

Community Centers are closed this week due to summer training. Centers will be open for summer hours beginning June 8.

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WE PLAY TO WIN: THE WEEKLY PLAYBOOK

JUNE 2, 2026

SPOTLIGHT ON RISE

MEET THE R.I.S.E. COMMITTEE

The members of the R.I.S.E. Committee meet monthly to explore ways to make Columbus Recreation and Parks Department more accessible for our co-workers and our community. This diverse group is made up of staff from nearly every section in the department. Do you know who your representative is?

- **Geoffrey Martin**, Arts (co-chair)
- **Julia Hatton**, Conservation (co-chair)
- **Jamie Schlichting**, Design and Construction (secretary)
- **Carlos Mojica**, Community Relations
- **Sheri-Lynn Wynn**, Community Recreation
- **Rachel Hardenbrook**, Youth Development
- **Taylor Glynn**, Parks
- **Melissa Michel-Thomas**, Human Resources
- **Rae Nutter**, Therapeutic Recreation
- **Mikar Em**, Customer Service
- **Suzy Johnson**, Fiscal
- **Brian Scanlon**, Building Maintenance
- **Eduardo Ortega**, Forestry

We're currently working through the Playbook goals to make a list of our highest priorities, and we'll build our committee's action plan off that list. At your next staff meeting, ask your RISE committee representative what accessibility goal they are most excited about!

As always, if you have more ideas about how to make our department more equitable and accessible, or if you have resources to share that would benefit your co-workers, please reach out to Geoff Martin, R.I.S.E. co-chair at GAMartin@columbus.gov.

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NEWS AND INFORMATION

NOTE FOR EMPLOYEES: QR CODES WILL BE POSTED BY EVERY TIMECLOCK

If you use a timeclock to start and end your day, we have some good news! QR codes (linked to the Time and Attendance Smartsheet) have been posted by every timeclock. If an employee misses a clock in or clock out, they scan the QR code and complete the form. All managers are set to receive notification when one of their staff submit this form for approval, and then the managers will correct the employee's timesheet in Dayforce.

Human Resources tested this in Aquatics, Sports, Parks and Forestry, but this was rolled out to all sections on June 1. Reach out to your manager if you need assistance.

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION IN DAYFORCE

Human Resources has requested that all employees take a moment to review their personal information in Dayforce: address, phone number, emergency contact, personal email address, etc. Make any necessary changes so that, if needed, Human Resources can reach you or your loved one.

LAUREN NYE NAMED DEPARTMENT'S OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH OFFICER

Lauren Nye is now officially the department's occupational safety and health officer in Human Resources. Any safety-related issues or concerns should be reported to her at LMNye@columbus.gov or by phone at 614-353-2087. Columbus Recreation and Parks Department has been Lauren's professional home for the last 10 years, and she loves working with this incredible team!

C.R.E.A.T.E. COMMITTEE TO HOST STAFF ARTS FESTIVAL MEET UP

The C.R.E.A.T.E. Committee is hosting an Arts Festival event to support Columbus arts and our very own Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center team! Meet at Dodge Community Center on Friday, June 12, at 2 p.m. for a walk through Columbus Arts Festival with your co-workers.

Staff will be responsible for clocking out at their scheduled time, no overtime will be paid for those who stay beyond their schedule. C.R.E.A.T.E. will have a sign-in sheet to assist in timekeeping accountability. We hope to see you there!

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF TAKE YOUR SECTION TO THE PARK DAY

This year's Take Your Section to the Park Day was a huge hit! Thanks to the weather behaving and holding off the anticipated rain, we had 107 attendees turn out to participate. This year's event was exceptional thanks in large part to all the sections that hosted stations. We also want to send a big thank you to Matt Laroche for cooking all of the hot dogs to feed the hungry attendees. The winner of this year's raffle drawing for a round of golf went to Nick Miller in our Forestry section. Congratulations, Nick!

Station Lineup:

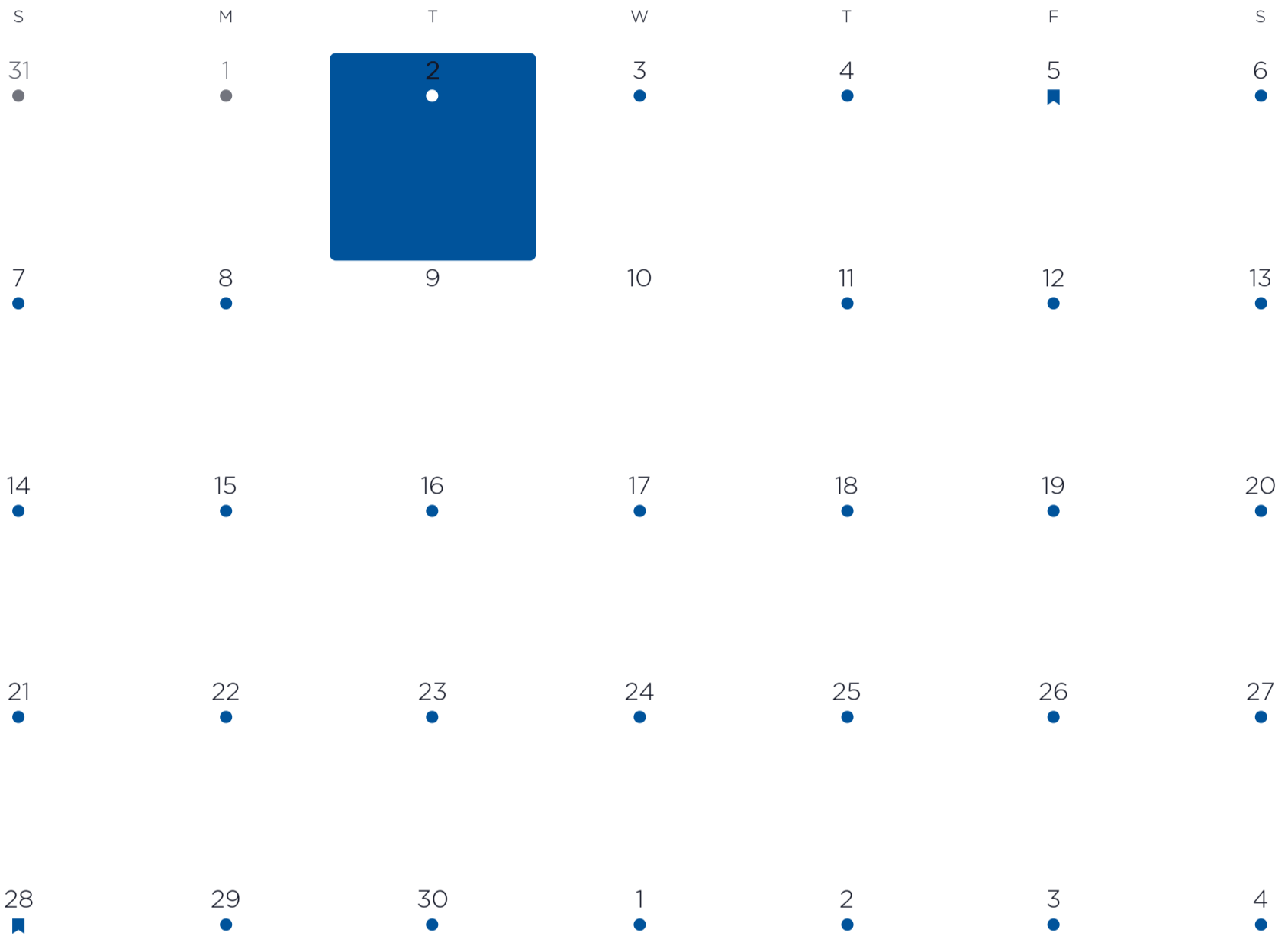
- **Station 1:** Building Maintenance showed off the tools of the trade for Carpentry and HVAC.
- **Station 2:** Youth Development brought in some fun with "up in the air four square" and notes to ReRoute graduates.
- **Station 3:** Golf helped improve everyone's tee-off shots with tips.
- **Station 4:** Hockey showed off how fun roller hockey can be while letting our inner competitors out to play.
- **Station 5:** Aquatics taught everyone the importance of keeping the chemical levels in our pools balanced.

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If there's any feedback you'd like to share with the C.R.E.A.T.E. Committee, feel free to reach out to CREATE@columbus.gov.

6/2/2026



May 8

All day

Main Gallery: The Pandemic Portraits by Nicholas Hill

All day

Loft Gallery: Staying in Place by Marge Bender and Barbara Vogel

June 2 @ 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

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KEY DATES

JUNE

Free Fitness Classes

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

C.R.E.A.T.E. Committee: Staff Arts Festival Meet Up

June 12 | 2 p.m. | Dodge Community Center

Cybersecurity Literacy Training Deadline

June 30

JULY

Free Fitness Classes

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

Extended Leadership Quarterly Meeting

July 28 | 1-3 p.m. | 1111 E. Broad St., Continental Room

LIVING OUR VALUES

DEPENDABLE ON PURPOSE: BUILDING MAINTENANCE SECTION STEPS IN TO PLANT FLOWERS AT TOPIARY GARDEN AT DEAF SCHOOL PARK



We want to give a shout-out to the Building Maintenance section for stepping in to help Parks plant the annual flower displays at Topiary Garden at Deaf School Park!

The rain forced Parks to reschedule the original planting event, which put them in a really tight spot right before the holiday weekend. Seeing the Building Maintenance team stop what they were doing to support Parks brought a real sense of unity and team spirit. Thanks to their hard work, the Building Maintenance staff managed to layout and plant all 1,066 annual flowers in just over an hour! That must be a new record, considering it normally takes at least four hours during the annual volunteer event!

“I am so grateful to work with such great people, who literally dropped everything to give us a helping hand when we needed it the most,” said Katie Randall, gardener supervisor in Parks. “My team and I truly appreciate you and your team coming through in such a big way.”

Building Maintenance, thank you for jumping in and being Dependable on Purpose!

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REINVESTING IN YOU

FEATURED JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Know someone looking for a new opportunity? Tell them to check out Columbus Recreation and Parks!

Current opportunities include:

- **Summer positions:** Part-time seasonal opportunities, including lifeguards, park maintenance and summer camp staff. We would love to get these positions filled as we head into summer so please share!

[All job opportunities are posted online.](#)

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Kimmy Confar | Recreation Assistant Manager-Sports | Master of Business Administration, Franklin University

Chris Denney | Management Analyst 2-Fiscal | Master of Business Administration, Franklin University

Steve Paullin | Event Coordination Specialist-Special Events | Master of Public Administration, Franklin University

Tom Taber | Columbus Water and Power Arborist-Forestry | Master of Business Administration, Franklin University

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ARCHIVE

2026



2025



2024



2023



2022



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