



— City Stats —

## Tourism in Columbia (2021)

Annual tourism-related spending

# \$393,240,010



Tourism-related jobs

# 9,348



# 3,500 hotel rooms



## Pavement management and the PASER rating system



PASER, which stands for Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating, is an assessment tool used by municipalities across the United States to set priorities for their road maintenance and pavement preservation goals. The PASER rating system, which scores the surface of an individual road on a scale from 1-10, gives City of Columbia Public Works staff the ability to objectively decide which roads to maintain, and how and when to maintain them.

Factors in the decision-making process can include:

- Visible conditions of the roadway (cracks, patches or similar).
- Surface deformation (rutting, rippling, settling or other irregularities).
- The condition of the road's base layers underneath the pavement surface.

For example, depending on some site-specific conditions (traffic volume and other factors), roads assessed with a PASER rating between 8-10 should be able to be maintained with routine procedures. Roads with a PASER rating of 5-7 might require preventive maintenance intended to slow the rate of pavement deterioration, such as chip seal, treatment with a surface sealer, or in some cases, mill and overlay. Roads with a rating of 4-6 typically require mill and overlay or other more involved repairs. Roads with a PASER rating of 1-4 will require structural improvements at the base level in order to restore the integrity of the road.

Streets are generally rated on a three-year cycle in order to methodically program long term maintenance needs. Maps showing individual street PASER ratings are available on the City's website, [CoMo.gov/public-works/street-division/pavement/](https://www.columbiamo.gov/public-works/street-division/pavement/).

The goal of the pavement management program is to provide the correct treatment for the road at the correct time. If funding is available, keeping streets and roads in good shape (6 to 7 on the PASER scale) typically costs less in the long run than repairing base issues.

The overall average PASER rating for the City's current network of streets is PASER 6.7. The City's Strategic Plan Goal is to achieve and maintain an average PASER of 7.0 for the system through 2032.

## JOIN OUR TEAM!

GoCoMoJobs.com



## Water & Light can help finance home efficiency improvements



The Home Performance with Energy Star program's "whole house" approach to efficiency begins with a detailed assessment.

Are you interested in saving money on your utility bills but unsure how to pay for energy efficiency improvements?

City of Columbia Water & Light is here to help. Through our award-winning Home Performance with Energy Star program, Water & Light offers rebates and loans for customers making recommended energy efficiency upgrades to their homes.

The Home Performance program's "whole house" approach to efficiency begins with a detailed assessment. An approved Home Performance contractor will develop a specific plan for your home. Common recommendations include sealing air leaks, upgrading heating and cooling systems, and adding insulation.

If you follow the recommendations, you will have an efficient home, which means increased comfort for you and your family. The average house in Columbia sees a 23% cut in water and electricity usage following an assessment.

Participants in the Home Performance with Energy Star program are eligible for rebates and loans to help finance the projects.

Water & Light has rebates up to \$1,200 for energy efficiency upgrades, with additional rebates available for high-efficiency air conditioners and heat pumps. The average home in Columbia receives \$520 in rebates.

Participants in the Home Performance program are eligible for a low-interest loan for most of the suggested improvements. For a single-family home, customers can apply for a loan of up to \$15,000. Water & Light offers interest rates as low as 1% for a three-year loan.

For more information on the Home Performance with Energy Star program, visit [ColumbiaPowerPartners.com](http://ColumbiaPowerPartners.com), call 573.441.5528 or email [Efficiency@CoMo.gov](mailto:Efficiency@CoMo.gov).

Customers curious about their energy use can visit [MyUtilityBill.CoMo.gov](http://MyUtilityBill.CoMo.gov). The portal provides visualization tools that allow customers to track energy usage as well as learn how usage patterns evolve during the billing cycle.

## National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month, which is an observance to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time.

Individuals who practice preparedness activities have less negative outcomes following a disaster. People who are prepared for emergencies reduce the initial call on first responders, and minimize strain on human service agencies during long term disaster recovery.

### Make a plan for your household today.

**Step 1:** Put a plan together by discussing the questions below with your family, friends or household to start your emergency plan.

- How will you receive emergency alerts and warnings?
- What is your shelter plan?
- What is your evacuation route?
- What is your family/household communication plan?
- Do you need to update your emergency preparedness kit?
- Have you identified responsibilities for each member of your household in case of an emergency or disaster?

**Step 2:** Consider specific needs and responsibilities in your household.

- Different ages of members within your household.
- Dietary and medical needs including prescriptions and equipment.
- Disabilities and functional needs including devices and equipment.
- Languages spoken or cultural and religious considerations.
- Pets or service animals.
- School-aged children in your household.

For more information on how to make a plan and other emergency preparedness steps, visit [ready.gov/plan](http://ready.gov/plan) or visit [ready.boonemo.org](http://ready.boonemo.org) for local resources.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### Vineet Kapila



Right after completing the construction management program at State Technical College, Vineet took a job with the City of Columbia. He started off on a survey crew, and later took a job in inspection.

In the 18 years since joining the City, Vineet has held numerous roles across several departments. Currently, he is the Construction Project Superintendent for Public Works. He embraces challenges and is never afraid to try new things.

"The City has been great to me. I think this is a great place to work. There are some real opportunities for advancement."

Vineet inspects contractors' construction designs to ensure they comply with the City's specifications and plans. He likes working for the City because it gives him the chance to take care of the community that he has been a part of for most of his life.

"I grew up in Columbia. I have a couple of kids, and they will grow up here. These are the streets I drive on, the sidewalks I walk on, so I want to make sure they're in good condition. I care about that."

## Parks and Recreation events

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

### October 2022

5 Sensory Friendly Touch-a-Truck, Rainbow Softball Center at Cosmo, 4-6 p.m., Free

15 Yappy Hour, Twin Lakes, 2-5 p.m., \$10, registration required

17 Toy Drive kicks off

29 Bear Creek Run Half Marathon, Bear Creek Trail, 8 a.m., Ages 12 and up, \$60

## 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:

- Board of Adjustment
- Citizens Police Review Board
- Commission on Cultural Affairs
- Housing and Community Development Commission
- Substance Abuse Advisory Commission

Application deadline is Friday, Oct. 7, at 5 p.m. Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at [CoMo.gov](https://www.columbia.mo.gov). Call 573.874.7208 for more information.

## Opportunities await, join our team

Thinking about a career change? Want to make more of a difference in your community? Consider applying for a job with the City of Columbia. The City of Columbia is a full-service municipal organization with open positions across a wide variety of career fields.

Whether you are looking to begin or advance a career as a firefighter, police officer, engineer, accountant or lineworker, we have opportunities worth exploring. The City is committed to delivering services to our residents in an innovative and efficient fashion. We are always looking to add motivated and engaged applicants to our team.

The City offers excellent employee benefits, including medical, dental and vision insurance; retirement plans; paid holidays; vacation and sick leave; and more.

If you're interested in public service and developing a deeper connection to your community, visit [GoCoMoJobs.com](https://www.GoCoMoJobs.com) and apply today!

## Code Corner – Rental Housing Inspections

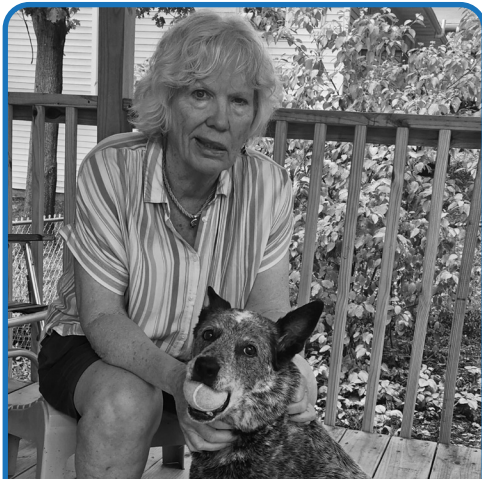
The City of Columbia has a Rental Unit Conservation Law that was established to keep rental properties safe and in good repair. All rental property in Columbia is to be registered and inspected to meet basic code. This includes apartments, duplexes, single family homes, and those who have tenants as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

Currently, nearly 27,700 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](https://www.CMo.gov).



## Maire Estar – September Volunteer of the Month



Thank you Maire Estar for your dedicated service to the City of Columbia. Your hard work and volunteer hours are much appreciated.

Maire Estar has been a member of the Park Patrol since 2019. She credits her dog, "Boo," with her involvement because of their daily walks on the trail.

"Becoming a more formal presence in the park seemed like a natural fit. I wanted to meet people and become involved in the community," said Maire.

Responsibilities of a Park Patrol member vary from picking up trash along the trail to reporting downed trees or a need for trail maintenance. Community members become goodwill ambassadors between the City and the public.

A benefit of being on the Park Patrol is meeting new friends. "I talked to the

widow of the person who started the MKT trail. She saw me walking my dog with my vest on. It was really nice to have her show her appreciation that we're out there keeping an eye on the trail because it was near and dear to her husband."

Maire also volunteers with Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA), doing things like weeding, mulching, planting trees and bushes, and harvesting. She's a trainer and volunteer for Heartfulness Meditation, a worldwide meditation network. She loves meditation because it connects her to her true self.

Maire also likes to work with pastels. The walls of her home are in some places decorated by beautiful artwork she created, full of color and inspiring to see. Maire describes herself as a lifelong learner. "I'm always learning and always want to learn."

Thank you, Maire, for your service! To learn about volunteering with the City of Columbia, visit [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) or call 573.874.7504.

## New hours for compost sales at landfill



Compost helps plant growth by balancing soil density. The balancing allows plants to develop healthier roots into the soil contributing to healthier growth.

Autumn is the ideal time to add compost to begin getting your lawn and garden ready for next spring.

The City of Columbia Solid Waste Utility operates a compost site near the Bioreactor Landfill, 5700 Peabody Road. The facility sells compost for \$20 plus tax per cubic yard. A loader will be on site to assist.

Please note, the hours for the compost site have changed.

The site is open for walk-in visits from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursdays and 8 a.m. to noon the second Saturday of the months of March, April, May, September and October.

Appointments are available Monday through Saturday year round.

Please call the Contact Center at 573.874.CITY (2489) or visit the Solid Waste page at [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) 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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### CITY OF COLUMBIA

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