

## — City Stats —

**Parks & Recreation**  
77 total projects completed  
through the 2015 Park Sales Tax

**10** playgrounds  
replaced



**3** MKT Trail bridges  
replaced



**5** picnic shelters  
replaced/  
refurbished



## Parks and Recreation completes tennis court conversion at Albert-Oakland Park



Recreation updates at Albert-Oakland Park

Columbia Parks and Recreation has completed the conversion of three tennis courts at Albert-Oakland Park into one tennis court and six pickleball courts.

The existing tennis courts were cracked and in need of repair. Parks and Recreation staff held an interested parties meeting and conducted an online survey to gain public input. It was determined that due to the increasing popularity of pickleball and the demand for additional outdoor courts, that the Albert-Oakland courts would be modified to meet the needs of pickleball and tennis players at the park.

The work consisted of resurfacing and restriping the three existing tennis courts to create one tennis court and six pickleball courts. The process includes repairing all existing cracks, leveling any low areas of the courts, application of multiple layers of specialized paint to create the court surface and striping the tennis and pickleball courts to meet required court dimensions. The new posts and nets for the pickleball courts were donated by the Columbia Pickleball Club. The tennis/pickleball court improvements at Albert-Oakland Park were funded by the voter-approved Park Sales Tax.

For more information, please contact Parks and Recreation at 573.874.7460.

*The city council has declared its intent to construct two new tennis courts and 10 pickleball courts at Albert Oakland Park if the park sales tax extension is approved by the voters on November 2.*

## CoMo.GOV/COVIDVACCINE

LET'S MOVE  
FORWARD



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TTY (MoRelay) 711



City of Columbia, Mo. Government



@CoMoGov

## Halloween safety tips

Halloween can be a fun and exciting time for kids. These safety tips for parents, children and motorists will help to keep everyone safe and happy this Halloween.

### Costumes

- Ensure all costumes, wigs and accessories are fire-resistant.
- If children are allowed out after dark, fasten reflective tape to their costumes and bags, or give them glow sticks.
- When buying Halloween makeup, make sure it is nontoxic and always test it in a small area first.
- Remove all makeup before children go to bed to prevent skin and eye irritation.

### When trick-or-treaters are on the prowl

- Be sure to accompany young children on the neighborhood rounds.
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review a route acceptable to you.
- Agree on a specific time children should return home.
- Teach your children never to enter a stranger's home or car.
- Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and to stick with their friends.
- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home.
- Children and adults are reminded to stay off your phone so you can keep your head up. Walk, don't run, when crossing the street.

### Safety tips for motorists

- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways, alleys and streets slowly.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children and adults in dark clothing.
- Discourage new, inexperienced drivers from driving on Halloween.



## Stormwater

The rich, breathtaking colors of autumn make this a beautiful time of year. But as those leaves brown and fall to the ground, improper disposal can wreak havoc on the City's stormwater system.

Everyone wants to clean the natural debris out of their yards, but raking, washing or dumping leaves and grass clippings into the streets or the storm drains is not the answer. For the health of the ecosystem and the safety of the community, the Stormwater Utility would like to remind you to properly dispose of your yard waste.

Leaves and grass clippings can be harmful to the waterways. In Columbia, stormwater washes directly into our creeks—and eventually into our lakes, rivers and wetlands—untreated. Leaves and clippings add excess nutrients to the water, which results in increased algae growth, reduced water clarity and, in extreme cases, diminished dissolved oxygen levels that can be harmful or even fatal to fish and aquatic life.

Improperly disposing of yard waste in the storm drains can also cause issues for your neighbors. When leaves, grass clippings and twigs get into the storm drain, they can clump with other debris and block inlets or pipes. Blockages at the inlets can cause water runoff to flood streets and yards. Clogged drainage pipes can cause backups into homes that result in property damage.

There are many ways you can dispose of yard waste that will help us keep storm drains uncluttered:

- **Clear drains:** Keep leaves and grass clippings away from storm drains, sidewalks and out of the street so the storm drains work properly during a rain event.
- **Mulching:** Set your lawn mower to mulch and mow high. The chopped-up leaves act as a fertilizer and soil conditioner that will protect your lawn.
- **Drop-off sites:** Drive your leaves and grass clippings to one of the City's yard waste drop-off centers, located at Capen Park and near Cosmo Park. Residents can also drop their yard waste off at the landfill for no fee. The material will be turned into mulch and sent to our compost operation.
- **Composting:** Leaf compost can be a great soil conditioner. For more information, visit the city's website or sign up for a free composting workshop.
- **Bag it:** You can place leaves, grass clippings and small twigs in your black refuse bag and leave it to be collected curbside. At the landfill, the yard waste deteriorates and creates methane which fuels our bioreactor and generates electricity for the City.

Customers can notify us at [Stormwater@CoMo.gov](mailto:Stormwater@CoMo.gov) to alert us to inlets or storm pipes that need our attention.

## Code Corner: Rental housing inspections

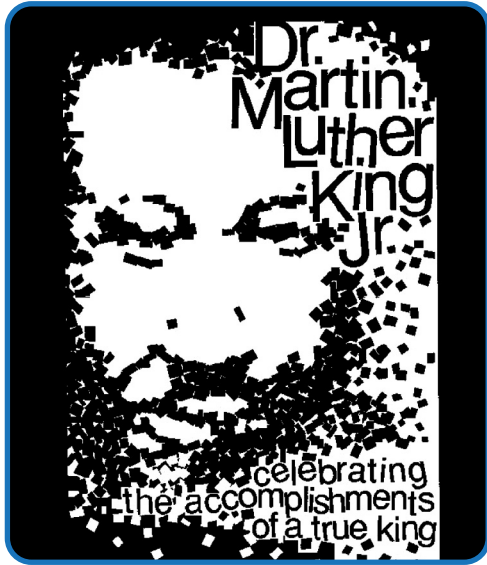
The City of Columbia has a Rental Unit Conservation Law that was established to keep rental properties safe and in good repair. All rental property in Columbia is to be registered and inspected to meet basic code. This includes apartments, duplexes, single family homes and those who have tenants as part of their owner-occupied home. Lease purchase or rent-to-own arrangements need to comply with the ordinance as well.

Currently, nearly 27,000 housing units and 10,000 structures are registered through the program. The law also allows tenants to file a complaint if their landlord is not addressing maintenance issues.

If you need to register a property you own, or if you are concerned about the rental status of a property in which you are living or that is in your neighborhood, please let us know. To learn more about rental enforcement, contact Neighborhood Services at 573.817.5050 or visit [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov).



## Nominate an individual, family, organization or group for Columbia Values Diversity Awards



Do you know an individual/family or organization/group whose work in our community exemplifies the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by fostering individual dignity, racial equality, understanding, peacemaking and problem solving through non-violence? Nominate them for the 29th Annual Columbia Values Diversity Awards.

Deadline to submit nominations is Nov. 30 by 5 p.m.

For more information visit [CoMo.gov/cultural-affairs/programs-and-services/cvdc/](https://www.como.gov/cultural-affairs/programs-and-services/cvdc/).

## Winter is near!

October is a great time to start planning for the colder months ahead. Here are several items that you may consider to ensure your home is ready for the heating season:

- Schedule seasonal maintenance on your furnace to ensure proper operation.
- Replace your furnace filter.
- Make sure all windows close and latch properly.
- Schedule a home energy evaluation with Columbia Water & Light.
- Ensure outdoor hose bibs are completely turned off and weatherized.
- Schedule end-of-season irrigation shutdown.

For more information and tips to save energy, visit [ColumbiaPowerPartners.com](https://www.columbiapowerpartners.com).

## New program features for the Columbia Utility Customer Service portal

Beginning October 29, 2021, City of Columbia Utility Customer Service will update its customer service portal with new program features created by Accelerated Innovations.

The updated features to the MyUtilityBill portal include an interactive dashboard that creates a comprehensive customer management solution. MyUtilityBill will promote energy efficiency by allowing customers to set energy goals and track their progress.

New customers will have to create a login to enter the new platform. Existing MyUtilityBill customers will be sent an email with their username and a link to reset their password.

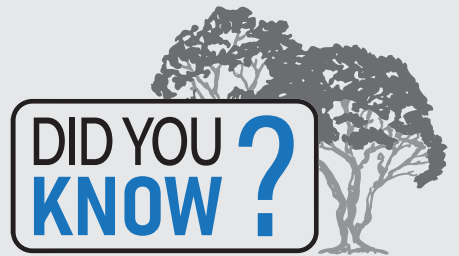
### Included among the features of our updated customer service portal are:

- **Billing and Payment Management:** Customers will be able to view ebill and payment history. The updated portal gives customers the chance to see current service charges and to view payment arrangements and set up automatic bill pay. Customers with multiple customer numbers are able to view accounts using only one sign in.
- **Detailed Usage Charts:** The updated portal provides visualization tools that allow customers to track energy usage. These tools enable customers to see how their usage changes over time and how weather, occupancy and appliance use affect their usage patterns for every billing cycle.
- **Account Management:** Registered customers can customize their profile by providing information on their house or business, such as size and age of the building. The system will set markers to help customers monitor events that might change a usage pattern.
- **Energy Challenge:** Customers can set their own conservation goals and track their progress over time.

Utility Customer Service believes the site will be an incredibly helpful tool for customers to manage electricity and water usage.

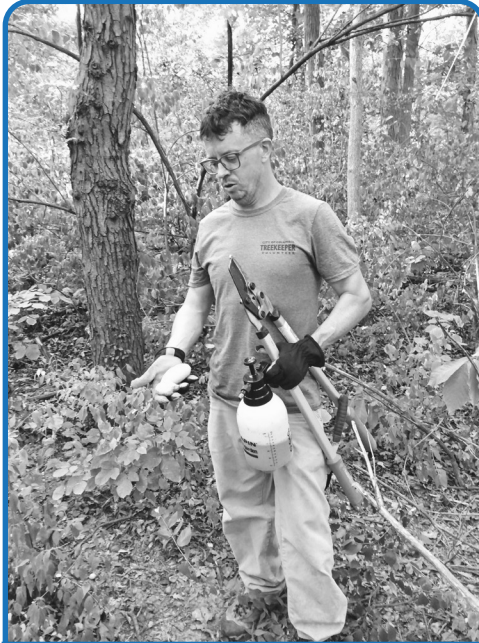
## Parks and Recreation events

For more information, please visit [CoMo.gov/Parks-and-Rec](https://www.como.gov/Parks-and-Rec) or call 573.874.7460. You may also visit the Parks and Recreation Facebook page at [Facebook.com/ParksandRec](https://www.facebook.com/ParksandRec).



The broad movements of tennis, such as swinging and reaching, are an excellent means of increasing your range of motion.

## Volunteer focus: Invasive removal



Volunteer Stephen Bybee has led a number of invasive removal work days at Kiwanis Park with the goal of opening up the forest understory and re-establishing Missouri native plants.

As the City's Volunteer Program continues to recognize our 25th anniversary, we focus this month on a newer program: invasive removal.

Invasive removal, particularly honeysuckle, has become a much larger volunteer interest over the last five years and has become one of the biggest areas of service for the City.

### Some examples of volunteers in action:

- Volunteers have adopted 16.25 miles of City trail to remove invasive plants to keep the trail corridor passable and improve forest health. Individuals and groups adopt quarter mile sections of trail.
- Volunteers have led their own efforts at invasive removal. Stephen Bybee and Steve Johnson have led projects at Kiwanis Park and Steve Matthews has been a one-man honeysuckle cutting machine, focusing on the Grindstone Nature area.
- One-time honeysuckle removal projects are organized regularly by volunteer programs. City property at Fairview and Ash and on Casa Circle are examples of the focus of this work.

Volunteering is a great way to be a part of your community and give back. To learn more about joining the effort, contact Volunteer Programs at 573.874.7499 or [volunteer@CoMo.gov](mailto:volunteer@CoMo.gov).



Andrew Saunders and Stephen Bybee worked to remove honeysuckle at Kiwanis Park in September. They paused to discuss the native Paw Paw trees growing in the park.

## Board and commission vacancies

Boards and commissions are a way for residents to be involved in local government and to represent the voices of their fellow community members. The City is accepting applications for the following boards, commissions or task forces:

### Application deadline is Nov. 5 at 5 p.m.

- Airport Advisory Board
- Climate and Environment Commission
- Columbia Vision Commission
- Community Land Trust Organization Board
- Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health
- Personnel Advisory Board

Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov). Call 573.874.7208 for more information.



### OUR VISION

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

### OUR MISSION

*To serve the public equitably 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

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