



WE PLAY TO WIN: THE WEEKLY PLAYBOOK

MARCH 24, 2026

SPOTLIGHT ON CULTURE

ACCESS MATTERS – AND IT’S CORE TO WHO WE ARE

Everyone deserves to experience recreation with dignity, regardless of ability. Access and belonging are central to who we are as a department. One of our core values is Lift Each Other Up, and our RISE and C.R.E.A.T.E. committees help ensure every staff member feels a sense of belonging at work.

On April 24, new federal requirements take effect that require public entities to ensure their digital materials are accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA is civil rights legislation passed in 1990 to ensure people with disabilities have equal access to many areas of public life. [Learn more about the ADA.](#)

For our department, that includes access not only to parks and facilities, but also to our communication materials – websites, documents (Word and PDFs), presentations, emails, videos and social media. Accessibility supports people with physical disabilities, hearing or visual impairments, color blindness and cognitive disabilities.

Columbus Recreation and Parks is committed to making our parks, programs and facilities welcoming and accessible to all. As part of that commitment, the department is completing an ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan to identify barriers and plan improvements over time. [Learn more about the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.](#)

A cross-department team is reviewing and updating materials, and working with the RISE Committee to document steps for creating accessible content and develop templates that make it easier for staff to do so.

Ensuring residents can access everything we offer is a shared responsibility. As new resources roll out, [take some time to review these guides on creating accessible digital materials so we can continue building a more inclusive and accessible department for everyone.](#)



NEWS AND INFORMATION

ALL-STAFF MEETING: THE POWER OF US

Join us on Tuesday, April 28, from 1-2:30 for our upcoming all-staff meeting as we celebrate the impact our team makes across Columbus every day. The theme of this gathering is “The Power of Us,” recognizing the people behind our parks, programs and services and the difference you make in the community.

As we head into the busy summer season, this meeting will provide updates, introduce new initiatives and highlight resources available to support staff well-being. Caring for our community starts with caring for ourselves and one another, and we want to ensure staff know about the support and resources available.

Following the meeting, staff are encouraged to stop by the resource fair to learn more about programs and services available to support you and your work.

Have a question for leadership? Staff are encouraged to submit questions in advance to help guide the FAQ discussion. [Submit your question here.](#)

Staff who are scheduled to work are expected to attend.

VOLUNTEER WITH THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

Are you looking to volunteer your time? Therapeutic Recreation has two upcoming opportunities, and they are looking for volunteers!

- The first is a fundraiser for our adaptive sports teams, selling 50/50 tickets at the Blue Jackets game on Sunday, March 29. If you would like to volunteer, contact Andrea Norris at AMNorris@columbus.gov.
- The second is volunteer recruitment for our upcoming Jack Attack Boccia Tournament the weekend of April 11-12. There are multiple shifts available; [sign up online](#).

Note: this is a volunteer opportunity and not paid work time.

SIGN UP FOR THE CHAMPIONS FOR PLAY GOLF OUTING

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Foundation is hosting their annual Champions for PLAY golf outing at Champions Golf Course on Friday, July 10! The money raised from this golf outing goes to the department’s PLAY Scholarship Fund, which was created because all kids deserve the chance to play regardless of ability to pay. Financially-challenged families with children 18 years and younger can apply for a PLAY Scholarship for any fee-based program. Consider putting a team together to benefit the PLAY Scholarship Fund! [Learn more about the golf outing.](#)

4/2/2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	1	2


April 2

April 2 @ 2:00 pm 

Barack - Mobile Produce Market

April 2 @ 2:00 pm 

Glenwood - Mobile Produce Market

April 2 @ 2:00 pm 

Sullivant Gardens- Mobile Produce Market

KEY DATES

MARCH

Free Fitness Classes

Tuesdays and Thursdays | 11:25 a.m.-noon | 1111 E. Broad St., Hungry Soldier Room

[Spring Wellness Challenge](#)

March 23-April 24

APRIL

C.R.E.A.T.E. Spring Clothing Swap

April 13-24 | 1111 E. Broad St., Capital Planning Area

All Staff Meeting

April 28 | 1-2:30 p.m. | Espy Adaptive Sports Complex

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



VICTOR PEOPLES

COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONIST WITH YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

He/Him/His

How long have you worked for the department? 3 years.

What's your favorite aspect of working for the department? Supporting our youth. Walking youth through the steps of preparing a meal.

What's your favorite ice cream? Banana.

What's your favorite book or movie? Anything Marvel.

What's one piece of advice you'd share? Documentation matters.

NOMINATE A COWORKER FOR THE STAFF SPOTLIGHT

[Fill out this form to nominate a coworker.](#) The employee and their assistant director will be notified that they were nominated.

LIVING OUR VALUES

CLEARING ROADWAYS TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY MOVING



Our Forestry section was Dependable On Purpose March 13-14 when intense winds blew through Columbus. On Friday afternoon, the Forestry section started receiving 311 requests for tree emergencies with trees down in roadways, trees that had fallen on cars, other property and trees blocking driveways. They received 183 tree emergency requests in 24 hours from Friday afternoon through Saturday afternoon.

The Forestry section received 291 tree emergency requests from March 13-17. For context, they only had 55 tree emergencies in January and February combined this year. This quantity was the equivalent of multiple months' worth of emergencies, all in one weekend!

We want to give a shout-out to the Forestry staff who worked Friday night and Saturday cleaning up tree emergencies: Russell Wright, Kyle Mercer, Jonathan Hillman, Zachery Bundy, Jason Green, Erwin Au, Liusbel Leyva, Hector Vasquez, Helmo Guardado, Joseph Nichols, D'Angelo Tyler, Corey Sparks, Michael Knisley, Alonso Contreras, Tim Rose, Nicholas Miller, Justin Kaplan, Wilian Gonzalez, Marius Larch, Nate Hummell, Chad Hoff and Rosalie Hendon.

We also want to recognize the six Parks employees who also worked on Saturday to help remove trees from roadways: Eric Eiselstein, Derrick Darr, Taylor Evans, Nathan Weaver, Todd Keferl and Ian Elmore.

Kudos to the team for working hard to get the Columbus roadways cleared and being Dependable on Purpose!



Before cleanup.



After cleanup.

REINVESTING IN YOU

TALK TO A DIETICIAN FOR FREE

Are you having difficulty finding time to lead a healthy lifestyle? Speak with a registered dietitian from anywhere you are...for **free**! You can speak with a registered dietitian over Zoom. City employees (and their spouses/dependents) are each eligible to receive eight virtual appointments with a dietitian during the calendar year. Appointments last for one hour.

A registered dietitian is able to assist you with the following:

- Manage chronic disease (diabetes, cancer, heart disease, etc.) through diet.
- Understand the best and most sustainable way for you to lose or gain weight.
- Make small changes to your diet that give you big results.
- Plan and cook family meals that are easy to prepare and healthy.

Just hit [Schedule a Virtual Session](#), and select a date and time. Take advantage of this free service!

ARCHIVE

2026



2025



2024



2023



2022



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](#)
