
Community Profile

Brief History of the City

Columbus was founded in 1812 at the confluence of the Scioto and Olentangy rivers. In 1803, the year of Ohio's statehood, the capital was moved from Chillicothe, located 45 miles to the south, to Zanesville, located 50 miles to the east, and back to Chillicothe. Created specifically to be the capital city, state officials finally selected a centralized location in Columbus in 1812 and the city officially became Ohio's permanent capital in 1816. The National Road reached Columbus in 1831 and brought with it additional industry and trade. The railroads prospered in the 1850's in the city, and Columbus became a center of manufacturing. The 20th century saw a rise in the aviation, education, business, banking and insurance industries. Today, Columbus continues to be a leader in these and other fields, including research, technology and healthcare.

Form of Government and Organization

The state legislature established Columbus as a city in 1812. The city is a home-rule municipal corporation operating under the laws of Ohio. The City Charter, its constitution, can only be amended by a majority of the city's voters.

The City of Columbus is administered by a Mayor, a seven-member City Council, the City Auditor and City Attorney. These officials are all elected for four-year terms on an at-large basis. The Mayor and four Council members are elected in an odd numbered year. Three Council members, the City Auditor, and the City Attorney are elected in the following odd numbered year. The Charter provides for appointments and elections of successors to these officials if they should, for any reason, vacate their office. All are chosen through a non-partisan process.

The Mayor appoints directors for the Departments of Public Safety, Public Service, Public Utilities, Finance and Management, Development, Building and Zoning Services, Human Resources, Technology, Equal Business Opportunity and Community Relations. The remaining four city department directors are appointed by and report to independent commissions. These are the Recreation and Parks Department Director, the Health Commissioner, the Civil Service Executive Secretary and the Secretary of the Sinking fund. The City Treasurer and Clerk to the Council are appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of the Council.

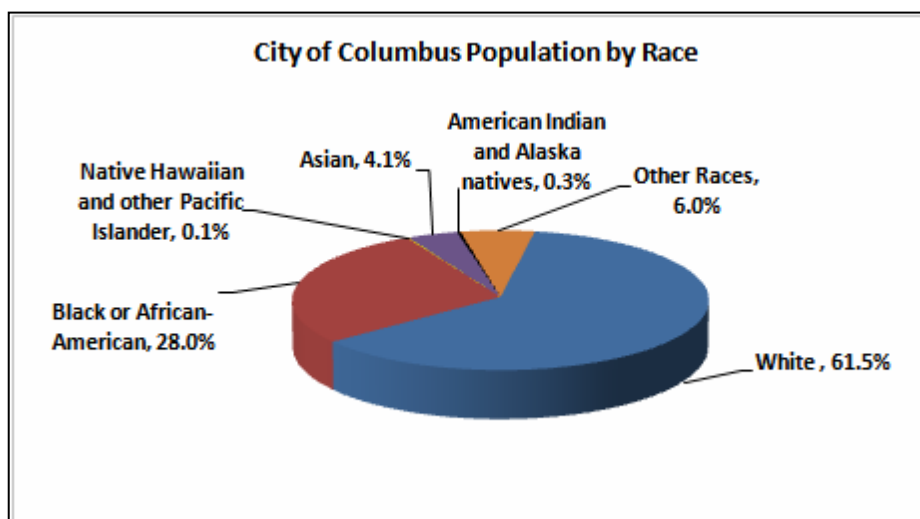
Location

Columbus encompasses a little over 227 square miles and is located at 39°59' north latitude and 82°59' west longitude in the eastern portion of the U.S. Midwest at 902 feet above sea level. Columbus is within 500 miles of more than half of the nation's population including, among others, the following cities: Chicago (350 miles), St. Louis (400 miles), Indianapolis (175 miles), Detroit (200 miles), Pittsburgh (185 miles), Philadelphia (470 miles), and New York City (500 miles).

Population and Household Demographics

Columbus is home to 787,033 residents (U.S. Census Bureau American Fact Finder 2010 population estimate), with roughly 3,467 residents per square mile. Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau for the 2010 American Fact Finder report that 48.8 percent of the population is male and 51.2 percent is female. The median age is 31.2 years old and 76.8 percent of the resident population is 18 or older.

According to the American Fact Finder's estimates, 5.6 percent (44,359) of the city's residents identify as Hispanic or Latino with the remaining 94.4 percent (742,647) identifying as not Hispanic or Latino. The racial demographics for the City of Columbus are broken down as follows:



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Neighborhoods and Housing

Columbus is comprised of several strong neighborhoods located in the heart of the city as well as in the outer suburbs. The metro area's low cost of living attracts professionals from all over the country. Depending upon one's stage in life, there are several housing options for residents within the city and surrounding areas. Modern downtown lofts and eclectic, first-ring suburban neighborhoods are just some of the options available.

Of the estimated 370,544 households within the city limits, 86.2 percent were occupied in 2010, leaving 13.8 percent, or 51,116 housing units vacant (for rent, for sale and unoccupied, or otherwise vacant). Roughly 44.2 percent of housing units were built prior to 1960. Columbus homes had an estimated median value of \$137,700 in 2010.

Transportation

The Columbus metro area is located within a one day drive or one hour flight of over half the population of the U.S. and Canada. Crossed by eight major interstate highways, the metro area has easy southbound access through the Mid-Atlantic States to the southeast. The region's east-west corridors traverse the country from coast to coast and into the Rockies. Interstate access also provides major benefits for in-state commerce with easy travel possible from any market in the state to another. The region is home to the Port Columbus International Airport, which has recently undergone significant capital improvements, and the Rickenbacker International Airport, just south of Columbus. Rickenbacker is a multi-modal logistics hub serving international airfreight, cargo airlines and manufacturers and distributors.

Of the total working population in the Columbus metro area, 82.4 percent commute to work alone in their vehicles, 8 percent carpool with others, and less than 2 percent utilize public transportation to get to and from work. Mean travel time to work was 22.7 minutes in 2010. The Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) operates bus service throughout Franklin County, and parts of Delaware, Fairfield, Licking and Union Counties, providing close to 18 million rides annually.

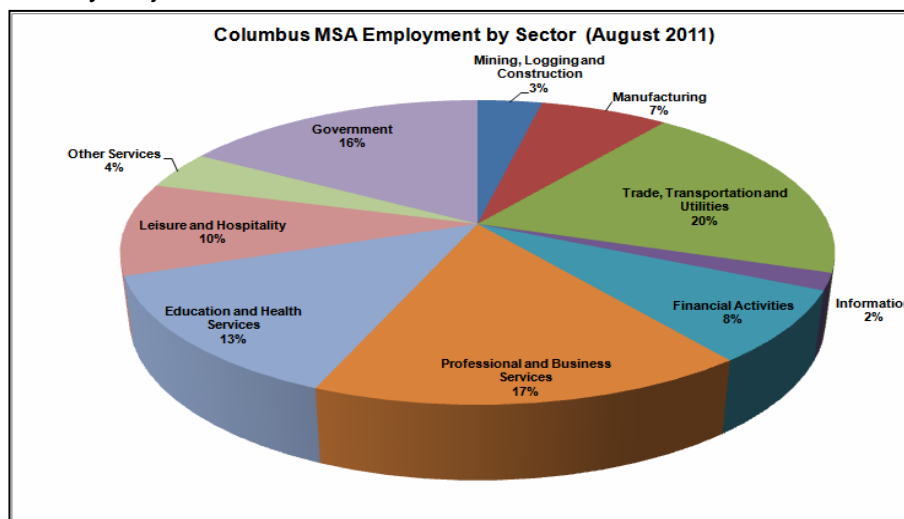
Healthcare and Education

Columbus is home to some of the best healthcare providers in the nation, including Nationwide Children’s Hospital, the OhioHealth system, and The Ohio State University Medical Center. Several public and private colleges and universities are located in the region, enrolling over 100,000 students in the metropolitan area. Columbus City Schools, the largest district in Ohio, has over 55,000 students. High school graduates comprise 88.4 percent of the adult population and 31.6 percent of the city’s residents have a bachelor’s degree or higher. The Columbus Metropolitan Library has been serving residents since 1873 and maintains a collection of 3 million items at 22 locations throughout the metro area.

Area Employment and Economic Outlook

Business Sectors and Employers

Columbus has a stable employment environment, anchored by local, state and federal government operations, and augmented by financial services, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, information services, energy, and technology companies. The graph below shows Columbus area employment by major sector.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

While the number of jobs in some sectors, such as mining, logging and construction, manufacturing, and trade and transportation has declined over the past decade, other sectors have grown. Education and health services, professional and business services and the leisure and hospitality sectors have expanded over the past ten years.

Columbus MSA Employment Change, by Sector (2001 to 2011¹)

Employment Sector (non-farm)	# of Jobs 2011	Net Change 2001 to 2011	% Change 2001 to 2011
Mining, Logging and Construction	31,600	(10,600)	-25.12%
Manufacturing	62,800	(32,300)	-33.96%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	177,400	(17,900)	-9.17%
Information	16,200	(6,300)	-28.00%
Financial Activities	69,100	(7,900)	-10.26%
Professional and Business Services	151,000	18,800	14.22%
Education and Health Services	120,800	30,000	33.04%
Leisure and Hospitality	88,800	7,500	9.23%
Other Services	36,300	1,000	2.83%
Government	149,600	1,300	0.88%
Total Non-Farm Employment	903,600	(16,400)	-1.88%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

¹ 2011 is estimated using August 2011 preliminary figures

Columbus serves as headquarters to several major national and multinational corporations. In 2010, 15 Fortune 1000 companies were located within the city, including Nationwide Insurance, American Electric Power (AEP), Limited Brands, AT&T, and Big Lots.

Several major employers have made central Ohio home in recent years, investing millions in the local economy and expanding the region's economic base. The table below lists companies that have invested more than \$50 million in Columbus from 2008 through 2010.

Companies with Investments in Columbus over \$50 Million (2008-2010)

Company	Type	Product	Investment
Coca-Cola Company (2010)	Manufacturing	Beverage products	\$120,000,000
FlightSafety International (2008)	Office	Flight simulator software	\$122,500,000
NetJets, Inc. (2008)	Headquarters	Fractional jet ownership	\$73,000,000
Roxane Laboratories (2009)	Manufacturing	Pharmaceuticals	\$67,000,000
CSX Corp. (2008)	Distribution	Rail yard	\$50,000,000

Source: Ohio Private Investment Survey 2008-2010, Ohio Department of Development, March 2011

Central Ohio is on its way to becoming a center for high-tech and "green" industries. Through partnerships with the State of Ohio, the Columbus Partnership, Columbus2020!, Franklin County and others, Columbus continues efforts to strategically attract and retain businesses, investments, and workers that enhance the strengths of the region. Exciting research projects in advanced energy development are underway through private-public partnerships with The Ohio State University and Battelle Memorial Institute, and companies such as Edison Welding Institute and American Electric Power. California-based electric car maker Coda Automotive Inc. has plans to build a battery-making enterprise in Columbus that could employ hundreds.

Several leading information providers are also based in Columbus, including Chemical Abstracts Service and the Online Computer Library Center. In recent years, the healthcare industry has emerged as a new growth sector, with the city boasting four nationally recognized health systems employers that employ 3,100 healthcare workers and contribute over \$4 billion to the local economy. Central Ohio's 20 largest companies are listed below.

Central Ohio's 20 Largest Employers (2010)

Employer Name	Total Full-Time Employees	Revenue
1. State of Ohio	25,608	NA
2. Ohio State University	23,093	NA
3. JPMorgan Chase & Co.	16,975	\$100.43 billion
4. Nationwide Insurance	11,235	\$20.75 billion
5. Ohio Health	7,810	\$2.06 billion
6. Federal Government-United States Postal Service (1)	12,540	\$67 billion
DLA Land Maritime (2)	3,000	\$5 billion
7. City of Columbus	7,739	NA
8. Columbus City School District	7,095	NA
9. Honda of America Manufacturing	7,000	\$92.21 billion
10. Franklin County	6,321	NA
11. Mount Carmel Health System	5,701	\$2.52 billion
12. Kroger Co.	5,417	\$76.7 billion
13. Limited Brands Inc.	5,200	\$8.63 billion
14. Nationwide Children's Hospital	4,278	\$728.1 million
15. Huntington Bancshares Inc.	4,170	\$3.24 billion
16. Cardinal Health Inc.	4,030	\$99.51 billion
17. Medco Health Solutions	3,831	\$59.8 billion
18. American Electric Power Company Inc.	3,527	\$13.49 billion
19. Battelle	2,618	\$6.2 billion
20. Alliance Data	2,030	\$1.96 billion

(1) Total includes subset branches/divisions shown

(2) Formerly Defense Supply Center

(3) NA=Information not available

Source: *Columbus Business First 2010 Book of Lists*, Greater Columbus Largest Employers, December 2010

Note: "Total employed" is the number of persons employed part-time or full-time during a reporting period, including payroll workers, self-employed persons, unpaid workers in family enterprises, and domestic workers. Employers on the list of the largest employers are ranked according to the number of full-time employees.

Unemployment

Of the approximately 869,770 workers in the Columbus metropolitan area labor force, 884,760 (or 92.2 percent) were employed in August 2011. Although unemployment rates have increased in this recessionary period, the city's unemployment rate (7.8 percent as of August 2011) remains lower than that of the state (9.1 percent) and the nation (10.0 percent). Annual median earnings were \$33,321 (in 2010 inflation adjusted dollars) for those in the metro area workforce, aged 16 years or older.

Columbus Work Force

Close to one million people work in the Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area, nearly a 30 percent increase since 1990. The Columbus work force is highly educated and largely white-collar, creating a supportive environment for innovation and expansion. Approximately 30 percent have bachelor's degrees and 10 percent have master's degrees—numbers that point to a healthy and prosperous future for the city. There are 26 institutions of higher learning in the Columbus area with over 100,000 college students and 20,000 annual graduates. One issue receiving special attention in recent years is that of local “brain drain,” or the exodus of individuals from Columbus to other areas of the nation after they finish their post-secondary programs. By strengthening connections between graduates and local employers, the Columbus Chamber and its partners are working to ensure that the “young and talented” remain in central Ohio after graduation and apply their newly acquired skills and knowledge in the local workforce.

Key Development Projects

Exciting projects are underway in each quadrant of the city, including downtown. Downtown Columbus is seeing a revival with new housing units, commercial development, new parks and redevelopment of neglected parcels. 2012 marks the ninth year of a ten year plan to bring new investment and activity to downtown Columbus. More than 5,000 housing units have been built or are under development.

Since 2002, the city has worked with 36 different companies to keep or bring 4,400 jobs downtown. The total new investment in downtown since 2000 is estimated at \$2.19 billion, with \$711 million in public funding helping to leverage \$1.48 billion in private investment. This includes projects proposed, under construction, or built since 2000.

The downtown skyline will soon have a new addition when a 500-room convention center headquarters hotel, located on the west side of High Street between the Greater Columbus Convention Center and Nationwide Arena, is completed in late 2012. This new hotel is expected to generate an additional 52,000 annual room nights as a result of convention center business. The hotel will protect Franklin County and the City of Columbus' current investment in convention facilities by retaining existing convention business and expanding regional and national conventions in Columbus. This is expected to add 550 jobs and generate \$2.3 million annually in sales, lodging and income taxes. Adjacent to the site is a 900-car parking garage also owned by the Convention Facilities Authority. Funds raised from adjustments to parking meters will fund the city's contribution for the new hotel.

Construction was completed in summer 2011 on the \$38 million Scioto Mile, an unprecedented 50/50 partnership between public and private sectors. The Scioto Mile is a signature riverfront park located in the heart of downtown, stretching from the Arena District to Whittier Peninsula. As part of the Scioto Mile initiative, Bicentennial Park underwent a transformation and now features a 15,000 square-foot water feature with multiple fountains, a permanent stage/band shell and a restaurant with an outdoor terrace for dining overlooking the park.

Columbus Commons, a new nine acre urban park on the site of the former City Center Mall, also opened in 2011. Events such as Family Fundays, free fitness classes, concerts, an outdoor reading room, and carousel have drawn crowds since opening day. The Bicentennial Pavilion, housing live concerts, is scheduled to open in early summer 2012.

New developments are underway on the city's west side as well. Transformation is starting to take place in Franklinton, the city's oldest settlement located just west of downtown. Community members will meet over the next year with city staff and area partners to complete the East Franklinton Creative Community District Plan. Aging warehouse space is being renovated into vibrant live/work space for artists. The city will be home to a casino on the city's west side, which is opening in 2012 and will generate millions in investment and new jobs for the local economy.

The last phase of redevelopment of the former Gowdy Field landfill will be completed late this year when the city's former heliport site is redeveloped into a \$20 million medical office building for The Ohio State University Medical Center. Two phases of the project have already been completed, resulting in two new office buildings, totaling 200,000 square feet of space, \$30 million in investment and more than 700 jobs. The Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Health Center, in addition to the nearby Ambulatory Surgery Center, will not only enhance the lives of patients and their families, but also strengthen the city's economic base by creating as many as 200 new jobs over the next several years.

Through an agreement with city officials, JP Morgan Chase & Co., one of the area's largest employers, is bringing 1,000 new jobs to the city and retaining another 10,850. The city will net an estimated \$4.5 million in additional income tax from the new jobs over eight years.

The Ohio State University is expanding its Medical Center on its main campus. The \$1 billion project is scheduled to open in 2014 and will create 6,000 permanent jobs and 5,000 temporary jobs during construction. As part of this project, OSU plans to reinvest \$10 million in tax incentives from the city in the Near East Side at OSU Hospital East. This partnership with the city will help transform vacant houses into rehabbed or newly constructed homes, provide homebuyer education programs, and create initiatives to improve health and wellness in the surrounding neighborhoods.

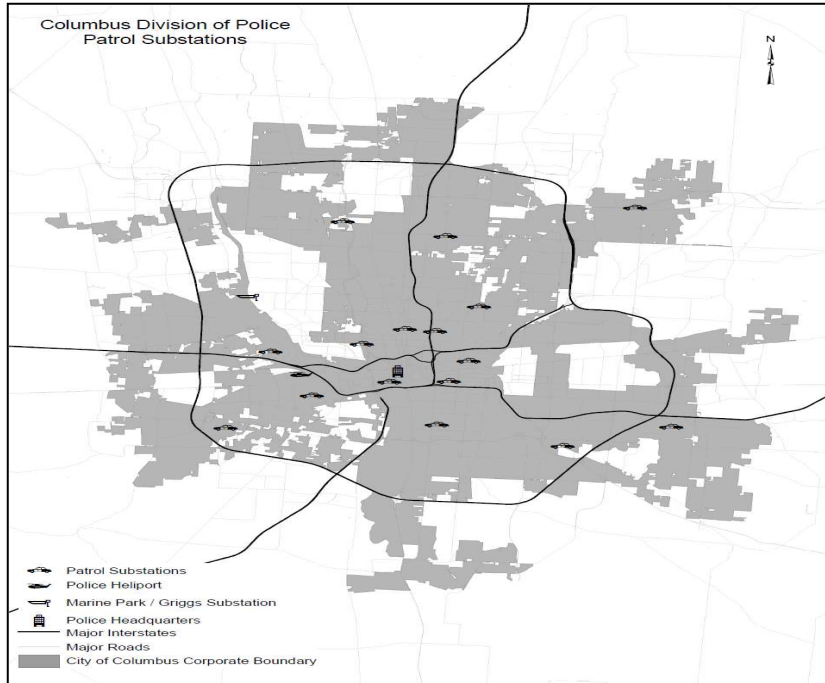
Another major near east/downtown area project is a \$740 million investment in Nationwide Children's Hospital, which is expected to add an additional 1,160 new hospital jobs and generate \$1.3 billion in new regional economic activity. The hospital expansion includes partnerships with the city and others to leverage local and federal funds to redevelop surrounding neighborhoods. Funds will be used to rehab and construct new homes, provide health awareness and other educational opportunities.

Nationwide Insurance agreed to relocate an estimated 1,400 jobs from its Dublin offices to the downtown area, adding to the 7,500 jobs already located at their downtown campus. As part of the agreement, the City of Columbus is creating a Tax Increment Financing District (TIF) to support Nationwide Realty Investor's Grandview Yard development. The TIF will help fund infrastructure improvements within the new \$500 million mixed-use retail and housing center located near Third Avenue and Olentangy River Road.

Key City Services

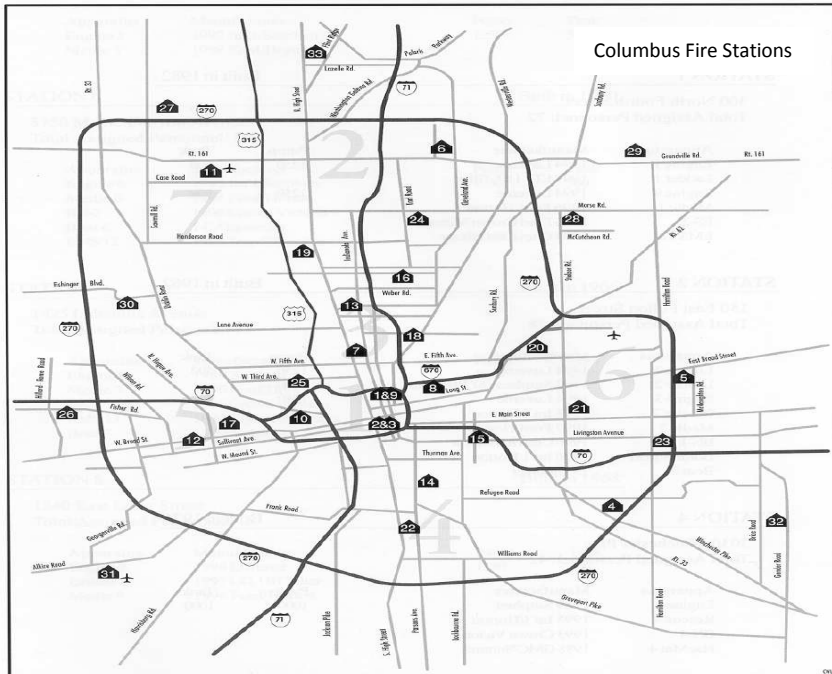
Police Protection

The Columbus Division of Police has 16 substations located throughout the city. There are five patrol zones divided into 20 separate precincts to serve the city's residents. Division headquarters is located at 120 Marconi Boulevard.



Fire Protection

The Columbus Division of Fire has 32 fire stations at various locations throughout the city. Columbus is divided into seven battalion districts from which fire apparatus are dispatched to serve the city's residents. Division headquarters is located at 3675 Parsons Avenue.



Solid Waste Collection

The Division of Refuse serves more than 330,000 households with weekly trash pick-up. The city also offers bulk waste pick-up and yard waste collection services. In May 2012, the city will embark on a comprehensive curbside recycling program with the goal of diverting 35 percent of waste from its landfill. The recycling program will be rolled out in five phases, with the final phase to begin in 2013.

Street System

The Department of Public Service is responsible for day-to-day maintenance of more than 6,300 lane miles of roadways in the city, including 220 bridges. Since September 2011, 159,217 potholes were repaired.

Sewer System

Columbus maintains 4,625 miles of storm, sanitary, and combined sewers and operates two 24-hour wastewater treatment plants (Jackson Pike and Southerly).

	Waste Treatment Summary		
	2010	2009	2008
Total gallons treated	57,283,530,000	55,951,100,000	63,931,960,000
Average (millions gallons per day)	156.9	153.3	174.8

Source: Department of Public Utilities Annual Report

Water System

The source of Columbus' drinking water includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. Columbus and more than 20 contracting suburban water customers receive water from one of three plants: Dublin Road Water Plant, Hap Cremean Water Plant and Parsons Avenue Water Plant.

	Water Pumpage Summary		
	2010	2009	2008
<i>Finished water</i>			
Total gallons treated	51,198,060,000	51,469,820,000	53,095,780,000
Average (million gallons per day)	140.27	141.01	145.07
Estimated service population	1,125,900	1,115,200	1,104,500
Average per capita consumption (gallons per day)	125	126	131
Miles of distribution pipe:			
Columbus	2,521	2,593	2,588
Suburbs	954	866	863

Source: Department of Public Utilities Annual Report and performance dashboard

Neighborhood Services

The city operates five Neighborhood Pride Centers throughout the community, which serve as one-stop shops for city services. On-site staff includes community liaison police officers, code enforcement officers, solid waste inspectors, and a neighborhood liaison, all of whom work directly with citizens and neighborhood organizations to address issues of concern.

Neighborhood Pride, another unique city program, is an intense, one week service delivery event that brings residents, city staff, and area businesses together to beautify and celebrate a neighborhood. During Pride Week, the city provides alley and street cleanups, evaluation of house exteriors for code complaints, and sponsors community events. Since its inception in 2000, 72 neighborhoods have participated and 797 businesses have become Pride Partners, donating funds and support for the program.

Neighborhoods are also strengthened through the city's Code Enforcement Office, through which 43 code enforcement officers work with residents to ensure that properties meet city codes for health and safety. As of October 2011, code officers received 19,259 requests for service from the 311 customer call center, and issued 14,259 notices of violation.

Public Health

Columbus Public Health provides a variety of preventive and community health services for city residents. The Environmental Health Division conducts regular inspections of food facilities, such as restaurants and mobile food carts, ensuring that safe and proper handling of food is a priority, thus reducing the incidence of food-borne illness in the community. In 2010, the division completed 9,676 inspections of food facilities and held food safety education classes that reached over 1,200 people. The division also inspects public pools and spas, school facilities, and tattoo parlors. Through the popular SIGNS program, residents can quickly see the status of a facility so that they can make more informed choices.

Preventing and containing the spread of communicable disease is another high priority for the Health Department. In 2010, more than 26,000 immunizations were provided to Columbus residents against vaccine-preventable diseases. Ensuring the health of mothers and babies is also a critical mission of the department. Through the Columbus/Franklin County WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program, an average of 10,830 pregnant and post-partum women received breastfeeding and nutrition services in 2010. The department's perinatal health program provided services to 1,303 women in 2010. Sexual health services, including testing and treatment, are another key component of Columbus Public Health's services. In 2010, there were 10,394 visits to the Sexual Health Clinic for testing, examination and/ or treatment. HIV and STI prevention, along with diagnosis and treatment, continue to be important aspects of the program.

Sports, Recreation and Cultural Amenities

Parks

Columbus operates over 230 parks and maintains approximately 15,000 acres of parks and recreation areas. Community parks offer athletic fields and ball diamonds, playgrounds and picnic areas and may have walking/biking trails, pools, recreation centers and/or shelter houses. Smaller neighborhood parks are located throughout the city offering easy access to green space close to home.

The city unveiled its newest renovated downtown park in July 2011 with the completion of the first phase of the Scioto Mile. The full Scioto Mile stretches along the Scioto River from North Bank Park and then south to Battelle and Bicentennial Parks, and continues on to provide a link to the Scioto Audubon Park on the Whittier Peninsula.

Community Centers/Programs

There are 30 community centers located throughout the city. The Recreation and Parks Department currently operates 28 of those centers with two others leased to non-profit organizations. All of the centers serve a wide variety of age groups from youths through senior citizens, and offer outdoor activities such as basketball courts, tennis courts, playgrounds, and soccer and baseball fields.

Additionally, the department offers over 80 camps throughout the summer ranging from sports and art themed camps to outdoor education and therapeutic recreation programs.

Pools (indoor, outdoor, and sprayground)

Columbus will operate four outdoor pools, one indoor pool and one sprayground in 2012. Certified water safety instructors provide free learn-to-swim classes at the swim facilities for children and adults during the summer months.

Golf

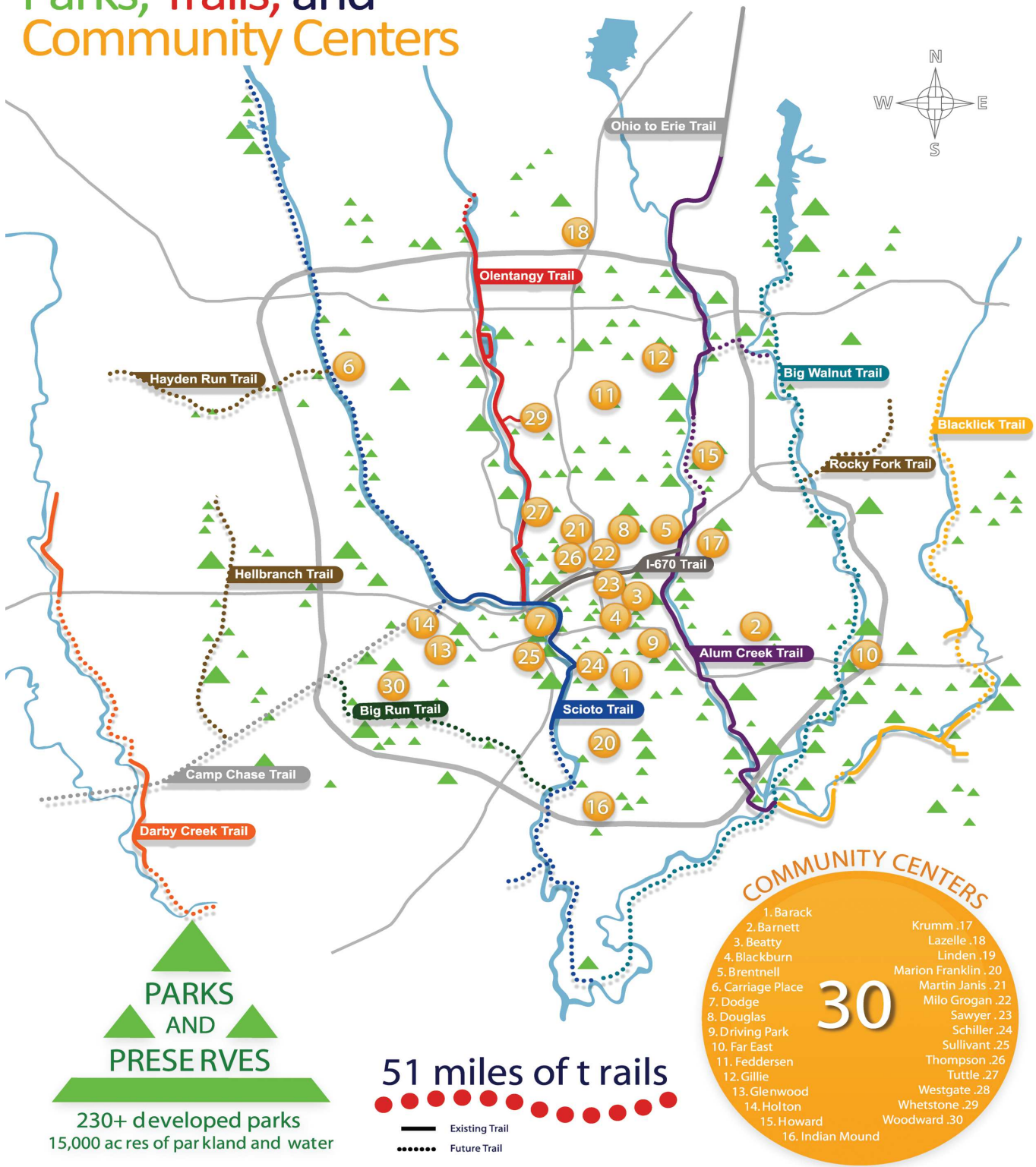
Conveniently located around the city, the seven golf courses within the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department— Airport, Champions, Mentel Memorial, Raymond Memorial, Turnberry, Walnut Hill, and Wilson— host more than 227,000 golf rounds annually. Due to the Port Columbus runway expansion project, Airport Golf Course was closed after Labor Day 2011 for reconstruction and will reopen in the spring of 2013.

Trails

With 51 miles of multi-use trails, Columbus is striving to not only beautify the city, but to enhance the quality of life of the city's residents as well. Columbus is embarking on a new, exciting and aggressive plan for the creation of future biking and walking trails in the Columbus area.

Columbus Recreation and Parks

Parks, Trails, and Community Centers



Cultural Amenities

Columbus is home to the top-ranked zoo, public library, and science museum in the nation. Columbus is the host to several popular festivals and events, from the Arnold Fitness Classic to the Jazz and Ribs Festival each summer. Music organizations such as the Columbus Symphony, Columbus Jazz Orchestra, and Opera Columbus provide opportunities year-round for live music. Concerts are shown at the Nationwide Arena, Schottenstein Center and the popular Lifestyle Communities Pavilion. Patrons of performing arts and theater find plenty to see in the offerings of local companies such as BalletMet, CATCO (Contemporary American Theatre Company), and Columbus Children's Theatre.

Visitors and residents can view everything from traveling art and exhibits to standing collections at the recently renovated Columbus Museum of Art, the Wexner Center for the Arts, the King Arts Complex, or at one of the many galleries located throughout the Short North or German Village neighborhoods. The city also offers multiple opportunities for shopping and dining. The Polaris Mall, Easton Town Center, Tuttle Mall, and the Arena District are popular shopping and entertainment districts.

Sports

Columbus is home to several sports teams including the Columbus Crew, one of Major League Soccer's first teams and 2008 MLS Cup champions. Nationwide Arena is the home of the National Hockey League's Columbus Blue Jackets. Also located in the downtown area is the newly built Huntington Park, home of the Columbus Clippers baseball team. The Clippers is the Cleveland Indians' Triple-A affiliate and national champion for the second year in a row.

The Ohio State University's 36 varsity sports teams, including national football champions, draw visitors from all over the region. In addition to hometown sports teams, the Greater Columbus Sports Commission brings numerous amateur, collegiate and professional sports events to town each year, including National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) championships.

Columbus is also home to the Memorial Tournament, a premiere stop on the PGA tour. The Memorial is played annually at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, a golf course designed and built by Columbus native and golfing legend Jack Nicklaus. Each year, the city also hosts the Arnold Sports Festival, a world-class fitness event with 37 events, 11 Olympic sports and 17,000 athletes. The event marked its 23rd year in March 2011.

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