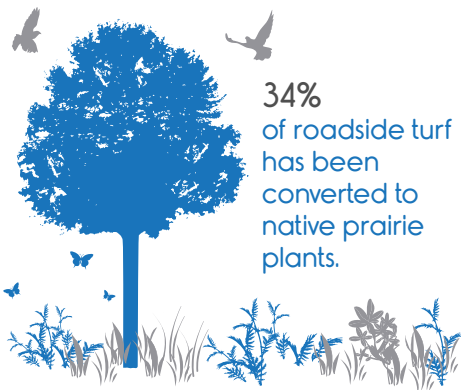


— City Stats —

Roadside Pollinator Program



34% of roadside turf has been converted to native prairie plants.

Roadside Pollinator sites can store between 8.9 and 50.2 metric tons of carbon in the soil each year.



\$160–280K projected annual savings from not mowing pollinator sites.



Sustaining biodiversity: Columbia’s Roadside Pollinator Program

Having faced a staggering 90% decline in monarch butterfly populations since 2013, the City of Columbia’s Sustainability and Public Works departments worked together in 2019 to create a program to transition from mowed turfgrass along certain roadsides into managed native wildflower areas for pollinators.

This Roadside Pollinator Program aims to restore native Missouri vegetation and reclaim the natural heritage of our landscapes. The program also serves to educate the community on the importance of preserving biodiversity and fostering sustainable habitats for the benefit of generations to come.

In pursuit of these goals, the City partnered with DJM Ecological Services, who have guided the City through various setbacks such as the drought our region experienced in 2023. With DJM’s help, invasive plants have now been largely brought under control and those areas have been seeded with native forbs in their place.



As winter came to a close, a representative from DJM Ecological Services works to eliminate trash from the roadside pollinator areas.



Pollinator areas are mowed with track loaders in February, clearing away last year’s overgrowth to make way for this year’s eventual blooms.

Forbs, a herbaceous flowering plant, provide food and habitat for pollinators while also contributing to soil health. These native plants are expected to begin blooming this summer and will produce even more impressive displays in 2025.

If you see habitat restoration teams working to maintain pollinator areas, please remember to drive with caution around them. As the City awaits the return of blooms and the resurgence of pollinators, this program stands as a

showcase of Columbia’s dedication to preserving local native beauty.

To learn more about the pollinator program, visit [CoMo.gov/Pollinators](https://www.columbiago.gov/Pollinators).

Short-term rental regulations to go into effect June 1, 2024

On Feb. 5, the City of Columbia enacted a short-term rental (STR) ordinance which goes into effect June 1, 2024. All dwellings used as an STR must be in compliance with the ordinance requirements by June 1, 2025.

This process began in 2018, when the City began seeking feedback from residents to be used in crafting draft regulations for short-term rentals in the community. In 2019, the Columbia City Council considered legislation with draft regulations that was subsequently removed from its agenda in December 2020.

The process resumed in 2021, when the City's Planning and Zoning Commission began drafting a new ordinance with draft regulations. Over the following two years, the City Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission held several joint work sessions to further develop regulations. Draft regulations were presented to the City Council for introduction at the Jan. 16, 2024, Council meeting and were adopted following the Council meeting on Feb. 5, 2024.

Under the ordinance, short-term rental owners are required to apply for a business license and short-term rental certificate of compliance. Additionally, some short-term rental owners may be required to apply for a conditional use permit. Owners will also be required to pay applicable nightly accommodation taxes to the City of Columbia.

Full ordinance language can be found here:

[BeHeard.CoMo.gov/short-term-rentals-regulations](https://beheard.como.gov/short-term-rentals-regulations).

Questions? Email Planning@CoMo.gov or call 573.874.7246.

Residents invited to participate in Boone County Housing Study

The City of Columbia, in partnership with Boone County, invites community members to participate in several community input meetings April 8 and 9 focused on the Boone County Housing Study.

Community input meetings are an integral part of the Boone County Housing Study, providing an opportunity to gather diverse perspectives and insights vital to shaping the study's conclusions.

The housing study, a part of the Boone County Upward Mobility Action Plan, represents a significant step toward addressing housing challenges and fostering sustainable community development throughout the county.

The community input meetings will be facilitated by Dr. David Boston, owner of Amarach Planning Services. Boone County announced its decision to engage Amarach Planning Services, a consultancy focused on urban planning and housing analysis, for the housing study in December 2023.

Columbia residents are encouraged to attend any of the following meetings:

- **Monday, April 8, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**
Columbia Public Library, Friends Room,
100 W. Broadway, Columbia
- **Tuesday, April 9, 1 – 3 p.m.**
The Food Bank for Central & Northeast
Missouri, Community Room, 2101
Vandiver Dr., Columbia
- **Tuesday, April 9, 5 – 7 p.m.**
The Food Bank for Central & Northeast
Missouri, Community Room, 2101
Vandiver Dr., Columbia

Residents may also participate in the housing study through the Housing Survey for Boone County. This anonymous survey will provide more information about the housing needs, preferences and challenges in Boone County.

To complete the survey, visit [BeHeard.CoMo.gov/boone-county-housing-study](https://beheard.como.gov/boone-county-housing-study).



Columbia Fire Chief Clayton Farr Jr. retired April 1 after more than 25 years with the City of Columbia.

City of Columbia Fire Chief Clayton Farr Jr. retired April 1

Columbia Fire Chief Clayton Farr Jr. retired from the City of Columbia on April 1 after more than 25 years with the Columbia Fire Department (CFD).

Farr worked in fire and emergency services for 34 years and served with the Columbia Fire Department since 1998. During his time at CFD, he worked as a firefighter, assistant fire marshal, lieutenant, battalion chief, division chief/shift commander, assistant fire chief and interim fire chief. Farr was named fire chief in 2022.

Throughout his career he also worked as a fire investigator for the Columbia Police Department, Boone County Sheriff's Office and the Southern Boone County Fire Protection District. He also assisted the Mid-Missouri Bomb Squad since its inception more than 15 years ago.

During Farr's tenure as chief, Fire Station 11 opened in the southside of Columbia and work began on the new Fire Station 10 in the City's east-central corridor. The Department also achieved reaccredited agency status from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International, one of only 312 agencies in the world to have this distinction.

Honoring the Historic Sharp End

The Sharp End, a neighborhood once situated on East Walnut Street, took shape in the early 1900s and served as a vibrant cultural hub for Columbia's Black population. Bars, restaurants, theaters and professional services catered to the needs of its predominantly Black clientele.

In 1958, during nationwide urban renewal efforts, Columbia witnessed the sudden dismantling of this Black community. Sharp End's buildings and homes were razed and its residents were displaced. Today, a parking garage and a post office stand where the Sharp End once thrived.

On Feb. 21, 2024, the City of Columbia Public Works commemorated the neighborhood's memory by installing new street signs which bear the inscription, "Historic Sharp End." These signs, together with existing markers for the African American Heritage Trail, serve as reminders of Columbia's Black heritage.

We urge everyone to explore the African-American Heritage Trail and read each marker. By commemorating the Historic Sharp End, we can all pledge to acknowledge the stories of our past to bring about a more equitable and united Columbia.

For more information on Columbia's African American Heritage Trail, visit ColumbiaREDI.com/african-american-heritage-trail/.



Shown are the new Historic Sharp End street signs placed at the intersection of East Walnut Street and North Sixth Street.

Intersections that feature the Historic Sharp End markers:

- East Walnut Street/North Sixth Street
- East Walnut Street/North Fifth Street
- East Ash Street/North Sixth Street
- East Ash Street/North Fifth Street

Residential curbside recycling returns



Residential curbside recycling resumed last month on an every-other-week schedule. Containers, such as plastic bottles and aluminum cans, should be placed in a blue bag like the one depicted.

The City of Columbia Solid Waste Utility was excited to resume residential curbside recycling collection in March.

The revised recycling program means curbside collection is back on an every-other-week basis. On alternating weeks, customers can put their blue recycling bags and paper and cardboard bundles curbside on their refuse pickup day.

Containers, such as plastic bottles and aluminum cans, should be placed in a blue bag. Fibers, including newspapers and cardboard, can be placed in a paper bag or a box.

Customers can visit CoMo.gov/RecyclingMap to view an interactive map that will help residents determine their recycling collection days. Customers can also download the CoMo Recycle and Trash app to receive weekly reminders on refuse and recycling collection days.

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/comoparksandrec.

May 2024

- 2 Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series, TBA, 7 p.m., Free
- 4 Douglass Park Heritage Day, 2-5 p.m., Free
- 8 Park Pop Up and Play Day, Longview Park, 4-5:30 p.m., Free
- 10 Movies in the Park, *Monsters Inc.*, Cosmo Park, 8:30 p.m., Free
- 14 Big Muddy Speaker Series, Riechmann Pavilion, 6 p.m. doors open, presentation at 7 p.m., Free
- 15 Family Fun Fest: *BEE Kind to Your Mind*, Cosmo Park, 6-8 p.m., Free
- 25 Take the Playground Challenge kicks off
- 29 Tons of Trucks, Columbia Mall, 4-7 p.m., Free

Boards and commissions 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:

- Columbia Housing Authority Board
- Disabilities Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Youth Advisory Council

Application deadline is Friday, May 3 at 5 p.m. Applications and information about current vacancies are available at CoMo.gov. Call 573.874.7208 for more information.

Jennifer Spiess - April featured volunteer



Students from Jennifer Spiess' classes at Moberly Area Community College pose after collecting trash during Columbia's annual Cleanup Columbia event.

You'll see April's featured volunteer, Jennifer Spiess, out for Cleanup Columbia this month, but she won't be alone. Each year Jennifer, in her 15th year as a conservation biology and plant biology instructor, recruits students to assist in the cleanup.

"I am most proud to share these experiences and values with my students at Moberly Area Community College," Jennifer said. "Taking action in even the smallest ways can combat any problem you may be dealing with. I find that when I start focusing on others, I stop worrying about things I have no control over."

Jennifer has a long history of giving back and has volunteered everywhere she's lived, forming a lifelong habit that started with her parents in New Cambria, Missouri.

"I believe, and teach, that we want to leave the world better than we received it," she said.

And Jennifer lives as she teaches, regularly helping to place flags for Memorial Day, helping with school clubs, volunteering during Bible School, assisting the Salvation Army with the Holiday Parade, walking dogs for the Central Missouri Humane Society and assisting the Food Bank with Buddy Packs.

When she's not teaching or volunteering, Jennifer enjoys cooking, reading, baking and gardening. She's currently planning a Missouri native plants garden at home and is an active member of the Columbia Mothers of Multiples Club. She also works with Mary Kay as a consultant.

If you'd like to join Jennifer and the MACC students, you participate in Cleanup Columbia – either in April or anytime that fits your schedule. For more information, contact the City of Columbia Volunteer Programs at 573.874.7499 or email volunteer@CoMo.gov.

Article written by volunteer Tara O'Reilly

Code Corner – Tall grass & weeds

Now that spring has arrived, residents should be spending more time caring for the landscaping around their homes. The City of Columbia landscape management ordinance addresses turf and turf weeds that are 12 inches or taller. This ordinance is in place to deter rodent harborage and also protects property values for neighborhoods in the cases where lawns are not maintained.

When properties are out of compliance, the City may cut the turf grass and weeds and then tax bill the property for mowing. Neighborhood Services handles more than 800 landscape issues annually.

To report a vegetation violation, call 573.874.CITY or visit the City's website at CoMo.gov/report-a-problem/.



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.

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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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