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RISE TOGETHER - APRIL 15, 2025

SPOTLIGHT ON CULTURE

WE PLAY TO WIN – YOUR VOICE LEADS THE NEXT MOVE

We’re continuing our exciting journey to build a stronger, more connected workplace culture through We Play to Win!

On April 30, we’ll officially unveil our new set of core values. While they may be new in name, they’re not new in spirit. These values are already part of who we are—they reflect how you show up, lead and serve every day. Now, we’re putting them into words to give our culture a stronger, clearer foundation as we grow together.

But defining our values is just the beginning.

To truly bring these values to life, we need to hear from you—your thoughts, your experiences and your vision for the culture we’re building. Your feedback will show us what’s working, where we can grow and how we can best support one another in serving our community.

Please take a few minutes to complete our Culture Survey. It’s anonymous and takes just five minutes to complete. We want all staff to share their voice—seasonal, part-time and full-time across CRPD and COAAA. [Please complete the survey by Friday, April 18.](#)

Your voice matters! Let’s shape a culture that reflects all of us—together.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

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It's time to show your kids what you do all day! Bring your child (ages 8 and up) on Thursday, April 24, 8:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. for an exciting, hands-on look at Columbus Recreation and Parks—and other City departments making a difference every day.

The morning kicks off with a downtown adventure featuring City-wide activities like Paint a Plow, a Therapy Dog Meet and Greet and even a chance to meet the Mayor! After lunch with you, the fun continues with facility tours and interactive activities back in our department.

Important: The Department of Human Resources requires a signed waiver for each participating child. Please download, complete and return [this waiver](#) by Monday, April 21, to Sheri-Lynn Wynn at SLWynn@Columbus.gov.

[RSVP today](#) – this helps us plan transportation and activities so don’t delay!

Tentative Schedule:

- 8:15 a.m. – Drop-off at 1111 E. Broad St.
- 8:30 a.m. – Depart for Downtown Activities
- 9–11:30 a.m. – City Hall Fun
- 12–1 p.m. – Lunch with Parents
- 1–3:30 p.m. – Tours and Hands-on Activities
- 3:30 p.m. – Pick-Up at 1111 E. Broad St.

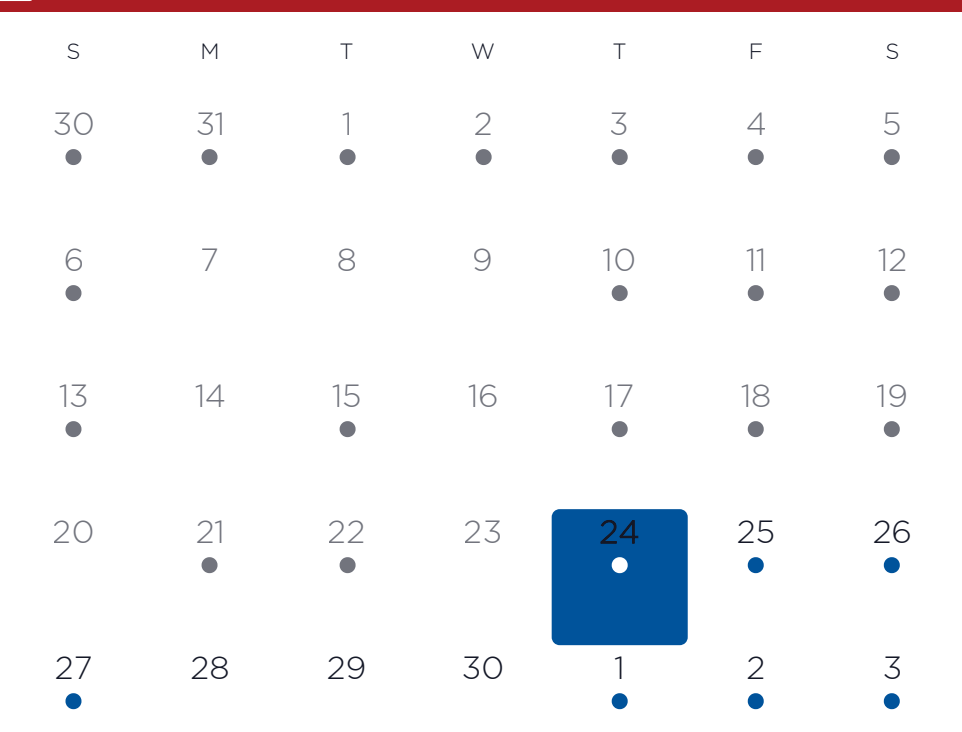
Contact Sheri-Lynn Wynn at 614-645-3330 or [SLWynn@Columbus.gov](#) with questions.

CREATE STAFF LUNCH FUNDRAISER – MAY 2

Join the CREATE Culture Committee for our next staff lunch fundraiser! Swing by 1533 Alum Creek Drive (Training Room) on Friday, May 2, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and enjoy a delicious lunch for a great cause.

For just \$10, you’ll get grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, chicken and vegan options along with sides and a drink. Enjoy light games and time to connect with your coworkers! All proceeds will support future staff appreciation events hosted by the CREATE Culture Committee.

Register [to let us know you’re coming](#). Come hungry, leave happy, and help us continue building a great workplace culture!



April 24

April 24 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Adaptive Sports: Try It – Wheelchair Golf

April 24 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Howard Mobile Produce Market

April 24 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Feddersen Mobile Produce Market

+ 1 More

KEY DATES

APRIL

- CREATE Culture Wellness Challenge
- April 7-May 4
- Quarterly Leadership Staff Meeting
- April 22 | 1-3 p.m. | 1111 East Broad St., Continental Room
- Take Your Child to Work Day
- April 24 | Details TBD
- Play To Win Town Hall for Staff
- April 30 | 1-2:30 p.m. | Fawcett Center

MAY

CREATE Culture Lunch

May 2 | 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. | 1533 Alum Creek Dr.

PARKS MAINTENANCE

IGNITE: Males Empowerment, open to boys ages 8-18, is set to take place on Saturday, April 26 at East High School from 10^x a.m.-3 p.m. Registration is FREE, so secure your spot by [signing up today!](#)

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SMARTSHEET

The Parks Maintenance team has officially transitioned from Lucity to Smartsheet for work order requests.

You can now submit Parks Maintenance requests using the same Smartsheet link used for Building Maintenance. When submitting, you'll now see options to assign your request to the Parks Maintenance team directly. Since many of you are already familiar with Smartsheet, this update should be quick and easy to adopt.

Reminder: All 311 service requests are now routed to the Customer Service team for review and assignment. These were previously imported to Lucity.

[Bookmark this link to submit your Maintenance Requests](#), and share this update with anyone who may need to submit maintenance requests!

DAYFORCE UPDATE: USE THE ORIGINAL HI-CLASS FORM, NEW MISSED SWIPES FORM

We've made a small but important change: please return to using the [Hi Class Pay Form](#). Why change? The original form allows for multiple dates, includes coverage information and offers greater flexibility than the recent combined versions.

Also, there is a new Missed Swipe/Exception Form ([Word](#) and [PDE](#)) – please begin using this form for missed swipes. This new form combines the two originals that were with the Punch Policy.

These forms can be found on the P: drive (in the main folder). Thank you for keeping our timekeeping process running smoothly!

REINVESTING IN YOU

TRAINING

Check out these upcoming training opportunities.

- April 29: [Using Technology to Collect Better Data and Make Better Decisions](#), City Parks Alliance
- May 14: [OPRA Region 4 Networking Event](#), Bob Crane Community Center, 3200 Tremont Road, 43221
- June 25: [Climate Resilience and Parks](#), City Parks Alliance

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[newsletter!](#)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

LEAH AKERS-NATURE PROGRAMS DEVELOPER, CONSERVATION

SHE/HER/HERS



How long have you been with the department? I started as a summer camp counselor in 2016!

What’s your favorite part about working here? I get to work alongside some of the most incredible and inspiring people. They teach me something new every day.

What’s your favorite project? Our Trail or Treat program that we hosted last fall! It was the first project my team and I started from the ground up, and it was so fun and rewarding to see it come to life.

What’s your favorite ice cream? Cookie dough.

What’s your favorite book or movie? Where the Wild Things Are.

What’s one piece of advice you’d share? Always stay open to learning, embrace the community and the people you work with, and remember the impact you make every day. Whether you’re teaching, leading programs or supporting behind the scenes, the work you do makes a difference.

ARCHIVE

2025



2024



2023



2022

