



RISE TOGETHER - JULY 11, 2023

SPOTLIGHT ON CONSERVATION

MAKING PROGRESS WITH THE CITY'S URBAN FORESTRY MASTER PLAN

Conserving nature is a key part of our department's mission, and one focus area is our trees. Through the Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP), we are guiding our city in prioritizing, preserving and growing all the trees in Columbus—our urban forest. The UFMP was finalized in April 2021. Since then, the department has been working on planting more trees in Columbus and updating the public tree code.

Check out a few recent successes of the UFMP and the Forestry section:

- **This spring, 1,832 trees were planted along streets and in parks to help improve Columbus' tree canopy.** Volunteers planted 88 of those trees at volunteer events, which is a great way to give back to our City and grow our tree canopy.
- **Earth Day and Arbor Day community celebrations connected the community and educated attendees about the importance of conserving our natural environment, including trees!** [An Earth Day Celebration was held at Linden Park, where volunteers planted five trees, as well as pollinator plugs and seeds, and they picked up litter.](#) On Arbor Day, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department Director Bernita Reese spoke to fourth grade students from Lincoln Park Elementary School about why trees are important. The students later helped plant six new trees outside of Barack Community Center. Educating residents about the importance of trees of trees and our natural environment is a priority of the UFMP.
- **Stockbridge Park in the Far South neighborhood was reforested at the end of 2022.** This was crucial since the Far South neighborhood is a [priority area in the Urban Forestry Master Plan's equity analysis](#). The 2,400 trees ranged in size and included 31 species native to Ohio, including hickories, buckeyes, dogwood, Eastern redcedar, tulip poplar, blackgum, spruce, pine, sycamore and six species of oaks. The 22-acre park off Lockbourne Road also features a paved walking loop, a playground, an open-air shelter, one pollinator habitat and two parking lots. Stockbridge was a pilot park reforestation for the department, and the intention is to reforest other parks using this model. [Check out a recent news article about the reforestation of Stockbridge Park.](#)

NEWS AND INFORMATION

NEW PROGRAM USES SPORTS TO TEACH YOUTH LIFE SKILLS

The department is collaborating with Columbus Division of Police and Columbus Division of Fire to launch a new program aimed at providing opportunities for young people in our communities to engage in sports, mentorship and educational programs. Known as Inspire Sports, the program moves beyond the game and uses sports to help youth develop the skills needed to be successful in life. First responders mentor youth through sports leagues, tournaments and events. [Learn more about Inspire Sports.](#)

Inspire Sports will kick off with the Triple Threat 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament on Saturday, Aug. 5 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The tournament is open to players ages 12-14. All teams are guaranteed to play three games, and will receive lunch and giveaways. The community is invited to watch the competition, and enjoy attractions, food trucks, music and more!

Please help us fill this tournament! If you know people who would be interested, encourage them to [learn more and register!](#)

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND BENEFITS FAIR FEATURES INFORMATION, GIVEAWAYS AND FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

The Department of Human Resources will host the 2023 Health and Benefits Fair on Thursday, Aug. 3 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in front of 77 N. Front Street. The event will include more than 30 vendors, free produce, table massages and more. [Register for the fair.](#)

The fair will also offer free important health screenings; call 614-293-4455 to register for a free mammography screening, and register online for a free [biometric screening.](#)

7/17/2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

April 25

All day

YOUTH SOCCER 23/24 LEAGUE REGISTRATION

All day

OUTDOOR SWIM LESSONS SESSION C - START

All day

YOUTH BASEBALL, SOFTBALL AND TEE BALL FALL LEAGUE REGISTRATION

All day

ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUES - SUMMER II SESSION REGISTRATION

All day

CULTURAL ARTS CENTER CLASSES - SESSION 4 START

All day

CONVERSATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

What department activities do you/your family participate in?

kfrancisapr@gmail.com [Switch account](#)

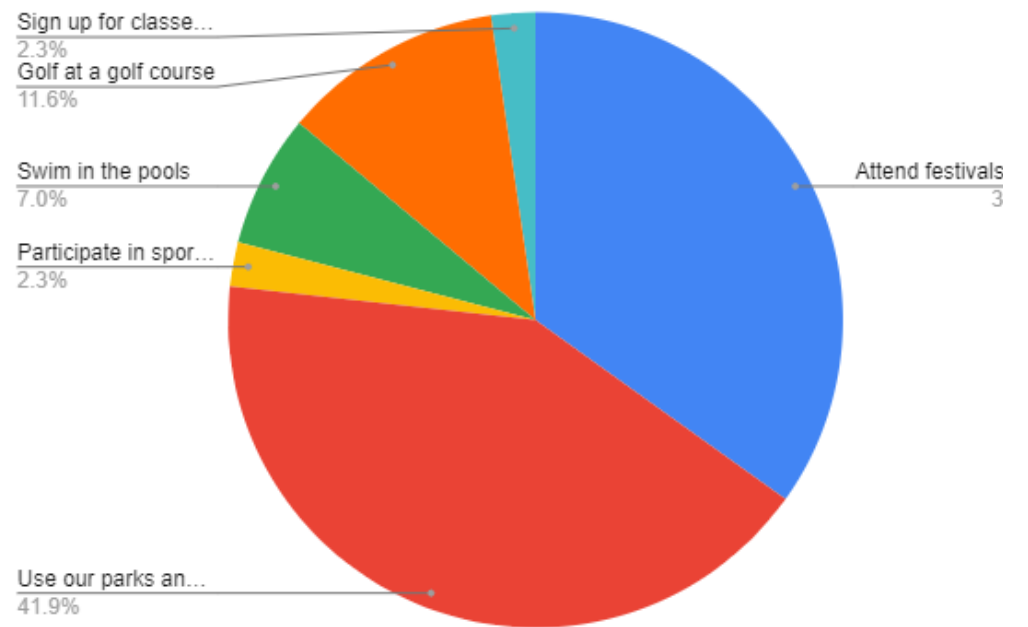
Not shared



* Indicates required question

What department activities do you/your family participate in? *

- Attend festivals like Jazz & Rib Fest
- Golf at a golf course
- Sign up for classes and camps
- Use our parks and trails
- Participate in sports leagues



LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Rise Together Leadership Update - July 1...



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

SHAWN M.

Section

HVAC Supervisor/HVAC Tech - Parks, Forestry and Building Maintenance

Length of Employment

12 years

ROSE



What's your favorite aspect of Columbus Recreation and Parks?

Having a great team of coworkers that make the job enjoyable.

What's your favorite project that you have worked on?

Working on the integration of controls.

What is your favorite ice cream flavor?

Strawberry

What is your favorite book or movie?

Last of the Mohicans

What is one piece of advice you have?

Learn to have patience.

Nominate A Coworker for the Staff Spotlight

[Fill out this form to nominate a coworker.](#) They will be notified that they were nominated in order to answer spotlight questions.

ARCHIVE

2023



2022



NATURE

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[Conservation](#)

[Educational Gardens](#)

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WELLNESS



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