



RISE TOGETHER - MARCH 18, 2025

SPOTLIGHT ON CONSERVATION

MAXIMIZING ENERGY EFFICIENCY—ONE BUILDING AT A TIME

We're taking energy conservation to the next level, helping the City reach its goal of reducing our carbon footprint by 40 percent by 2030. From electric vehicles to solar panels, sustainable solutions are making a difference—but one of the biggest game-changers is happening behind the scenes.

Thanks to Niagara, our Building Automation System (BAS), we can remotely control temperatures in our facilities, reducing energy waste while ensuring comfort for staff and visitors. When buildings are unoccupied, the system automatically adjusts temperatures to save energy. Plus, it alerts our maintenance team when something isn't working so issues can be resolved quickly—sometimes before anyone even notices!

Over the past 18 months, Tom Lafferty, Chris Scannell and the Building Maintenance team have been working hard to connect all of our buildings to Niagara. Currently, 31 facilities are online, with Fran Ryan, Warner Woods and Westgate Shelterhouse coming soon. Staff at each site—including community centers, sports facilities and golf courses—can monitor and control their buildings remotely, giving them more flexibility while reducing costs.

By the end of 2026, we expect to hit our 40 percent reduction goal—making us the first department in the City to achieve this milestone! This supports the environment and helps manage our operating budget more efficiently.

Next time you see Tom, Chris or the Building Maintenance team, give them a shoutout for their efforts in making our department a leader in energy conservation!

NEWS AND INFORMATION

DAYFORCE TIP: JOIN OUR BI-WEEKLY WEBEX SESSIONS

Managers and timekeepers, mark your calendars! Every Tuesday and Thursday at 1 p.m., the Downtown Dayforce Team hosts WebEx meetings designed just for you. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, share ideas and address any concerns as the team walks you through step-by-step instructions and practical examples.

Need an invite? Reach out to Neisha Collins (NDCollins@columbus.gov), Eric Potts (EEPotts@columbus.gov) or Kori DeFelice (KMDeFelice@columbus.gov). We highly recommend attending at least one session to gain valuable insights into Dayforce. Don't miss out!

DEI COMMITTEE PRESENTS: A CONSERVATION WITH THE WOMEN OF CRPD

Join us for an inspiring panel discussion featuring women from across our department as they share their experiences, insights, and lessons learned throughout their careers. The panel will feature: Jill Brumfield, Taylor Glynn, Kelly Messer, Melissa Michel-Thomas and Corinne Taylor.

The free event will take place at the Fran Ryan Center on Wednesday, March 26, from noon-1 p.m. This event is free and open exclusively to Columbus Recreation and Parks staff. Space is limited—[register now](#) to reserve your spot!

IMPORTANT LOCKER ROOM UPDATE AT FRONT STREET FITNESS

Starting Tuesday, April 1, all lockers in both locker rooms at Front Street Fitness will be for day use only. To prepare for this change, we ask that all staff empty their lockers by Monday, March 31. Any items left after this date will be removed and held until April 30.

If you need a reserved locker, large blue hallway lockers and garage lockers are available. If you're interested in reserving one or have any questions, please email FSFitness@columbus.gov.

Thank you for helping us keep our space organized and accessible for everyone!

3/31/2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
23	24	25	26	27	28	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

March 21

All day

Adult Softball Leagues – Summer I Session Registration

KEY DATES MARCH

CREATE Culture Sustainable Clothing Swap Drop Off

March 17-April 2 | 1111 E. Broad St., Capital Planning Area

In-Person Ethics Training

March 18 | 9-11 a.m. | 1111 E. Broad St., Continental Room

A Conversation with the Women of CRPD-DEI Event

March 26 | Noon-1 p.m. | Fran Ryan Center

Seasonal Hiring Fair

March 29 | 10 a.m.-1 p.m. | Goodale Shelterhouse

APRIL

CREATE Culture Wellness Challenge

April 7-May 4

CREATE Culture Sustainable Clothing Swap

March 17-April 2 | 1111 E. Broad St.

Quarterly Leadership Staff Meeting

April 22 | 1-3 p.m. | 1111 East Broad St., Continental Room

Play To Win Town Hall for Staff

April 30 | 1-2:30 p.m. | Fawcett Center

REINVESTING IN YOU

NETWORK WITH INDUSTRY PEERS AT THE OPRA REGION 4 NETWORKING EVENT

As City of Columbus Employees, we have the responsibility to live up to high standards in our work and will need to complete annual ethics training. Soon, you will be receiving assignments for required training. You will be able to complete the training online later this year.

If you'd prefer to complete your training in person, you can attend a live session: Ohio Ethics Law presented by Susan Willeke, Ohio Ethics Commission will take place on March 18, from 9-11 a.m. at 1111 E. Broad St. in the continental Room.

Complete your annual ethics requirement and [register today!](#)

TRAINING

Check out these upcoming training opportunities.

- March 25, 1-2 p.m. [Crafting A Strong Messaging Strategy About Park Equity](#), City Parks Alliance
- April (Date TBD): [Technology and Data in Parks](#), City Parks Alliance
- April 2, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.: [Building Culture with Appreciation and Advanced Leadership Skills](#), Ohio Parks and Recreation Association
- April 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.: [2025 OPRA Women in Leadership](#), Ohio Parks and Recreation Association
- May (Date TBD): [Climate Resilience and Parks](#), City Parks Alliance

Reminder: All staff are members of City Park Alliance! Use your email to log in; reset your password if needed.

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Have you recently earned a degree, award or certification? [Let us know, and we will share your accomplishment in the newsletter!](#)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

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VICTOR PEOPLES, COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONIST WITH YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

How long have you been with the department? Almost two years.

What's your favorite aspect of working here? Seeing a youth succeed when everyone else said they couldn't.

What's your favorite project that you've worked on? Being intentional, supportive and consistent with our youth and communities.

What's your favorite ice cream? Banana or Praline and Cream.



What’s your favorite book or movie? Book-Standing in the Scratch Line and Movie-Imitation of Life and Harlem Nights.

What’s one piece of advice you’d share? EAP is a real entity.

ARCHIVE

2025

2024

2023





NATURE

- [Nature](#)
- [Conservation](#)
- [Educational Gardens](#)
- [Nature Preserves](#)
- [Outdoor Education and Recreation](#)
- [Parks](#)
- [Pollinator Habitats](#)
- [Trails](#)
- [Urban Forestry](#)
- [Summer Camps](#)

WELLNESS

- [Wellness](#)
- [Aquatics](#)
- [Athletics](#)
- [CoGo Bike Share](#)
- [Fitness](#)
- [Food and Nutrition](#)
- [Therapeutic Recreation](#)
- [Summer Camps](#)

CREATIVITY

- [Creativity](#)
- [Columbus Performing Arts Center](#)
- [Golden Hobby Gift Shop](#)
- [Performing Arts](#)
- [Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center](#)
- [Visual Arts](#)

COMMUNITY

- [Community](#)
- [After School Programs](#)
- [Community Centers](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)
- [School's Out](#)
- [Summer Camps](#)

FACILITIES

- [Facilities](#)



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