



— City Stats —

Volunteer Columbia FY 23



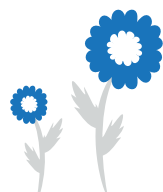
33,807
volunteer hours
served

6,000
individual
volunteers



9,359 bags
of litter
collected

111 Adopt-A-Spot
Beautification
sites



16.25 miles
cared for by
volunteers in the
Adopt-A-Trail
program

The City of Columbia Volunteer Program connects residents to opportunities to serve in their local government. Learn more at CoMo.gov/volunteer.

Columbia's Solid Waste collection enters new era



Beginning in March 2024, the Solid Waste Utility will transition to the use of refuse carts and automated collection for residential curbside collection.

The City of Columbia Solid Waste Utility has a goal to perform residential curbside collections efficiently every week. Below, the Utility offers a few tips that will help avoid delays and ensure dependable collection.

Although your collection day hasn't changed, the daily routes might have. Please have your cart at the curb no later than 6:30 a.m. on your collection day.

In order for crews to collect the carts, there needs to be a minimum clearance surrounding the carts. Place your cart with the wheels against the curb or at the edge of the pavement. There should

be 3 feet between carts, and carts should be at least 8 feet from objects such as mailboxes and lamp posts with 15 feet of vertical clearance.

On residential routes that include narrow streets with on-street parking, Solid Waste will use smaller vehicles that are easier to maneuver. These vehicles will be staffed by two crew members so roll carts can be repositioned as needed.

Only regular household trash and yard waste should be put in the carts. Items such as hazardous waste, electronics and construction debris need to be handled differently from regular trash and should not be placed in the roll cart.

All refuse must fit inside the cart with the lid closed. Bags left on the curb or on top of a cart will not be collected. Also, customer-owned trash cans and roll carts will not be collected. Carts are not to be left in the public right-of-way and must be stored on private property between collection days. Customers are required to store carts adjacent to a residential structure or an accessory structure such as a detached garage or shed.

Customers may request to exchange their refuse cart one time at no charge within the first 120 days of the March 4 start date. The customer can either call 573.874.CITY (2489) or email Waste-Mgmt@CoMo.gov to request a different size of roll cart.

After the initial 120-day period, customers will be charged a \$25 exchange fee per cart. Customers who need their cart emptied and cannot wait until the next scheduled collection day can request an additional collection by calling 573.874.CITY (2489) or emailing Waste-Mgmt@CoMo.gov.



Public Works crews on pothole patrol



Hot asphalt on the go: A mobile unit ensures immediate access to material for pothole repairs.

Potholes are a perennial problem, often forming when water infiltrates cracks in the road, where it freezes and expands. This process weakens the pavement, leaving behind widespread hazards and deteriorating the surrounding pavement.

Repairing potholes will often involve clearing debris from the hole and then filling it with hot material from a mobile asphalt unit. The freshly deposited asphalt will then be compressed flat by a work vehicle. In harsh weather conditions or when potholes are widespread, repairs often must be made with cold mix asphalt as a temporary solution until more favorable weather arrives.

Public Works knows that the best way to resolve pothole issues is to keep them from forming in the first place. Proper pavement maintenance such as regular crack and surface sealing is important to prevent water from entering the road base. Long-term solutions at a pothole location involve cutting out deteriorated pavement and addressing underlying road structure issues. The City continues to make important long-term investments in pavement management not just at pothole sites, but across the entire road network.

Residents are encouraged to report potholes by phone at 573.874.CITY (2489) or at [CoMo.gov/public-works/](https://www.columbiagov.com/co-mo-gov/public-works/). There, you can find more information on pavement management techniques and a city/state repair responsibility map. Potholes on state-maintained roads should be reported to MoDOT.

For the safety of our road crews, please reduce speeds and stay attentive while driving through work zones. Thank you for helping keep our workers safe!

Home composting classes

Did you know that up to 34% of the materials that go into Columbia's landfill are compostable? Landfilled organics produce methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Learn how to turn kitchen scraps and yard waste into a nutrient-rich soil amendment at a free workshop. Composting can greatly reduce a household's waste and is a fun and rewarding step toward a more sustainable lifestyle.

Sign up for a free workshop led by experienced composters. City of Columbia residents will receive a free Geobin Composter as supplies last. Search 'compost workshops' at [CoMo.gov](https://www.columbiagov.com/co-mo-gov) to find the complete Compost Workshop schedule.

For more information email Volunteer@CoMo.gov or call 573.874.6271. Classes are presented by the City of Columbia Volunteer Programs.



Volunteer compost instructor, Matt Arthur teaches citizens about the ease and benefits of Bokashi composting.

Rebecca Thompson, director of Housing and Neighborhood Services



Rebecca Thompson will serve as director of Housing and Neighborhood Services

The City of Columbia has announced Rebecca (Becky) Thompson as the inaugural director of the City's new Housing and Neighborhood Services Department beginning March 6. This new department was approved as part of the fiscal year 2024 budget.

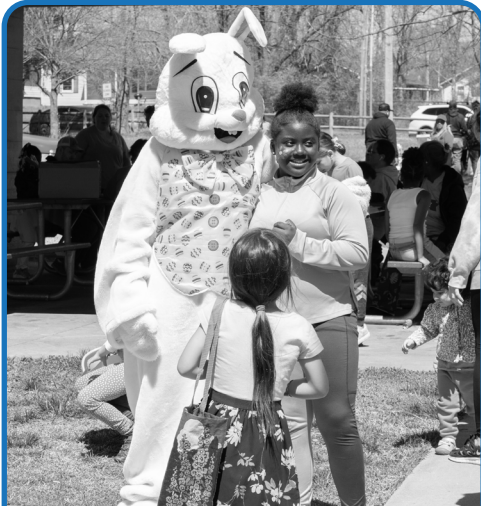
Thompson is a lawyer with seven years of experience as an assistant city counselor. Prior to serving in that role, she worked as assistant counsel for the Missouri Department of Transportation.

"I am confident in her ability to craft new partnerships and find new ways to address the housing crisis our community faces," City Manager De'Carlton Seewood said.

Thompson earned her bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Missouri and her juris doctorate, cum laude, from the University of Missouri School of Law. She grew up in Columbia and attended Rock Bridge High School.

"I am honored to serve as the first director of the newly formed Housing and Neighborhood Services department and I look forward to collaborating with other City staff and our community partners to create safe and affordable housing opportunities for all of our residents," Thompson said.

Parks and Recreation plans Egg Hunt EGGstravaganza



The Easter bunny will be available for photos at both EGGstravaganza events on March 30.

Columbia Parks and Recreation is planning two separate Easter activities at two parks. The annual Egg Hunt EGGstravaganza will be held March 30.

These free events will be at Douglass Park from 12-1:15 p.m. (egg hunt at 12:45 p.m.) and Indian Hills Park from 3-4:15 p.m. (egg hunt at 3:45 p.m.). Each event will feature three separate hunts in different areas designated by age. Kids will also enjoy other activities such as coloring, face painting and games.

Please call Parks and Recreation at 573.817.5077 if you or your organization would like to volunteer by hosting a game or activity.

Cleanup Columbia – Volunteering is full of surprises!



Members of The Gamers Stream team on an in water cleanup of the Hinkson Creek. This skilled volunteer team does in-boat, high water, cleanups of the Hinkson twice a year.

Cleanup Columbia, our annual city-wide litter pick up event, is happening now! Individuals, families, businesses, and groups of all sizes and types are welcome to join the fun to see what surprises they encounter while volunteering!

Volunteers pick the time, date and location that works best for them and the City's Volunteer Programs provides the supplies and will have the filled bags picked up. Volunteers can pick up litter along streets, in our parks, along trails and in streams.

By volunteering for Cleanup Columbia, residents are being a part of their community, helping care for their environment, and getting physically active.

Register online at CoMo.gov/volunteer. For more information, contact us at Volunteer@CoMo.gov or 573.874.7499.



Students from Moberly Area Community College participate in Cleanup Columbia each April, picking up litter near their location in the Parkade Center.

Parks and Recreation events

For more information, please visit CoMo.gov/parksandrec or call 573.874.7460. You may also visit the Parks and Recreation Facebook page at Facebook.com/parksandrec.

April 2024

- 6 Kite Flying Day, Douglass Park from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Again St. Park from 2-3:30 p.m., Free
- 9 Big Muddy Speaker Series, Riechmann Pavilion, 6 p.m. doors open, presentation at 7 p.m., Free
- 10 Park Pop Up and Play Day, Eastport Park, 4-5:30 p.m., Free
- 20 Columbia Youth Intro Track and Field, Hickman HS Track, 9 a.m. check in, \$10
- 20 Bike Safety Rodeo, Karis Church parking lot, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Free

American Airlines adds flights at COU

American Airlines will offer an additional flight to Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) beginning April 4, and an additional flight to Dallas Fort Worth (DFW) beginning June 5. Travelers will then have the option of four flights to Dallas and three flights to Chicago each day.

"Columbia Regional Airport continues to see increased demand for flight options and an increase in the number of travelers coming through the new terminal," Airport Manager Michael Parks said. "Additional flights such as these offer opportunity and convenience for travelers to get to their destination faster and home sooner."

Flight schedules and airline information can be found at FlyCOU.com.

Julie McBee – March featured volunteer



Thank you Julie for being such a dedicated volunteer. We are so thankful for your service!

Early on a Saturday morning when the traffic is low and the birds are singing, you can catch March's featured volunteer Julie McBee out at her Adopt-A-Spot, helping make Columbia beautiful. The Adopt-A-Spot Beautification Program caught Julie's eye all the way back in 2004 when her family moved to Columbia.

"I jumped in and took on a spot that had gotten quite overgrown with weeds and Bermuda grass. It was quite overwhelming at times, but I broke down the 150 foot median into 10 foot sections. It was good for both my body and my soul! It has been fun to watch the garden grow and bloom," Julie said.

Julie's spot is dedicated to her husband's Kids Against Hunger COMO nonprofit organization, another effort near and dear to her heart where you can find Julie working to give back. Kids Against Hunger COMO has packed food for the local food bank as well as for disaster relief areas, both in the United States and around the world. If you see Julie, don't hesitate to give a wave or say hello.

"I am grateful to be able to give a little bit back to the community that I live in," Julie said, "I never expect a thank you, so am always very touched and pleasantly surprised when occasionally someone slows down and says thank you!"

Visit CoMo.gov for information about the Adopt-A-Spot Beautification. You can find out about becoming an adopter or leave kudos for the good work of volunteers like Julie. – Article written by Tara O'Reilly

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
- Downtown Columbia Leadership Council
- Planning and Zoning Commission

Application deadline is Friday, April 5 at 5 p.m. Applications and information about current vacancies are available at CoMo.gov. Call 573.874.7208 for more information.

Code Corner – UL compliant alarms

Neighborhood Services inspectors are finding an increasing number of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors that are not listed in accordance with Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Please check when purchasing your detectors that they are compliant with the UL Listing. The UL Listed seal or equivalent means that the product has been tested to nationally recognized safety and sustainability standards. Neighborhood Services staff inspects rental property throughout the City and enforces residential codes to preserve the quality life for our residents. Contact us at 573.874.CITY (2489) or Neighborhood@CoMo.gov.



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

MAYOR

Barbara Buffaloe
573.874.7222
Mayor@CoMo.gov

WARD 1

Nick Knoth
573.864.4978
Ward1@CoMo.gov

WARD 2

Rachel Proffitt
573.823.2274
Ward2@CoMo.gov

WARD 3

Roy Lovelady
573.864.4976
Ward3@CoMo.gov

WARD 4

Nick Foster
573.999.0897
Ward4@CoMo.gov

WARD 5

Donald Waterman
573.864.4972
Ward5@CoMo.gov

WARD 6

Betsy Peters
573.864.4971
Ward6@CoMo.gov

CITY MANAGER

De'Carl Seewood
573.874.2489
CMO@CoMo.gov

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CITY OF COLUMBIA

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