

## **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).

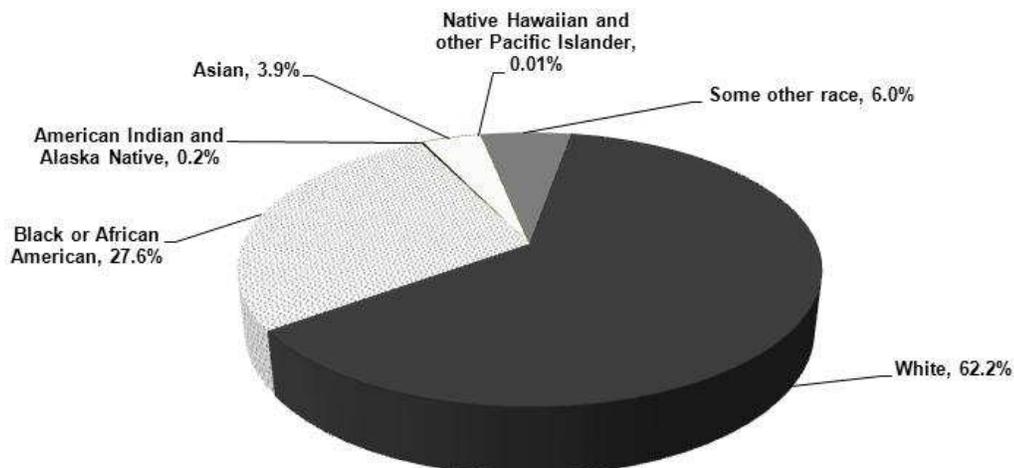
### ***Population and Household Demographics***

Columbus is home to 796,014 residents (U.S. Census Bureau American Fact Finder 2011 population estimate), with roughly 3,507 residents per square mile. Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau for the 2011 American Fact Finder report that 49 percent of the population is male and 51 percent is female. The median age is 31.6 years old and 77 percent of the resident population is 18 or older.

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According to the American Fact Finder's estimates, 5.5 percent (43,650) of the city's residents identify as Hispanic or Latino with the remaining 94.5 percent (752,364) identifying as not Hispanic or Latino. The racial demographics for Columbus are broken down as follows:



*Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2011 American Fact Finder)*

### **Housing**

Of the estimated 373,875 total housing units within city limits, 86.2 percent were occupied in 2011, leaving 13.8 percent or 51,561 housing units vacant (for rent, for sale and unoccupied, or otherwise vacant). Slightly less than half of housing units are owner-occupied. Roughly 43 percent of housing units were built prior to 1970 and 46.2% of housing units are single family, detached homes. Columbus owner-occupied homes had an estimated median value of \$127,000 in 2011, down from \$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 and the Rickenbacker International Airport, a multi-modal logistics hub serving international airfreight, cargo airlines, manufacturers and distributors.

Of the total working population that commutes in the Columbus MSA, 83.1 percent commute to work alone in their vehicles, 7.4 percent carpool with others, and 1.8 percent utilizes public transportation to get to and from work. Mean travel time to work was 23.5 minutes in 2011. The Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) operates bus service throughout Franklin County, and parts of Delaware, Fairfield, Licking and Union Counties, providing 18 million rides annually.

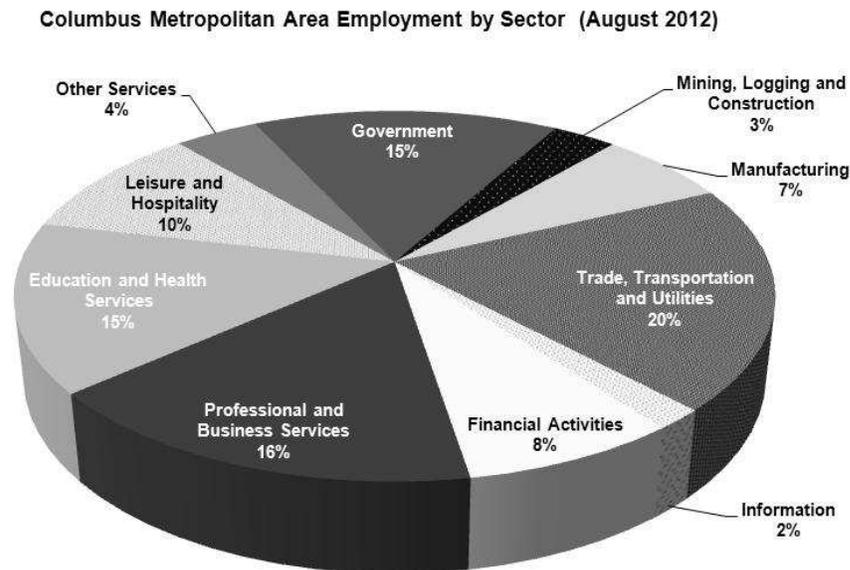
### **Healthcare and Education**

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. Twenty-six public and private colleges and universities are located within the region, enrolling over 100,000 students in the metropolitan area. Columbus City Schools, the largest district in Ohio, has an average daily enrollment of 49,616 students. High school graduates comprise 88 percent of the adult population and 31 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 Area Employment, by Sector and Number of Jobs (2002 to 2012)<sup>1</sup>**

Employment Sector (non-farm)	# of Jobs 2012	Net Change 2002 to 2012	% Change 2002 to 2012
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	183,500	(6,600)	-3.47%
Professional and Business Services	153,500	24,300	18.81%
Government	145,200	(5,200)	-3.46%
Education and Health Services	138,500	43,900	46.41%
Leisure and Hospitality	94,300	10,500	12.53%
Financial Activities	72,900	(4,300)	-5.57%
Manufacturing	62,100	(27,200)	-30.46%
Other Services	39,700	2,900	7.88%
Mining, Logging and Construction	30,200	(10,800)	-26.34%
Information	16,700	(4,600)	-21.60%
<b>Total Non-Farm Employment</b>	<b>936,600</b>	<b>22,900</b>	<b>2.52%</b>

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

<sup>1</sup> 2012 is estimated using August 2012 preliminary figures. Job figures are rounded to the nearest one-hundredth.

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Columbus serves as headquarters to major national and multinational corporations, including Nationwide Insurance, American Electric Power (AEP), Limited Brands, AT&T, and Big Lots.

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 thousands of healthcare workers and contribute billions to the local economy. Central Ohio's 20 largest companies are listed below.

### Central Ohio's 20 Largest Employers (2012)-Ranked by Number of Central Ohio Employees

Employer Name	Total Employees	2010 Revenue
1. The Ohio State University	26,778	NA
2. State of Ohio	26,728	NA
3. JPMorgan Chase Bank	18,000	\$102.69 billion
4. OhioHealth	13,217	\$2.19 billion
5. Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co.	11,668	\$20.3 billion
6. Columbus City Schools	9,766	NA
6. Kroger Co.	9,766	\$82 billion
8. City of Columbus	8,592	\$673 million
9. Nationwide Children's Hospital	7,904	\$1.2 billion
10. McDonald's Corp.	7,622	\$24.08 billion
11. Mount Carmel Health System	7,620	\$2.43 billion
12. Limited Brands Inc.	7,300	\$9.61 billion
13. Honda of America Manufacturing Inc.	7,000	\$107.48 billion
14. Franklin County	6,851	NA
15. Huntington Bancshares Inc.	5,024	\$3.19 billion
16. Giant Eagle Inc.	4,600	\$9.3 billion
17. Cardinal Health Inc.	4,222	\$98.5 billion
18. Abercrombie & Fitch Co.	3,662	\$3.47 billion
19. DLA Land and Maritime	3,600	\$5 billion
20. American Electric Power Company Inc.	3,511	\$14.4 billion

**Source:** *Columbus Business First 2011 Book of Lists*, Greater Columbus Largest Employers, December 2011

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. Central Ohio includes Franklin, Delaware, Fairfield, Licking, Madison, Pickaway and Union counties.

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 made significant investments in the Columbus economy over the past few years.

**Companies with Investments in Columbus over \$50 Million (2009-2011)**

<b>Company</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Product</b>	<b>Investment</b>
CSX Transportation, Inc. (2011)	Distribution	Intermodal terminal	\$59 million
Columbia Gas of Ohio (2011)	Headquarters	Natural Gas	\$50 million
Coca-Cola Company (2010)	Manufacturing	Beverage Products	\$120 million
Roxane Laboratories (2009)	Manufacturing	Pharmaceuticals	\$67 million

*Source: Ohio Private Investment Survey 2009-2011, Ohio Development Services Agency, March 2012*

### **Unemployment**

Of the approximately 983,202 workers in the Columbus metropolitan statistical area (MSA) civilian labor force, 884,760 (or 92.2 percent) were employed in 2011. The unemployment rate of 5.9 percent in the MSA (as of August 2012, not seasonally adjusted) remains lower than that of the state (7.2 percent) and the nation (8.2 percent) and is down from 7.6 percent in August 2011.

### **Columbus Work Force**

Close to one million people work in the Columbus MSA, 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 31 percent have bachelor's degrees and 10 percent have master's degrees--numbers that point to a healthy and prosperous future for the city. Annual median earnings for workers were \$31,406 (in 2011 inflation-adjusted dollars) for those in the metro area workforce, aged 16 years or older.

### **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 38 different companies to keep or bring 4,500 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 this year. 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.

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 have been meeting with city staff and areas partners over the past year to complete the East Franklinton Creative Community District Plan. Aging warehouse space is being renovated into vibrant live/work space for artists.

The last phase of redevelopment of the former Gowdy Field landfill was completed this past year when the city's former heliport site was 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 ten 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.

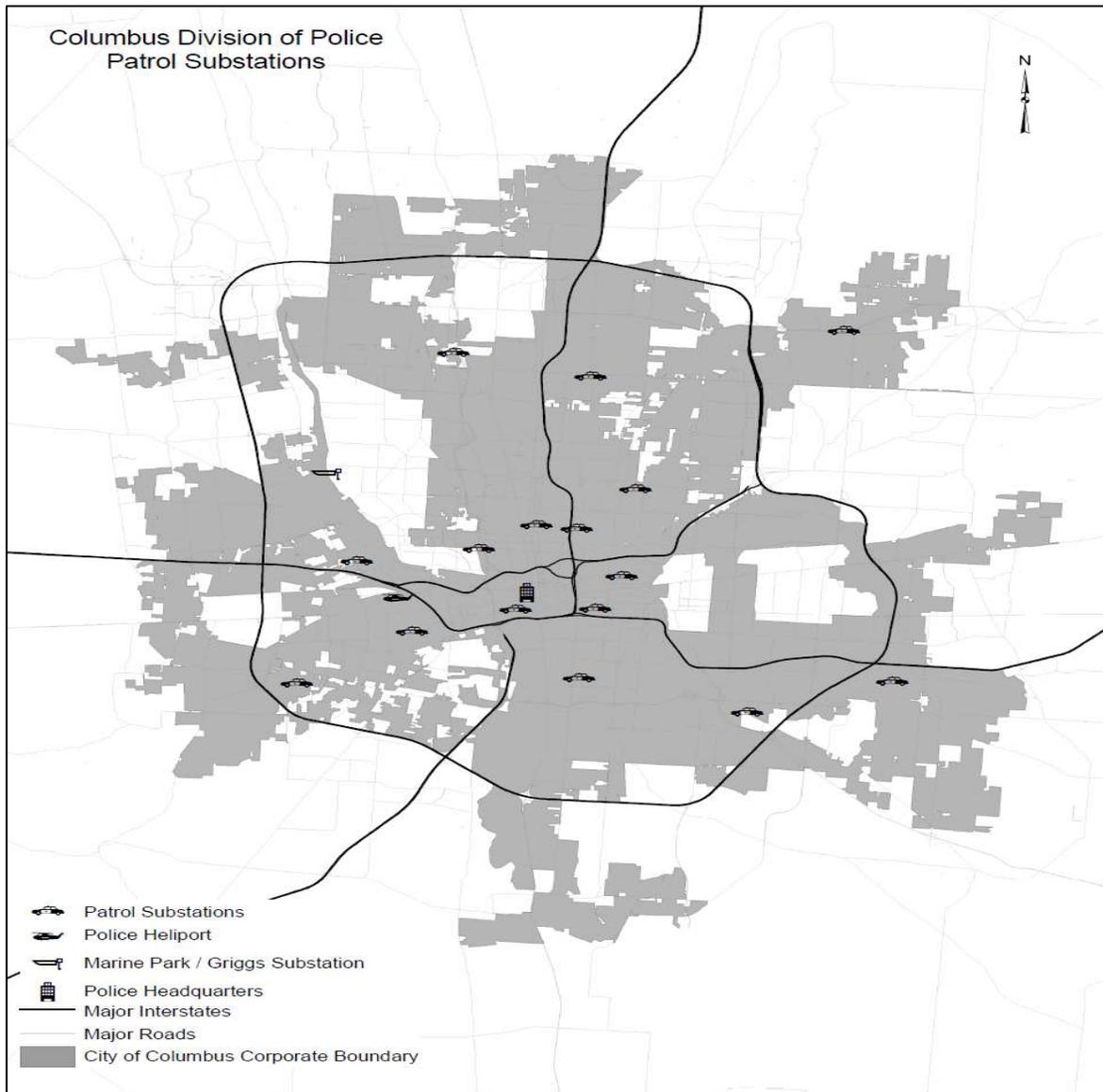
Another major near east/downtown area project is a \$740 million investment in Nationwide Children's Hospital, which is expected to add an additional 1,160 new hospital jobs and generate \$1.3 billion in new regional economic activity. The hospital expansion includes partnerships with the city and others 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**

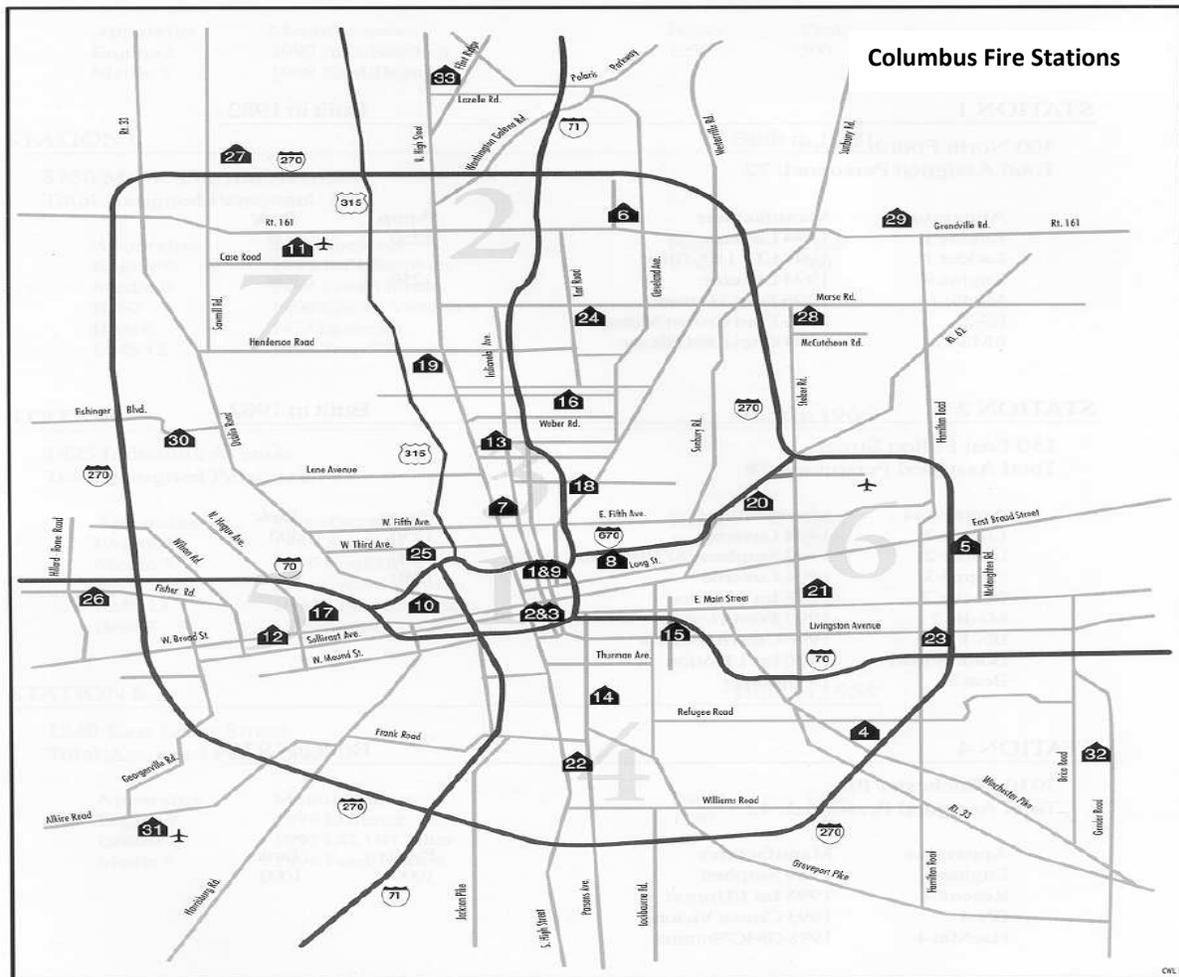
***Police Protection***

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 2012, the city began offering a residential recycling collection service. RecyColumbus is a comprehensive recycling program of the City of Columbus Department of Public Service. The city began delivering recycle carts to households on April 6, 2012, with collections beginning on June 4, 2012. The start of the biweekly recycling collection service marked the first of five implementation phases of RecyColumbus. When fully implemented in February 2013, RecyColumbus will serve approximately 227,000 households. Recycling is collected at no additional cost to residents every two weeks, alternating with yard waste collection. City of Columbus residents living in single-family homes or in a building with four units or less that are not part of a complex are eligible for this new convenient and easy-to-use city service. The program will save the City of Columbus millions of dollars in landfill costs over several years, with a goal of diverting 25 percent of waste from its landfill by 2016.

**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 October 2011 through June 2012, 110,440 potholes were repaired.

**Sewer System**

Columbus maintains 4,571 miles of storm, sanitary, and combined sewers and operates two 24-hour wastewater treatment plants (Jackson Pike and Southerly).

	Waste Treatment Summary		
	2011	2010	2009
<b>Total gallons treated</b> (million gallons)	76,234.60	57,283.53	55,951.10
<b>Average</b> (million gallons per day)	208.86	156.94	153.31

*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		
	2011	2010	2009
<b>Finished water</b>			
<b>Total gallons treated</b> (million gallons)	50,290.46	51,198.06	51,469.82
<b>Average</b> (million gallons per day)	137.78	140.27	141.01
<b>Estimated service population</b>	1,132,500	1,125,900	1,115,200
<b>Average per capita consumption</b> (gallons per day)	122	125	126
<b>Miles of distribution pipe:</b>			
Columbus	2,516	2,521	2,593
Suburbs	954	954	866

*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, 76 neighborhoods have participated and 862 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 55 code enforcement officers and supervisors work with residents to ensure that

properties meet city codes for health and safety. As of August 2012, code officers investigated 24,069 emergency and non-emergency requests and issued 14,334 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 2011, the division completed 15,630 inspections of food facilities and issued licenses for over 7,850 food service operations. 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. Increasing access to healthy food was achieved through the implementation of three farmers markets, which provided fresh foods for over 7,200 Columbus residents.

Preventing and containing the spread of communicable disease is another high priority for the Health Department. In 2011, the department investigated 2,720 reports of communicable disease and provided more than 30,000 immunizations 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, nutritious foods, nutrition education, and referrals were provided through 146,934 clinic visits - an average of 12,245 per month at 17 clinic sites.

The department's Women's Health and Family Planning provided comprehensive pregnancy/postpartum care and family planning services to 2,251 clients through 6,977 visits. Sexual health services, including testing and treatment, are another key component of Columbus Public Health's services. In 2011, the Sexual Health Team examined and treated 7,935 individuals to control sexually transmitted diseases.

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## **Recreation, Cultural Amenities and Sports**

### ***Parks***

Columbus operates over 230 developed 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.

### ***Targeted Youth Services***

In an effort to positively engage youth and redirect them from crime and violence the Department of Recreation and Parks has implemented a mayoral initiative called Applications for Pride, Purpose & Success (APPS). This program provides trained intervention workers and case managers to reach and direct youth to a myriad of educational and developmental programs, and link them to social services they need.

### ***Aquatics***

Columbus will operate six outdoor pools, one indoor pool and one sprayground in 2013. Two additional spraygrounds, one at Blackburn and the other at Indian Mound community centers will open in 2013. Certified water safety instructors provide free learn-to-swim classes at the swim facilities for children and adults during the summer months.

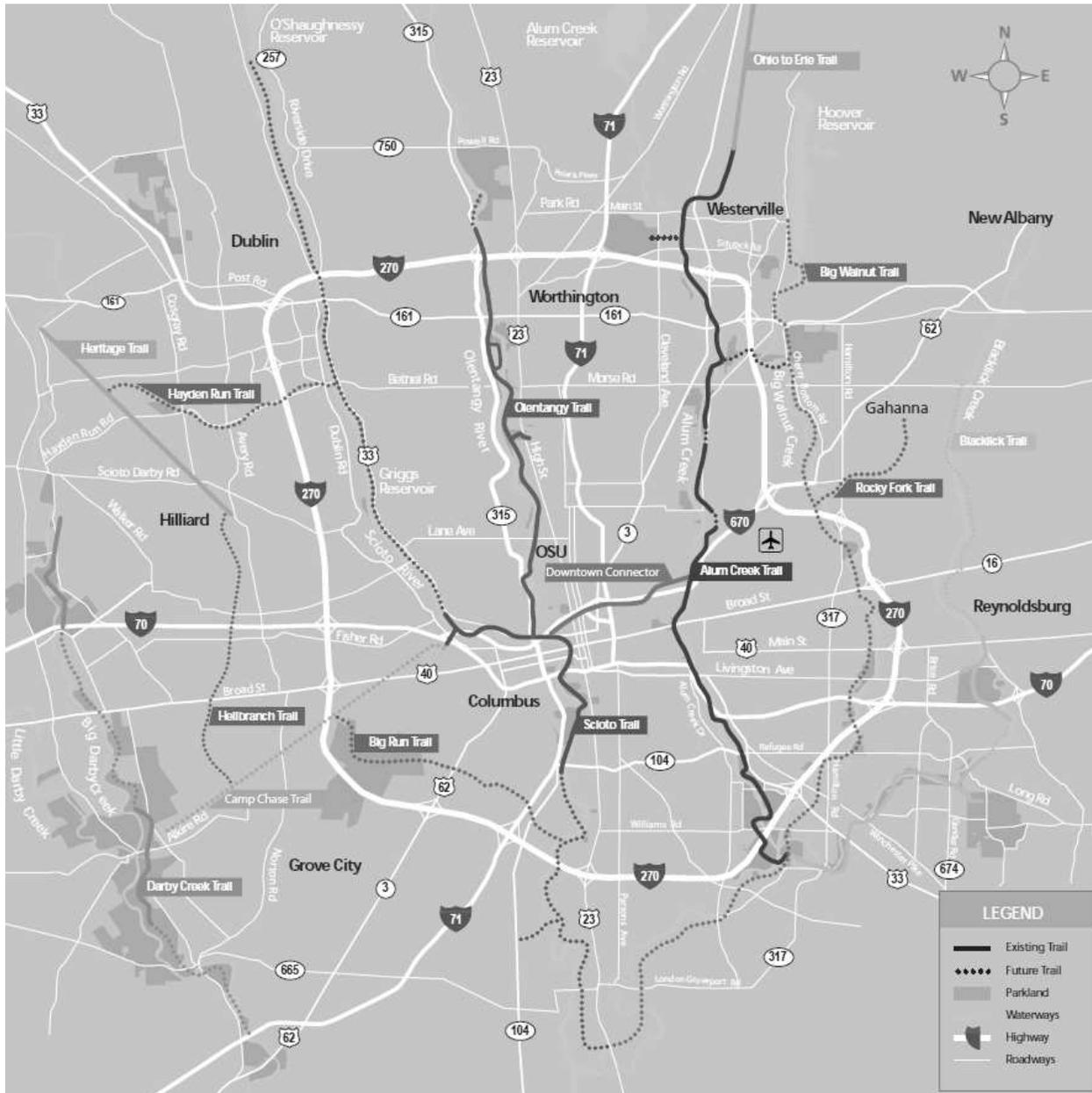
### ***Golf***

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 and other bike facilities such as bike sharing kiosks in the Columbus area.

**Existing and Future Trails**



### ***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 Huntington Park, home of the Columbus Clippers baseball team, a Cleveland Indians' Triple-A affiliate. The Clippers won back-to-back triple-A national championship titles in 2010 and 2011.

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 premier 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, the largest multi-sport event in the nation. This world-class fitness event features 45 events and 18,000 athletes.

### ***Casino***

One of four casinos built throughout the state, the Hollywood Casino is located on the west side of Columbus and opened in October of 2012. The \$400 million facility houses 78 table games, 3,000 slot machines, a 10,000 square foot events center and four restaurants. Roughly 2,000 employees work at the casino, eighty percent of whom are employed full-time. It is anticipated that the casino will bring millions of investment dollars to the region, including funds directly to the city.

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