
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

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

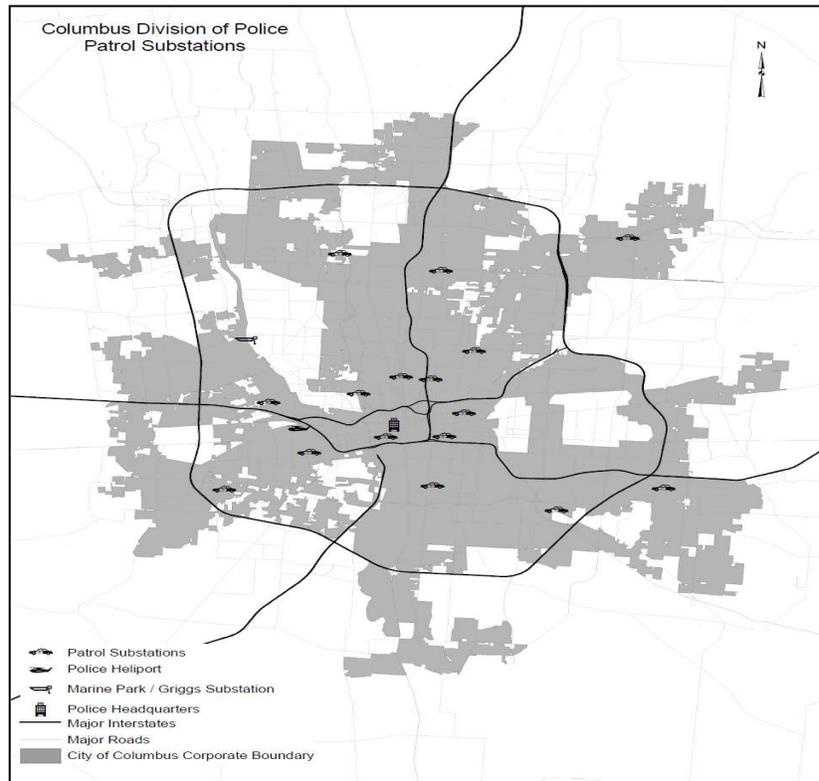
Columbus is home to 773,021 residents (U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2009 population estimate), with roughly 3,405 residents per square mile. Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau for the 2009 American Community Survey report that 49.2 percent of the population is male and 50.8 percent is female. The median age is 31.5 years and 75.7 percent of the resident population is 18 or older. Median household income for the past 12 months (inflation-adjusted) is \$41,370, while the per capita income over the past 12 months (inflation-adjusted) is \$22,809.

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The city is racially rather diverse and is broken down as follows, according to the Census Bureau estimates: Caucasians make up 65.5 percent of the population; Black or African-American residents comprise 25.8 percent of the population; Asians represent 4.2 percent of the population; American Indians or Alaska natives make up 0.2 percent of the population; and the remaining is other races. Approximately 94.7 percent of residents do not identify as Hispanic or Latino, while those who do make up 5.3 percent of the population. High school graduates comprise 83.3 percent of the adult population and 29 percent of the city's residents have a bachelor's degree or higher.

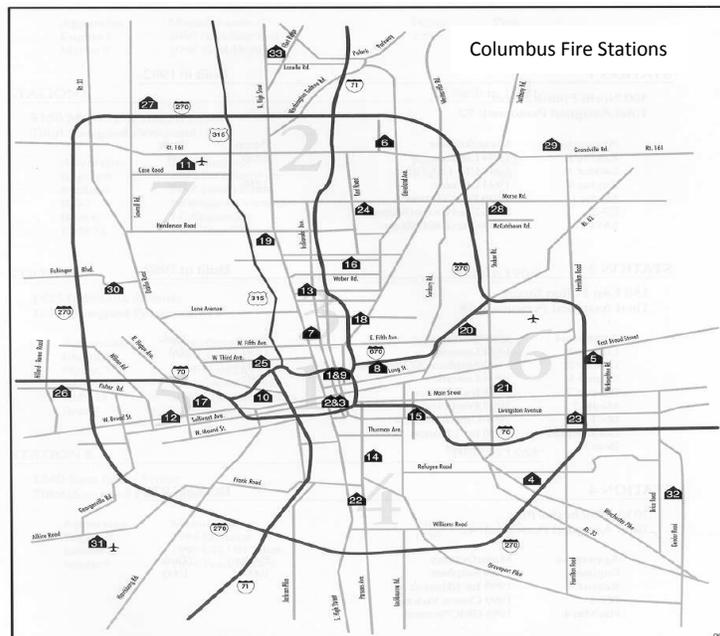
Police Protection

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 329,211 households with weekly trash pick-up. The city also offers bulk waste pick-up, yard waste collection services, and, on a subscription basis, curbside recycling service.

Street System

The Department of Public Service is responsible for day-to-day maintenance of 6,300 lane miles of roadways in the city, including 200 bridges. In 2009, 114,475 potholes were repaired.

Sewer System

Columbus maintains 6,294 miles of storm, sanitary, and combined sewers and operates two 24-hour wastewater treatment plants (Jackson Pike and Southerly), serving Columbus and 25 contracting communities.

	Waste Treatment Summary		
	2009	2008	2007
Total gallons treated	55,951,100,000	63,931,960,000	61,637,280,000
Average gallons treated per day	153,307,300	174,861,858	168,869,267

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		
	2009	2008	2007
<i>Finished water</i>			
Total (million gallons)	51,469.82	53,095.78	55,084.99
Average (million gallons per day)	141.01	145.07	150.92
Estimated service population	1,115,200	1,104,500	1,093,800
Average per capita consumption (gallons per day)	126	131	138
Miles of distribution pipe:			
Columbus	2,593	2,588	
Suburbs	866	863	

Parks

Columbus maintains several thousand 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 or shelter houses. Smaller neighborhood parks are located throughout the city offering easy access to green space close to home.

Community Centers

There are 30 community centers located throughout the city. These 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.

Pools (indoor, outdoor, and sprayground)

Columbus operates nine outdoor pools, one indoor pool and one sprayground. Certified Water Safety Instructors provide free learn-to-swim classes at the swim facilities for children and adults.



Golf

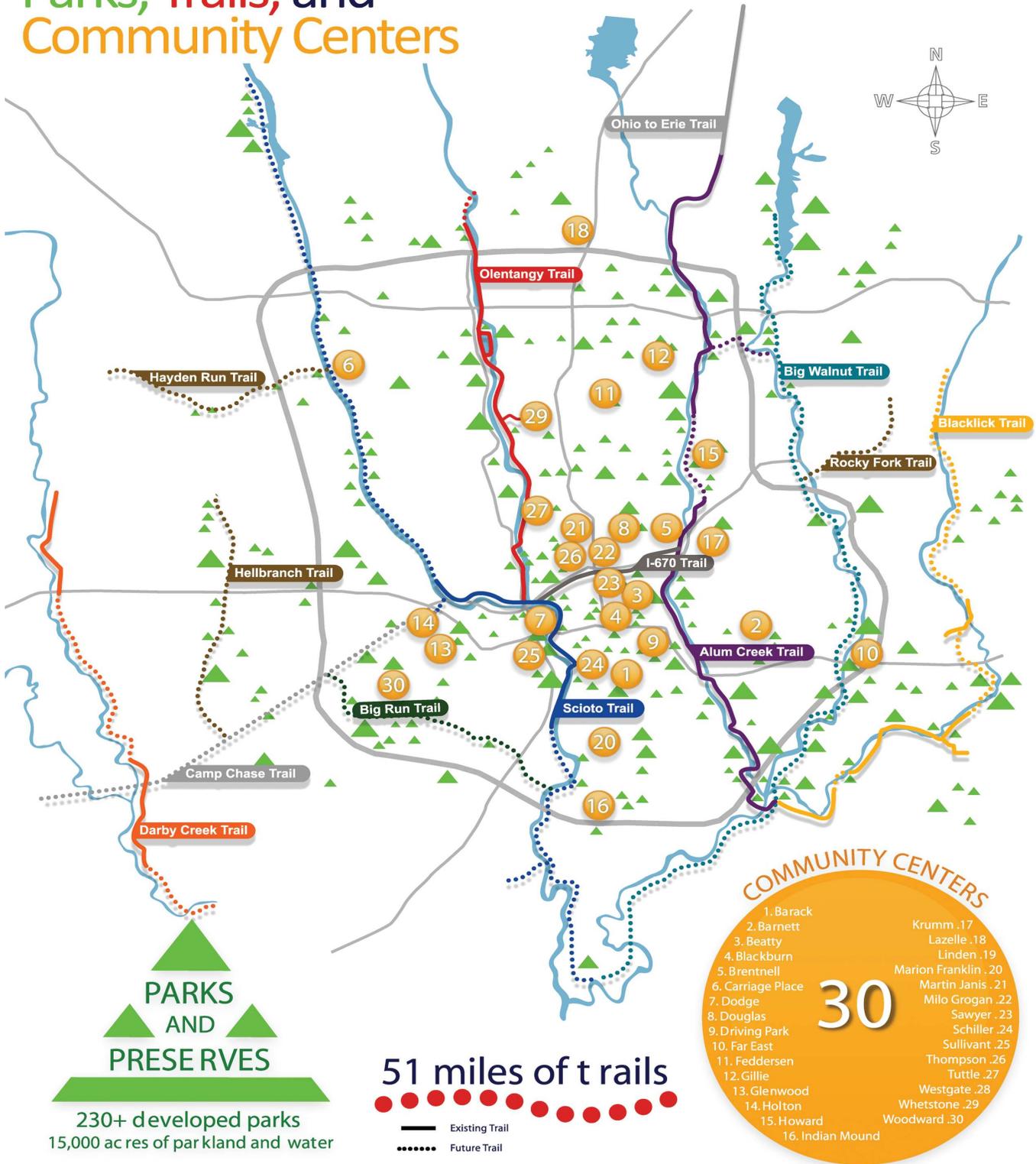
Conveniently located around the city, the seven golf courses within the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department—Airport, Champions, Mentel Memorial, Raymond Memorial, Turnberry, Walnut Hill, and Wilson— host more than 245,000 golf rounds annually.

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. The Bicentennial Bikeways Plan, adopted in May 2008, provides a new vision of transportation, recreation and quality of life for the citizens of Columbus. On the heels of this progressive plan came *Bicycling Magazine’s* naming of Columbus as “New Best City for Cycling” in their June 2008 edition.

Columbus Recreation and Parks

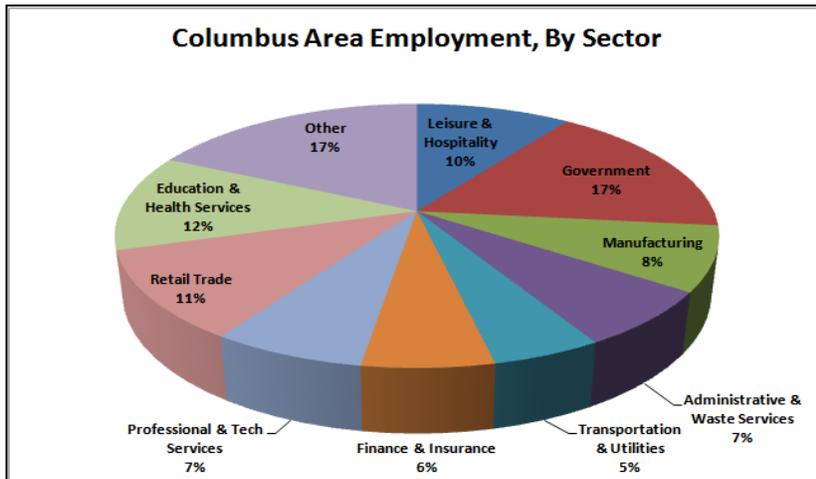
Parks, Trails, and Community Centers



Area Employment and Economic Outlook

Key Business Sectors and Employers

The city anticipates moderate economic expansion and population growth. 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.



Columbus continues to serve as a strong economic force in the central Ohio region, with stability in the government, education and health services, leisure and hospitality, and retail trade sectors. While the manufacturing and retail trade sectors have been declining in recent years, professional and business services and educational and health services sectors have been expanding.

Note: "Other" category includes construction and mining (4%), Wholesale Trade (4%), Other Services (4%), Management of Companies (2%), Real Estate, Rental and Leisure (2%), and Information (2%). Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Compared to other large Ohio metropolitan areas, Columbus is not a major exporter of goods to other areas of the world. However, total exports from the Columbus metropolitan area rose 11 percent from 2007 to 2008, totaling nearly \$3.9 billion in 2008. The leading sector for export in 2008 was in transportation equipment with a sector value of \$944,226,852.

Columbus serves as headquarters to several major national and multinational corporations. In 2009, fifteen Fortune 1000 companies were located within the city, including Nationwide Insurance, American Electric Power, Limited Brands, AT&T, and Big Lots.

Several major employers have made Columbus 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 2007 through 2009.

Companies with Investments in Columbus over \$50 Million

Company	Type	Product	Investment
Roxane Laboratories (2009)	Manufacturing	Pharmaceuticals	\$67,000,000
CSX Corp. (2008)	Distribution	Rail yard	\$50,000,000
Whirlpool/Penske Logistics (2007)	Distribution	Appliances	\$75,000,000

Source: Ohio Private Investment Survey 2007-2009, Ohio Department of Development, March 2010.

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, Columbus 2020!, 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 leading 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 largest companies are listed below.

Central Ohio's 20 Largest Employers, 2009

Employer Name	Total Full-Time Employees	Revenue
1. State of Ohio	27,961	\$24.6 billion(2010 budget)
2. Ohio State University	22,454	NA
3. JPMorgan Chase & Co.	15,800	\$67.2 billion
4. Nationwide	11,373	\$19.8 billion
5. Federal Government-United States Postal Service (1)	15,900	\$98 billion
Defense Finance & Accounting Service	2,700	NA
Defense Supply Center Columbus	3,000	\$3.5 billion
6. Ohio Health	10,400	\$1.9 billion
7. Columbus City School District	8,198	NA
8. City of Columbus	8,146	\$632 million
9. Honda of America Manufacturing	7,400	NA
10. Mount Carmel Health System	5,523	\$2.5 billion
11. Kroger Co.	5,215	\$76 billion
12. Franklin County	5,207	NA
13. Limited Brands Inc.	5,100	\$9 billion
14. American Electric Power Company Inc.	4,332	\$14.4 billion
15. Nationwide Children’s Hospital	4,080	\$812.2 million
16. Cardinal Health Inc.	3,674	\$91.1 billion
17. Huntington Bancshares Inc.	3,319	\$3.5 billion
18. Medco Health Solutions	2,860	\$51.3 billion
19. Battelle	2,496	\$5.2 billion
20. South-Western City Schools	2,479	NA

(1) Total includes subset branches/divisions shown below
 NA=Information not available

Source: *Columbus Business First 2009 Book of Lists*, Greater Columbus Largest Employers, December 2009
 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 domestics Employers on the list of the largest employers are ranked according to the number of full-time employees.

Unemployment

Of the approximately 426,400 people in the City of Columbus labor force, roughly 9.1 percent were unemployed at some point throughout the year through September, on average. Although unemployment rates have increased in this recessionary period, the city's unemployment rate remains lower than that of the state and the nation. As of September 2010, the unemployment rate for Columbus was 8.4 percent. By contrast, the U.S. and Ohio rates for September were 9.2 percent and 9.6 percent, respectively.

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. Nearly 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; approximately 115,000 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

Downtown Columbus is seeing a revival with new housing units, commercial development, new parks and redevelopment of neglected parcels. 2011 marks the eighth 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.

The city has completed and opened two new downtown parking garages. 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 leverage \$1.48 billion in private investment. This includes projects proposed, under construction, or built since 2000.

Recently completed downtown area projects include the redevelopment of the northeast corner at Broad and High Streets for offices, condos and retail space. The Whittier Peninsula project just south of downtown was also completed, incorporating redevelopment of the city's old impound lot into a metro park and the construction of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center on the site.

The downtown skyline will soon have a new addition with the announcement of a financing agreement for a new 500 room convention center headquarters hotel located on North High Street. The new full service convention headquarters 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. The new hotel site is located on the west side of High Street between the Greater Columbus Convention Center and Nationwide Arena. 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.

In the River South district, the former Lazarus department store has been renovated to house various government and private sector tenants, along with 60,000 square feet of retail space. Additionally, Lifestyle Communities constructed a \$25 million apartment and condominium

project south of the old Lazarus building, continuing the renaissance in the River South district. The development, which opened in summer of 2010, includes close to 200 townhome style apartments and flats in various price ranges.

Construction began in 2008 on the \$38 million Scioto Mile, an unprecedented 50/50 partnership between public and private sectors. The Scioto Mile is a signature riverfront park that will be located in the heart of downtown, stretching from the Arena District to Whittier Peninsula. As part of the project, Civic Center Drive will be narrowed from four lanes to two lanes and a grand promenade will stretch along Civic Center Drive from Broad Street to Rich Street, connecting Battelle and Bicentennial Parks. In the center of the promenade will be a plaza area with seating and an interactive water feature. The entire area will be designated a free Wi-Fi zone. As part of the Scioto Mile initiative, Bicentennial Park will also undergo a makeover, featuring a 15,000 square-foot water feature with multiple fountains. Other amenities include a permanent stage/band shell and a café restaurant with outdoor terrace dining overlooking the park. Completion is set for the summer of 2011.

The former City Center Mall has been demolished and work is underway to create Columbus Commons, an exciting new urban park, which will include nine acres of green space, walking paths and seating.

Another major downtown area project is a \$740 million investment in Nationwide Children's Hospital, which is expected to add an additional 2,000 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.

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 of investment and more than 700 jobs. The JamesCare 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, one of the area's largest employers, is bringing 1,000 new jobs to the city and retaining another 10,850. The city would 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.

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.

With the passage of the recent amendment to allow casinos in Ohio's largest urban areas, the city will be home to a Hollywood brand casino on the city's west side. The casino is expected to open in 2012 and will generate millions in investment and job creation for the local economy.

Public Health

Health Services

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. 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 2009, 22,942 immunizations were provided to Columbus residents against vaccine preventable diseases. The Ben Franklin TB Control Program conducted 13,000 patient visits for the treatment of tuberculosis and 10,500 outreach and education visits. Last year, the department was heavily involved in a multi-jurisdictional effort to prevent the spread of H1N1 influenza, providing vaccinations through multiple clinics and community outreach services. In addition, the department investigated 3,082 reports of communicable disease last year, representing 42 different diseases.

Ensuring the health of mothers and babies is a critical mission of the department. Through the Columbus/Franklin County WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program, an average of 37,671 pregnant and post-partum women received breastfeeding and nutrition services in 2009. Well-woman exams were provided to 856 women in 2009 through the department's perinatal health program. Sexual health services, including testing and treatment, are another critical component of Columbus Public Health's services. In 2009, 9,105 individuals were examined and treated at the sexual health clinic. HIV-prevention, syphilis and chlamydia diagnosis and treatment continue to be important aspects of the program.

Neighborhood Services

The city operates five Neighborhood Pride Centers throughout the community. These centers serve as a one-stop shop for city services. On-site staff includes community liaison police officers; Development Department code enforcement officers and solid waste inspectors; Public Service Department refuse collection division staff; Development Department housing division staff; and a neighborhood liaison.

Through the Neighborhood Liaison program, the city is divided into 12 service areas, each of which are assigned a neighborhood liaison. These employees work directly with citizens and neighborhood organizations to address issues of concern.

Neighborhood Pride, another program unique to Columbus, is an intense, one week service delivery event that brings residents, city staff, and area businesses together to beautify and celebrate a city 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, 68 neighborhoods have participated, 9,782 homes have been brought up to city code, and more than 796 businesses have become Pride Partners, donating funds and support for the program.

Strong neighborhoods are also ensured through the city's Code Enforcement Office, through which 38 code enforcement officers work with residents to ensure that properties meet city codes for health and safety. Officers investigated 20,676 non-emergency and 2,406 emergency code enforcement requests last year. Of the orders written, 89 percent of property owners voluntarily took action to correct the violation within 90 days.