

City of Columbia Profile

History of Columbia:

Osage and Missouri Indians roamed parts of Missouri prior to Lewis and Clark's expedition which took place in the early 1800's. The settlement currently named Columbia was called Smithton. However, due to a lack of water supply, the founders moved the settlement east across the Flat Branch and renamed it Columbia in 1821. The City of Columbia was incorporated in 1826, incorporated as a third-class city in 1892, and became a charter city in 1949. Columbia is a growing city and currently takes up 65.20 square miles of land.

Government:

The City of Columbia has a council/manager form of government. The mayor and 6 council members are elected by the citizens of Columbia and serve for 3 years with staggered terms of service. Since April 2014, the mayor and council members have received stipends. The City Manager reports to the Mayor and is considered the chief administrator. Department heads for all municipal functions report to the City Manager.

Culture and Recreation:

Columbia has big city entertainment and a great appreciation for all the arts ranging from international opera and ballet companies to contemporary music superstars. For the sports minded person there are many fun activities and ways to keep in shape.

Columbia is a progressive city offering its citizens a wide variety of experiences from fine dining to theater to rides on the trail to exciting sporting events. Columbia offers it all. The City of Columbia works hard to help keep the city as one of the best places to live and raise a family!

It offers a high quality of life for people of all ages and interests, a low cost of living, an excellent education system, outstanding health care facilities, abundant entertainment and employment opportunities, beautiful parks and trails, a clean environment and much more.

Recreation: (Parks and Recreation 573-874-7460)

Athletic and Health Clubs.....	25
Athletic Fields (w/ lights & irrigation)	26
Community Activity & Recreation Center (ARC).....	1
Number of Pools (Private & Public).....	9
Golf Courses (Municipal).....	2
Golf Courses (College).....	1
Golf Courses (Private).....	5
Disc Golf Course.....	4
Parks (Total Acres 3,549) excluding Rec facilities.....	75
Bowling Alleys.....	1
State Parks.....	4
Roller Rinks.....	0
Roller Hockey Facilities (Outdoor).....	1
Skate Park.....	3
Soccer Fields.....	28
Tennis Courts.....	27
Volleyball Courts.....	13

Cultural Arts: (Cultural Affairs 573-874-6386)

Movie Theaters (screens).....	24
Performing Arts Organizations/Companies*.....	28
Visual Art Venues, Museums & Galleries*.....	21
Arts Festivals*.....	20

*Estimated Numbers

Community:

For being a relatively small town, Columbia has "Big Town" amenities. There are a variety of local business, several hospitals, numerous radio stations and numerous hotels/motels and restaurants.

Community Facilities:

Hospitals.....	7
Hotels/Motels.....	33
Hotel/Motel Rooms.....	3,517
Restaurants (incl. Food Trucks).....	321
Shopping Centers.....	17
Shopping Malls.....	1

Education:

Columbia Public Schools have national reputations. They have earned the highest possible rating in Missouri and continue to receive national honors both from the students and teachers alike. The school district graduates one of the highest percentages of Merit Scholars in the country. Columbia also prides itself with having two private colleges and one university from which to receive extended education.

Public Schools (Number) & Enrollment (Number)

Total Public Schools (33).....	18,215
Elementary Schools (22).....	8,226
Middle Schools (7).....	4,255
Senior High Schools (4).....	5,734
Stephens College.....	652
Columbia College.....	11,385
Univ. Of Missouri-Columbia.....	31,103

Libraries:

Number of Libraries	4
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Daniel Boone Regional Library, UM(Ellis), Columbia College & Stephen's College

City Streets: (573-874-6289)

Paved (Lane miles).....	1,422.7
Gravel (Lane miles).....	4.1

City Sewers: (573-441-5530)

Gravity Sewer lines (miles).....	721.2
City Force Main (miles).....	26.4

Fire Protection: (573-874-7391)

Number of Stations (#10 in 2022).....	9
Total number of employees	153
Number FF/Eng./Capts/Bat Chief/Div Chief.....	148
Number of vehicles.....	52
Number of hydrants.....	6,329

Police Protection: (573-874-7652)

Number of stations.....	2
Number of sub-stations.....	5
Total number of employees.....	239
Number of Sworn Positions.....	187
Number of Civilian Positions.....	52
Number of vehicles.....	102

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Parking: (573-874-7674)

On-Street Meters.....	1,796
Off-Street Meters.....	37
Permit Spaces (lots/garages).....	2,074
Hourly Garage Spaces.....	387
Reserved Spaces in Lots and Garages.....	167

Airport: (573-874-7508)

Airport Facilities.....	1
Airlines: American Airlines & United Airlines....	2

Climate:

Annual rainfall is approximately 42.62 inches/year.
 Annual snowfall is approximately 19.0 inches/year.
 Warmest month and average (July - 88 degrees)
 Coolest month and average (January – 21 degrees)

Utilities:

The City of Columbia is a full-service city that provides a variety of services to the citizens of Columbia.

Water and Electric.....	573-874-7289
Recycling/Refuse Collection	573-874-2489
Sewer	573-874-2489
Storm Water	573-874-2489
Utility Customer Service.....	573-874-7380

Top 5 Employers in Columbia in 2020

University of Missouri	8,480
University Hospital & Clinics	5,304
Columbia Public Schools	2,672
Veterans United Home Loans.....	2,360
Truman Memorial Veteran's Hospital	1,602

Sales Tax:

Sales tax in Columbia is 7.975% in all areas of the City except those located in transportation development districts (TDDs). The tax amount includes the following:

State Sales Tax.....	4.225%
County General Revenue Tax.....	0.500%
County Road Tax.....	0.500%
Boone County Law Enforcement Tax.....	0.125%
City General Revenue Tax.....	1.000%
City Transportation Tax.....	0.500%
City Capital Improvement Tax.....	0.250%
City Parks Sales Tax.....	0.250%
County Community Children's Services Fund.....	0.250%
County E-911 Emergency Sales Tax	0.375%

City's portion of total sales tax rate **2.000%**

City Employees (FTE for FY 2022): 1,498.85

Volunteer Programs: (573-874-7499)

There are many ways and opportunities for citizens to get involved with the community. Columbia has numerous events throughout the year that require hundreds of volunteer hours in order for the events to be successful.

There are several departments within the City of Columbia that rely on the efforts of volunteer staff. In FY 2019, volunteers contributed 39,867 hours at a value of nearly \$1,013,809.

Principal Tax Payers	Types of Business	Assessed Valuation	Rank	Percentage of Total Assessed Valuation
Union Electric	Utility	48,282,962	1	2.18%
Boone Electric Satellite Systems	Utility	21,598,659	2	0.97%
Shelter Insurance Company	Insurance	17,710,084	3	0.80%
Ameren UE Electric Utility	Utility	13,414,142	4	0.60%
Broadway Crossings II	Property/Developer	12,523,136	5	0.56%
Kraft Heinz Foods	Manufacturer	10,885,804	6	0.49%
Hubbell Power Systems	Manufacturer	10,866,531	7	0.49%
Emery Sapp & Sons	Construction	10,682,294	8	0.48%
TKG Biscayne	Property/Developer	10,475,490	9	0.47%
McLarty RE LLC	Automotive	9,183,254	10	0.41%

The principal taxpayer table lists the top 10 tax payers in the Columbia area based on a commercial assessed value of approximately 32% of the estimated actual value of the property. These are only a few of the numerous businesses both large and small, corporate and independently owned that offer an outstanding working environment for anyone interested in moving or relocating to Columbia.