action and Adaptation Plan update

In order to reach our emission reduction goals adopted by City Council in August 2018, City staff and members of the Mayor's Task Force for Climate Action and Adaptation Planning have been working hard to review and evaluate hundreds of potential actions.

Once determined, this initial list of actions will help Columbia reduce both community and municipal emissions in a variety of ways and help us prepare for a changing climate. Actions will address the areas of energy, housing, transportation, waste, natural resources, and health and may include incentives, policies or changes to current practices.

This past November, the City hosted a community forum at City Hall to gather feedback from the public and discuss the actions being considered for the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). We were thrilled with the turnout - over 200 people - and are grateful for the enthusiasm and feedback we've received so far. Your feedback will continue to be considered as we develop the plan, which is anticipated to be finalized this summer.

If you would like to receive email updates about the CAAP, you may subscribe at CoMoClimateAction.com. We would love to visit with your group to understand how our work can support your neighborhood or organization priorities. To invite a member of the Task Force or Office of Sustainability to speak at your next meeting or event, please contact us at Sustainability@CoMo.gov.



Code Corner: Carbon monoxide detectors

Carbon monoxide (CO) detectors are another tool for life safety. CO is an odorless, colorless gas that can kill. Starting with the adoption of the 2012 International Fire Code, the City has required all rental properties to have carbon monoxide detectors in housing units that have fuel-burning appliances or attached garages. Installation of CO alarms is advised for owner-occupied homes as well. They are inexpensive and easy to install.

To learn more about the City's rental inspection program, or for other residential code enforcement issues, contact Neighborhood Services at 573.817.5050 or at CoMo.gov.

Apartment Recycling Program

Are you looking for ways to be more eco-friendly in 2019? Do you ever wonder, "Does my apartment complex offer on-site recycling?" Currently, 46 complexes across town participate in our Apartment Recycling Program and offer at least one designated day for on-site recycling collection for tenants. This service is provided at no extra cost to tenants or property management, so talk with your landlord today!



To find out more, visit CoMo.gov/Utilities/SolidWaste/Multi-family.

Parks and Recreation Calendar

Call 573.874.7460
for more information

MARCH

- 6 Women's Month Film: "Hidden Figures," Armory Sports Center, 6:30 p.m., FREE

- 16 Annual Train Show, Paquin Tower, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., FREE

Did you know...over the past five years, the City's CARE program has helped more than 800 youth receive job mentoring and summer employment? For more information about the program, please call CARE at 573.874.6300.

Fair Housing and Lending Seminar scheduled for April 5

The City of Columbia will host a free Fair Housing and Lending Seminar on Friday, April 5 at City Hall. The program features expert presentations on fair housing and lending laws, affordable housing and the community land trust. The event also includes a building inclusive community workshop.

Participants can meet City staff and explore programs the City offers for improving housing and home ownership, increasing energy efficiency and sustainability, and strengthening neighborhoods and our community.

Event sponsors include Columbia Board of Realtors, Columbia Apartment Association, Central Bank of Boone County, the Missouri Commission on Human Rights, the Columbia Housing Authority, and the City of Columbia's Human Rights and Disabilities commissions. Attorneys and real estate professionals can earn continuing education credits by attending some of the sessions. For more information and to register, visit CoMo.gov and search "Fair Housing."

Volunteer of the Month: Rie Sasaki



Earn-a-Bike class graduate Elza Guissou and volunteer of the month Rie Sasaki.

Rie Sasaki's love of biking and exercise led her to the Bike Co-op, a program of Parks and Recreation, in January 2018. Rie provides instruction and leadership for the City's Earn-a-Bike program. Rie was nominated by Benedict Nagy.

"She serves as a mentor to our teen participants that sometimes come from an underprivileged background and she encourages participation in the program by female and minority students, because she can relate to these students in ways other instructors can't," Nagy said.

Rie is a professor at Columbia College and president of COMO Trail Association, a non-profit advocacy group for off-road trails in Columbia. Rie also volunteers with COMO Dirt Dames; a mountain biking group for women in Columbia. In spite of her busy schedule Rie still finds time to volunteer.

"I think all of us can use a little help from our community, and I'm just doing my part. It makes where I live a little bit more cozy," Rie said.

Thanks to Rie Sasaki for assisting in the development of the Bike Co-op and for being a positive influence on the lives of young women in the program.

To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, visit CoMo.gov, email Volunteer@CoMo.gov, or call 573.874.7499.

Volunteer as a TreeKeeper

Hands-on volunteering with trees in our parks can be quite rewarding. It's a great way to make an impact that benefits our entire community and volunteers can increase their knowledge of tree management.

TreeKeeper volunteers have been lending a hand in our parks for more than 20 years. New volunteers can join the program by participating in the TreeKeepers Academy on Saturday, March 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. During the TreeKeepers Academy, volunteers will learn about tree identification, pruning and planting and commit to assisting on tree projects in our parks on Saturday mornings.

The TreeKeepers Academy will be held at the Parks Management Center, 1507 Business Loop 70 West. To learn more or register, contact Volunteer Programs at 573.874.7499 or Volunteer@CoMo.gov.



After participating in the TreeKeepers Academy, volunteers work with Parks and Recreation Forestry staff on projects like this tree planting at the Forum Nature Area.



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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