

**COMMUNITY FACTS**  
**COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA**  
[www.columbusne.us](http://www.columbusne.us)

**SEPTEMBER 2007**  
(Partial update September 2008)

**POPULATION**  
(Official U.S. Census)

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2007 Est.</u>
<b>Columbus</b>	<b>20,971</b>	<b>21,399</b>
<b>Platte County</b>	<b>31,568</b>	<b>31,849</b>
<b>Labor Market*</b>	<b>116,691</b>	<b>112,726</b>

\*Includes Platte County and contiguous counties

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**Loup Power District**  
**Columbus, Nebraska 68601**  
[www.loup.com](http://www.loup.com)

**Cornhusker Public Power District**  
**Columbus, Nebraska 68601**  
[www.cornhusker-power.com](http://www.cornhusker-power.com)

**Economic Development Department**  
**Nebraska Public Power District**  
**Columbus, Nebraska 68601**  
[www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com)  
[sites.nppd.com](http://sites.nppd.com)

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# INTRODUCTION

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The following pages contain basic information about Columbus, Nebraska. This material was compiled by the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Columbus, Loup Power District, and Nebraska Public Power District in order to promote community development.

Additional and more detailed information about Columbus may be obtained by contacting any of the following:

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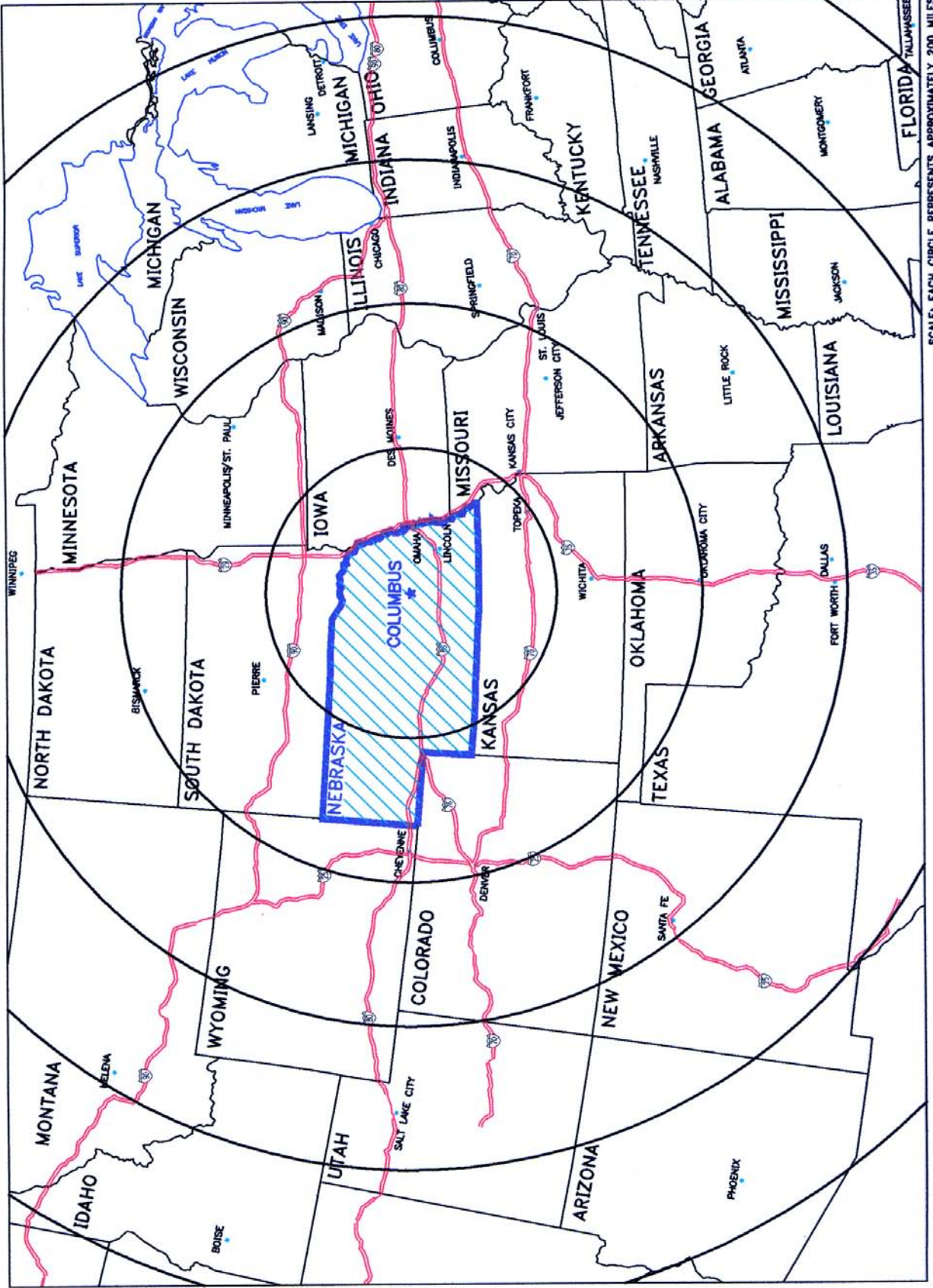
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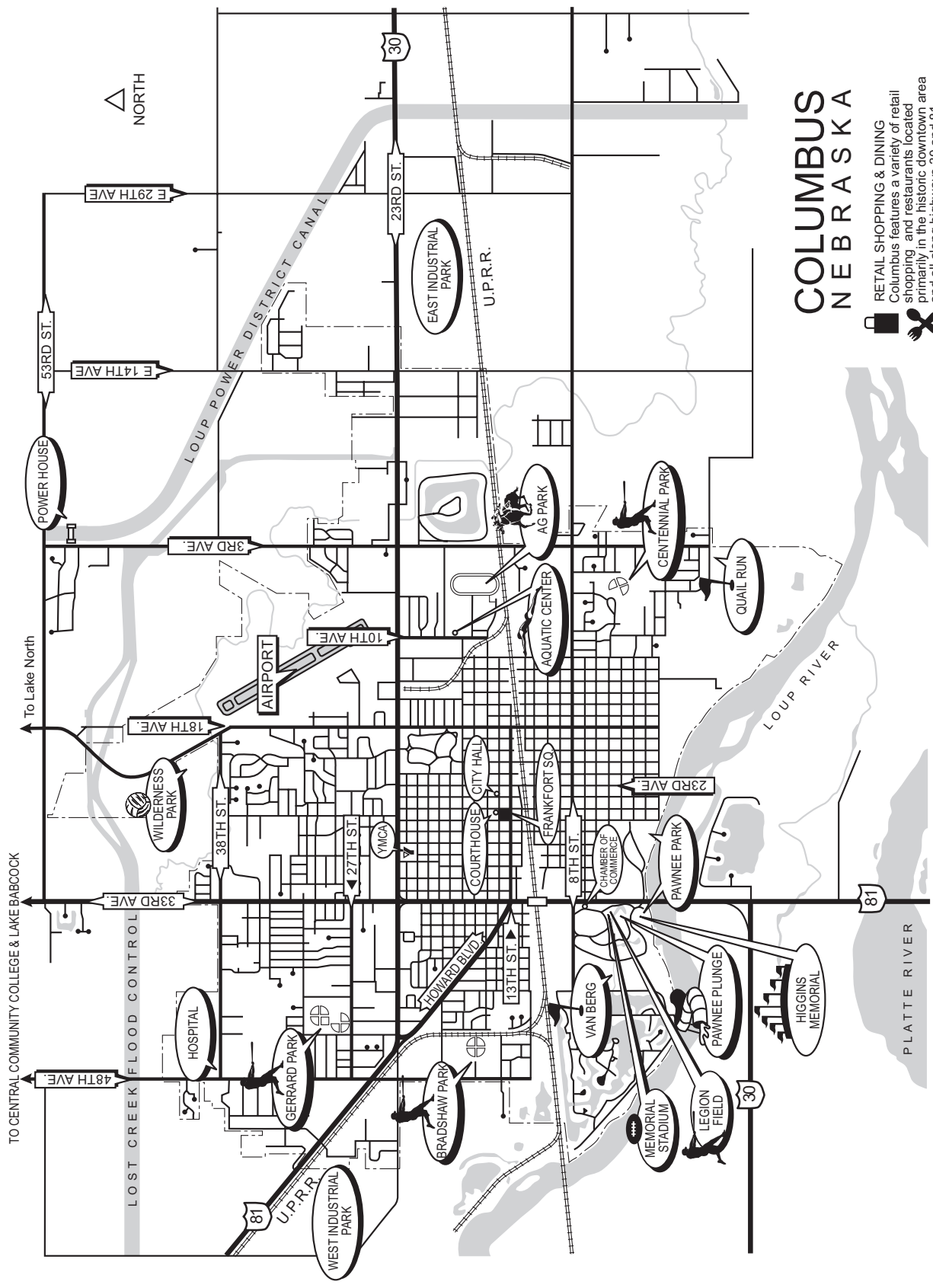
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SCALE: EACH CIRCLE REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY 200 MILES



# COLUMBUS NEBRASKA

**RETAIL SHOPPING & DINING**  
 Columbus features a variety of retail shopping and restaurants located primarily in the historic downtown area and all along highways 30 and 81.



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## LOCATION

Columbus, the county seat of Platte County, is located in the east-central part of Nebraska near the confluence of the Platte and Loup Rivers. U.S. Highways 30 and 81 intersect in the city. Columbus is 75 miles northwest of Lincoln and 85 miles west of Omaha.

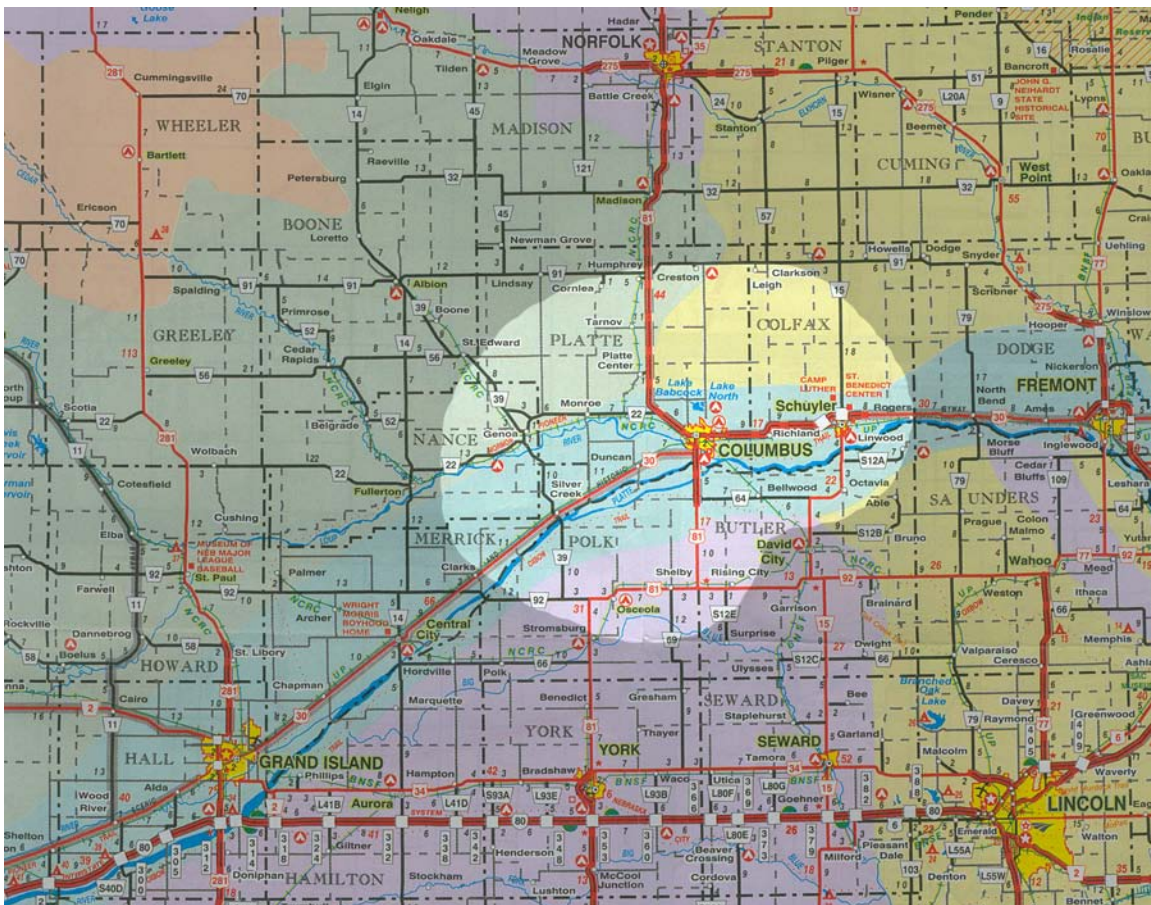
## POPULATION (U.S. Census)

Year	Columbus	Platte County
1970	15,471	26,508
1980	17,328	28,852
1990	19,480	29,820
2000	20,971	31,662
2007 (Est.)	21,399	31,849

## Platte County Population by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2006 U.S. Census

White persons	97.9%
Black	0.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.4%
Asian	0.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%
Two or more races	0.8%
Hispanic or Latino origin	9.5%
White persons not Hispanic	88.9%

The 2007 U.S. Census estimates 112,726 people live in Platte County and the contiguous counties of Boone, Butler, Colfax, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Polk, and Stanton.



**Primary Retail Trade Area**

## **LOCAL ECONOMY**

Columbus is known as “The City of Power and Progress.” Basic economic activities of Columbus, a college and county seat city, include manufacturing, education, government, farming, livestock feeding, wholesale and retail sales, tourism, conventions, and transportation. Columbus is also known as the “home of public power in Nebraska.”

The primary retail trade area extends approximately 21 miles east, 12 miles southeast, 25 miles south, 27 miles southwest, and 17 miles north and contains an estimated 46,820 people. Retail firms in Columbus reported 2007 net taxable retail sales of \$334,003,207 while Platte County reported retail sales of \$357,604,623. Wholesale firms in the community distribute auto supplies, industrial supplies, welding supplies, agricultural products, petroleum products, vending products, building materials, hardware, and food items.

The city’s economy has grown rapidly during the past five years with the construction and expansion of several manufacturers, new regional hospital and attached medical office building, the Village Centre Mall, and expansions of several commercial businesses. Retail space has increased by more than 500,000 square feet in the past five years with several new shops and restaurants.

## **ELEVATION**

Columbus is 1,447 feet above sea level.

## **TOPOGRAPHY**

The terrain in Columbus is mostly flat in the Platte River Valley. The area north of the city consists of gently rolling hills.

The soils are a complex of silt loams, fine sandy loams, and coarse-textured sands. Soils are mostly well drained with medium- to fine-textured sand in the substratum. The various strata have excellent load-bearing characteristics.

## **HISTORY**

When plans for building a transcontinental railway were announced in the 1850s, a group of 13 enterprising men who called themselves the “Columbus Town Company” formulated plans to establish a new settlement somewhere along its route. These 13 settlers from Columbus, Ohio (for which the city was named), decided to locate the town at the confluence of the Loup and Platte Rivers in May 1856. The particular location of the townsite had a two-fold purpose: the region promised excellent land for raising crops and the site selected was convenient for establishing a ferry across the fast moving Loup River.

Nine years after its founding, Columbus was incorporated as the “Town of Columbus.” It grew to a city of the second class on February 7, 1877, and made the transition to a city of the first class (population exceeding 5,000) on September 25, 1907.

The ferry across the Loup River, which the city founders had envisioned, became a reality in the 1870s. This ferry moved a seemingly endless stream of immigrant wagons across the Loup River on their trip to the Northwest and helped make Columbus a major outfitting post for the pioneers.

Construction of the Union Pacific Transcontinental Railroad through Columbus only served to strengthen the city’s role as an important outfitting station for wagon trains, a major business in Columbus well into the 1880s.

Even as the era of wagon trains passed, railroads continued to play an important part in the early development of the community. Many historic personalities called Columbus home during its early years. U.S. Cavalry Major Frank North organized the friendly Pawnee Indians of the region to act as scouts and fighters against marauding Indian bands that threatened both the settlers and workers on the Union Pacific Railroad. Major Frank North met the legendary William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody while serving in



the U.S. Army. On May 10, 1883, Cody joined with Major North, Luther North, and other noted Indian fighters to organize and stage the first dress rehearsal of “Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show” in Columbus.

Dreams of harnessing the Loup River for power and irrigation can be traced back as early as 1874. The first concerted effort of the people to utilize the water of the Loup River was led by Henry Ernest Babcock in 1894 when a stock company, known as the Columbus Power & Irrigation Company, was organized and in operation for approximately one year.

Loup River Public Power District, the first public power district in the state, was formed by a group of Columbus businessmen, who, during the Depression in the early 1930s, saw an opportunity to use federal funds to create jobs for the area by reviving the shelved plan conceived by Babcock. Construction of the 35-mile canal between Genoa and Columbus began in 1934; peak employment during this construction period totaled more than 1,300.

In 1943 the American Brass Company of Connecticut, a subsidiary of Anaconda Copper, began looking for a location to build an aluminum extrusion plant in the Midwest to help support the national war effort. In a short time it became obvious to American Brass Company officials that Columbus was the best choice for the plant. In short order the government purchased the land, brought in the railroad siding, and began building a brick garage. However, by early spring, the tide of the war was turning; in 1944 the project was scrapped. This experience was the first time Columbus officials had marketed the community in this way and it opened the eyes of everyone that Columbus was well positioned for economic development.

In 1946 Columbus developed the first publicly owned industrial park in the nation. Due to aggressive economic development, Columbus is recognized today as the “most industrialized city per capita” in Nebraska. Columbus was once known as the “crossroads of the nation” because of its location on U.S. Highway 30, originally

known as the Lincoln Memorial Highway, and U.S Highway 81, also known as the North-South Meridian Highway.

In 1963 Loup Power District opened Lake North, four miles north of Columbus. The lake has 2,083 acre-feet of water and covers approximately 200 acres.

Today visitors can travel through history at the Platte County Museum or visit the Quincentenary Belltower built in 1992 as the community’s celebration of the 500th anniversary of Columbus’ first voyage to the new world. Remember veterans at the Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial, built in 2001, to honor Mr. Higgins, the designer of the ramp-fronted landing craft that helped win the war, and the many veterans who fought for freedom of our great country. The Higgins Memorial is also home to the “Freedom Memorial,” a touching monument containing the largest amount of steel in the United States that was recovered from the World Trade Center.

The Columbus Sesquicentennial was celebrated in 2006. Events included the opening of Pawnee Plunge Water Park, community picnic, Tour Nebraska car show, Columbus Barbecue Classic, all-city reunion, Columbus Hot Air Balloon Rally, bandshell dedication at Frankfort Square, and a world-record attempt Corn Maze.

A mural designed by Muralist David Reiser was unveiled on a downtown building facing Frankfort Square during the Columbus Sesquicentennial. The historic mural depicts the first founders entering the Columbus area in the core layer of the painting. Layers of history were then added relating events or landmarks on the site that is Columbus today. Nearly \$70,000 was raised in private donations to create “Discovering the Colorful History of Columbus.”

From 13 men with dreams, visions, and courage, Columbus has grown to a city of 21,000 residents. Today Columbus is the hub of public power in Nebraska with the headquarters of Cornhusker Public Power District, Loup Power District, Nebraska Public Power District, and the Nebraska Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Inc.



Columbus Entrance Sign



Downtown Business District



Oregon Trail Marker



Quincentenary Belltower



Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial



World Trade Center Steel Sculpture at Higgins Memorial

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

---

### MANUFACTURERS (employing 25 or more)

<u>Company/Year Established</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Market</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
ADM Alliance Nutrition 1967	Livestock feeds	National & Export	25	3	None
ADM Corn Processing- Columbus 1992	Wet corn milling, corn starch, fructose, ethanol	National & Export	305 Total		None
BD Medical Pharmaceutical Systems 1951	Glass syringes	National & Export	757 Total		None
BD Medical Surgical 1949	Hypodermic needles & syringes	National & Export	472 1*	432 6*	None
Behlen Mfg. 1936	Steel buildings, agricultural & livestock equipment	National & Export	688 Total 73* Total		None
Blazer Manufacturing 1974	Athletic equipment & custom metal fabrication	National	25 Total 3* Total		None
CAMACO, LLC 1965	Automotive seats & frames	National & Export	383	153	None
Carneco Foods 1995	Ground beef	National	400 Total		None
Central Confinement Services, LLC 1982	Livestock equipment, confinement & ag-related facilities	National & Export	65 Total		None
Central Sand & Gravel 1947	Aggregates	Local & Regional	65	5	None
Columbus Hydraulics Company 1952	Hydraulic & pneumatic cylinders	National	85 Total		None

\* Part-time and/or seasonal

<u>Company/Year Established</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Market</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Columbus Metal Industries, Inc. 1960	Scrap metal processing	National & Export	29 Total		None
Columbus Telegram 1879	Daily newspaper, commercial printing	Local & Regional	16 4*	28 9*	None
DuoLift Manufacturing Company, Inc. 1943	Ag & commercial trailers, custom trailers, soil samplers	National & Export	41 3*	3	None
EGS Electrical Group- Appleton 1986	Electrical construction materials	National & Export	330 Total		None
FLEXcon 1993	Pressure sensitive plastic film, decals, package labels, holograms, adhesive nameplates	National & Export	199 Total 1* Total		None
GreyStone, Inc. 1982	Aggregate handling equipment	National & Export	50 Total		None
Heartland Products Company 1996	Steel products	National & Export	65 Total		None
Henke Machine-Buffalo Equipment 1945	Earth moving scrapers, planters & cultivators	National & Export	30 1*	3	None
KATANA Summit, LLC 2008	Tubular wind towers	Regional & National	150 Total		None
MasterCare Patient Equipment, Inc. 1994	Patient bathing systems	National & Export	16 1*	12	None
Mid-American Research Chemical Corp. 1970	Sanitary maintenance cleaners, floor & carpet products, insecticides & herbicides	National	16 1*	11 1*	None

\* Part-time and/or seasonal

<u>Company/Year Established</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Market</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Orion Corporation 1979	Hydrodynamic bearings	National & Export	80 Total 1* Total		None
Paige Electric Company, L.P. 1979	Electric wire & cable	Local, National & Export	17 1*	16 1*	None
Shell Valley Companies, Inc. 1971	Molds & fiberglass products, custom steel fabrication & fiberglass work	National & Export	20	9	None
Technik Manufacturing 1989	Vending machines & dispensers	National & Export	12	15 2*	None
Torin Products 1965	Precision machined parts	National & Export	13 8*	7 4*	None
Vishay Dale Electronics 1951	Electronic components	National & Export	603	2	None

\* Part-time and/or seasonal

### **MAJOR NON-MANUFACTURING & NON-RETAIL EMPLOYERS** (employing 40 or more)

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
B-D Construction 1963	Industrial, commercial & ag building construction	45	3	None
Bierman Contracting 2002	Industrial, commercial & ag building construction	41 2*	1 3*	None
Central Community College-Columbus 1968	Education	47 47*	58 68*	CCCEA in assoc. with NSEA (teachers only)
City of Columbus 1856	Government	115	50	IAFF & IUPA (police & fire only)

\*Part-time and/or seasonal

<b><u>Employer</u></b>	<b><u>Type of Activity</u></b>	<b>Employees</b>		<b><u>Union</u></b>
		<b><u>Male</u></b>	<b><u>Female</u></b>	
Columbus Community Hospital 1922	Medical	48 13*	275 138*	None
Columbus Public Schools 1860	Education	101 7*	324 100*	NSEA & CEA (teachers only)
Cornhusker Public Power District 1943	Electric utility	39 1*	5	None
Educational Service Unit 7 1967	Educational services	5 1*	44 16*	NSEA (teachers only)
First National Bank & Trust Co. 1906	Financial	20 6*	83 27*	None
Golden LivingCenter of Columbus (formerly Beverly Healthcare) 1966 (est)	Skilled nursing & assisted living	163 Total		None
Hamilton Telecommunications 1996	Telemarketing	59 Total 29* Total		None
Heartland Builders 1988	General contractors/ construction	121 2*	5 1*	None
Jackson Services 1926	Uniforms, dust control, linens, logo mats & rest room supplies	29 1*	42 1*	None
Jacobs Field Services 1972	General contractor/ construction	62	1	None
Lakeview Community Schools 1969	Education	26 52*	84 87*	NSEA/LEA (certified staff only)
Loup Power District 1933	Electric utility	93 2*	16 9*	None
Mory's Haven 1955	Nursing care	1	41 23*	None

\*Part-time and/or seasonal



<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Nebraska Pork Partners (Platte County) 2005	Pork producers	38 5*	18 2*	None
Nebraska Public Power District (Columbus General Office) 1941	Electric utility	233 13*	163 6*	None
New World Inn 1973	Lodging & convention center	65 Total		None
Platte County 1856	Government	86 7*	75 8*	None
Progressive Swine Technology (Platte County) 1995	Pork producers	122 Total		None
Scotus Central Catholic Jr.-Sr. High 1878	Education	16 1*	23 13*	None
State of Nebraska (Platte County)	Government	119 Total		NAPE
U.S. Post Office 1856	Government	22 8*	14 8*	APWU, NALC, NRLCA, Mail Handlers Union
Viessman, Inc. 1992	Full service transportation	34 11*	0 2*	None
Walker Foundations, Inc. 1988	Residential & commercial foundations, silage bunker walls, foundation water proofing	40 4*	1	None

\*Part-time and/or seasonal

**OTHER MAJOR AREA EMPLOYERS** (within 40 miles and employing more than 100)

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
<b>Schuyler, 18 miles</b>				
Alegent Health Memorial Hospital	Medical	9 8*	87 45*	None
Cargill Meat Solutions	Beef processing	1,050	850 1*	UFCW
Schuyler Community Schools	Education	42	172	SEA/ NEA/ NSEA
<b>David City, 33 miles</b>				
Butler County	Government	63	42	None
Butler County Health Care Center	Medical	14	89	None
David City Public Schools	Education	28	84	NSEA
Fargo Assembly of PA, David City Plant	Electrical harnesses	31 16*	78 22*	None
Henningsen Foods, Inc.	Frozen, liquid & dehydrated egg products	79	51	None
Heritage of David City, Inc.	Multi-health care	3	60 37*	None
Kennel Vaccine Vet Supply	Animal health supplies & human natural supplements	9 7*	45 40*	None
St. Joseph's Villa & Court	Nursing care/assisted living	7	98	None
Timpte, Inc.	Truck trailers	225	49	None
<b>Lindsay, 33 miles</b>				
Lindsay Corp.	Irrigation equipment & diversified manufacturing	525 Total		None

\*Part-time and/or seasonal

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Union</u>
<b>Madison, 31 miles</b>				
Madison County	Government	85 17*	77 14*	None
Madison Public Schools	Education	107 Total		NSEA
Tyson Foods	Pork processing	1,115 Total		None

\*Part-time and/or seasonal

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS**

The Columbus Economic Council (CEC), a division of the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, is assigned the responsibility of industrial recruitment and coordination of economic development activities for the community. Consisting of approximately 30 individuals, the council represents a cross section of the business community including city, county, and state government as well as financial, industrial, and utility representatives. Neal Suess, president and CEO, and David Bell, development/marketing manager, Loup Power District, serve as co-chairs of the Columbus Economic Council. The CEC can be reached at (402) 564-3171, Ext. 257.

Loup Power District established the first industrial site in Columbus in the 1940s. The 90-acre site is completely occupied today with local and national industries. Loup Power District presently controls approximately 200 acres zoned for heavy manufacturing, four miles east of Columbus on U.S. Highway 30, with access to the Union Pacific Railroad and city utilities. This land is available for prospective industries.

The Columbus Economic Council maintains an inventory of available industrial sites and buildings ranging from 5,000–80,000 square feet (several buildings have additional land available if an expansion is needed).

Columbus has enjoyed growing success with four major expansion projects and one new major manufacturer since 2005. BD Medical Pharmaceutical Systems added 20,000 square feet to their east plant, BD Medical Surgical added 70,000 square feet to their west plant, and Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) is increasing their ethanol production from 100 million to 375 million gallons annually. CAMACO, LLC invested \$5 million in a 15,000 square foot addition to house a 1,500 metric ton press with plans to add another \$3 million press in the new addition. In July 2007 KATANA Summit broke ground on a tubular wind tower plant in Columbus. The new 290,000 square foot plant began production in 2008 with an employment of 150.

The City of Columbus approved an LB840 Economic Development Plan in 2006 to provide a local incentive of \$300,000 annually. Funds are earmarked for manufacturing, distribution, and related projects.

Approximately 200 acres of land in and adjacent to Columbus are zoned for industry.

## **INDUSTRIAL SITES AVAILABLE**

Click here to go to Nebraska Public Power District's [searchable sites and buildings database](#).



ADM Alliance Nutrition



ADM Corn Processing



BD Medical Pharmaceutical Systems



BD Medical Surgical



Behlen Mfg



Blazer Manufacturing



CAMACO, LLC



Carneco Foods



Central Sand & Gravel



Columbus Hydraulics Company



Duo Lift Manufacturing Company, Inc.



EGS Electrical Group-Appleton





FLEXcon



GreyStone, Inc.



Heartland Products Company



Henke Machine-Buffalo Equipment



Mid-American Research Chemical Corp.



Orion Corporation



Paige Electric Company, LP.



Shell Valley Companies, Inc.



Technik Manufacturing



Torin Products



Vishay Dale Electronics

# LABOR

## LABOR SUPPLY

- A. Employment in the Columbus labor market, which is defined as the whole of Platte County and the total labor market which consists of Platte County and the contiguous counties of Boone, Butler, Colfax, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Polk, and Stanton (annual average, 2007):

<u>Nonfarm Employment</u> (wage and salary workers)	<u>Platte County</u>	<u>Total</u>
Manufacturing	5,338	(D)
Natural Resources & Construction	882	2,314
Wholesale Trade	587	3,114
Retail Trade	2,240	(D)
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	418	(D)
Information	157	(D)
Financial Activities	719	2,251
Professional & Business Services	1,483	(D)
Education & Health Services	1,660	(D)
Leisure & Hospitality	1,356	3,838
Other Services	575	(D)
Government	2,493	9,877
<b>TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS</b>	<b>17,907</b>	<b>54,956</b>
Farm Employment	1,193	7,143
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>17,098</b>	<b>62,310</b>
B. Commuting Out of County	1,470	N/A
C. Unemployment	447	1,796
<b>TOTAL LABOR FORCE</b>	<b>17,545</b>	<b>64,103</b>
D. Estimated number of homemakers, seasonal and part-time workers, and workers who would shift from low-paying jobs who could be expected to work for industry.	850	
E. Estimated number of county high school graduates annually	450	
<b>TOTAL POTENTIAL LABOR SUPPLY (B, C, D &amp; E)</b>	<b>3,217</b>	

(D) Data not available due to disclosure suppression.

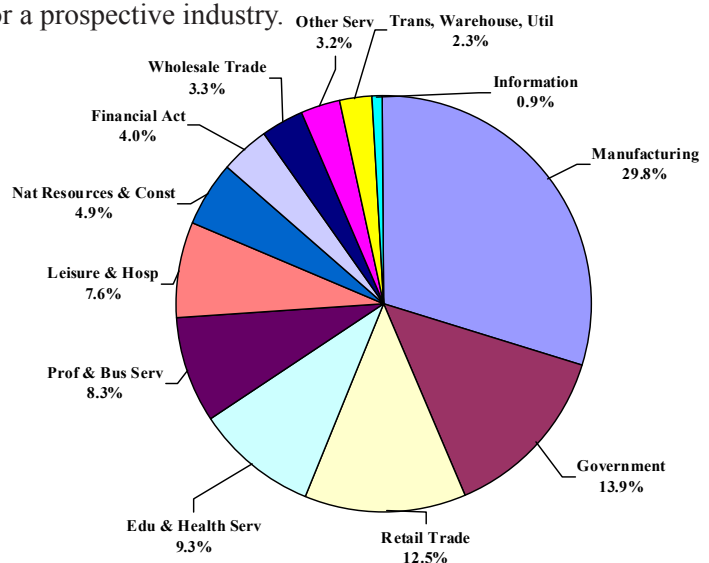
Source: Nebraska Workforce Development

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), data for 2003

U.S. Census

Columbus is willing to conduct a labor survey for a prospective industry.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT  
PLATTE COUNTY  
ANNUAL AVERAGE, 2007**



## POPULATION DATA

Location	2000		2006		2007	
	Density/ Sq. Mile	% High School Graduate or Higher	% Bachelor's Degree or Higher	% 65 Yrs. & Over	Median Age	County Median Family Income
Platte Co. Nebraska	46.7	84.7	17.2	14.5	38.5	\$57,500
U.S.	79.6	80.4	24.4	12.4	36.7	\$59,000

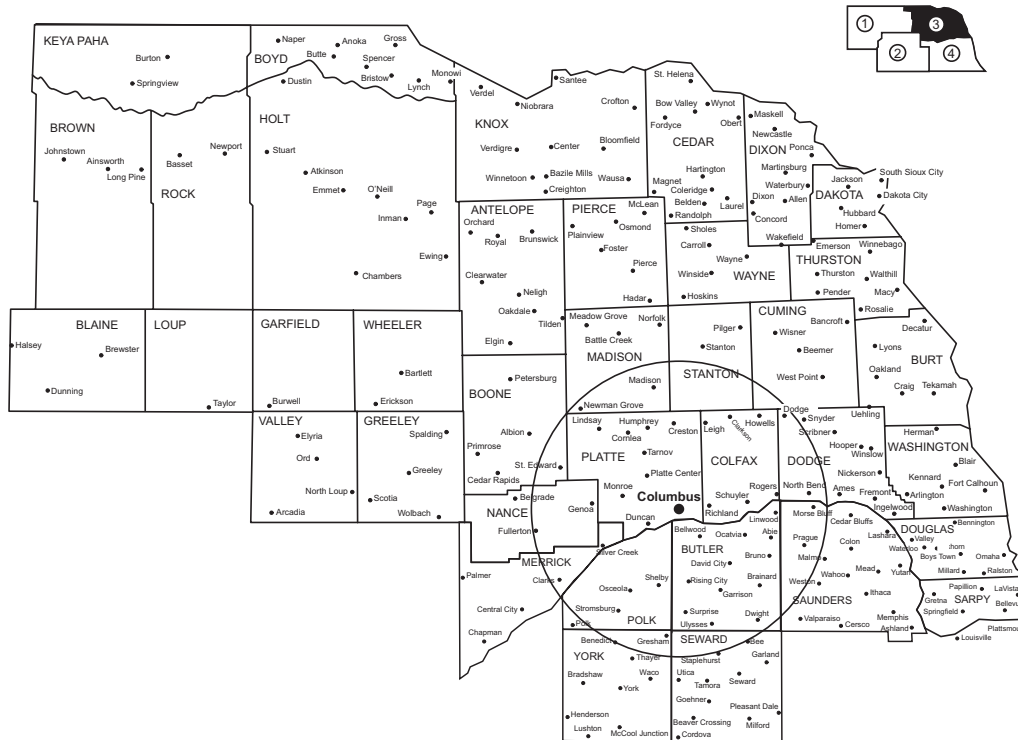
Platte County had 20,226 eligible voters in 2004; 69.9 percent voted in the national election compared to 68.3 percent in Nebraska.

Source: U.S. Census, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2007

Statewide General Election 2004 Results, [www.sos.state.ne.us/elec/canvass/general2004/General2004](http://www.sos.state.ne.us/elec/canvass/general2004/General2004)

## LABOR POTENTIAL IN THE COLUMBUS AREA



## POPULATION DATA U.S. Census Estimates

2007 Estimate	
City of Columbus	21,399
Platte County	31,8492
30-Mile Radius	73,250

Platte County Population by Age/Gender, 2007		
<u>Ages</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
18-24	1,537	1,395
25-44	3,960	3,790
45-64	4,121	4,056

## UNIONIZATION

Nebraska has a right to work provision in its constitution. In 2006, 7.9 percent of Nebraska's nonfarm wage and salary workers were members of labor unions compared to a national figure of 12.0 percent.

Labor organizations operating in the Columbus area:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Union</u>
Aquila	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Central Community College, Columbus (Teachers Only)	Central Community College Education Association/Nebraska State Education Association
City of Columbus	International Union of Police Association/International Association of Fire Fighters
Columbus Public Schools (Teachers Only)	Columbus Education Association/ Nebraska State Education Association
Educational Service Unit 7 (Teachers Only)	Nebraska State Education Association
Frontier Communications	Communications Workers of America
Lakeview Community School (Certified Staff Only)	Lakeview Education Association /Nebraska State Education Association
State of Nebraska	National Association of Public Employees
U.S. Post Office	American Postal Workers Union/ National Association of Letter Carriers/National Rural Letter Carriers/Mail Handler Union

It is estimated that less than 1 percent of the total nonagricultural labor force in Columbus is unionized. There have been no known strikes during the last 20 years. **None of the manufacturers in Columbus are unionized.**

## WAGES

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile		
	10th	50th	90th
<b>Professional</b>			
Accountants & Auditors	17.32	24.23	42.04
Engineers			
Civil Engineers	16.03	27.26	41.87
Electrical Engineers	20.19	28.03	53.78
Industrial Engineers	21.18	30.39	39.76
Mechanical Engineers	21.90	31.61	42.38
Computer Programmers	13.97	21.94	33.37
Computer Systems Analysts	14.71	29.95	57.05

<b>Occupation Title</b>	<b>Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile</b>		
	<b>10th</b>	<b>50th</b>	<b>90th</b>
Registered Nurses	17.82	23.96	31.72
<b>Retail</b>			
Hotel, Motel & Resort Desk Clerks	6.17	8.34	10.30
Retail Salespersons	6.14	8.71	17.47
Truck Drivers-Light or Delivery Services	7.89	12.24	24.13
Driver/Sales Workers	6.00	9.27	21.63
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	6.45	9.52	15.17
Shipping, Receiving & Traffic Clerks	10.07	13.74	18.78
<b>Clerical</b>			
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	8.52	12.75	18.21
Customer Service Representatives	7.67	12.02	18.56
Data Entry Keyers	8.38	10.85	14.79
Secretaries, excl. Legal, Medical & Executive	7.93	11.10	15.73
Office Clerks, General	6.45	9.71	14.97
Receptionists & Information Clerks	6.59	9.54	14.54
Telemarketers	6.66	9.71	16.03
<b>Unskilled</b>			
Laborers & Freight, Stock & Material Movers, Hand	7.59	10.95	15.33
Packers & Packagers, Hand	6.05	9.15	14.10
Assemblers & Fabricators, All Other	9.98	11.76	15.60
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants	8.36	10.27	12.56
<b>Semi-Skilled</b>			
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	10.34	13.78	19.08
Truck Drivers, Heavy or Tractor-Trailer	10.08	16.80	27.82
Maintenance Workers, Machinery	10.56	16.27	21.15
Machine Operators			
Drilling & Boring Machine Tool Setters/Oper.	9.50	14.09	19.62
Milling & Planing Machine Setters/Oper.	10.55	14.14	18.69
Grinding, Lapping, Polishing & Buffing Mach. Oper.	9.54	11.51	14.68
Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters/Oper.	9.99	13.22	16.58
Cutting, Punching & Press Machine Setters/Oper.	9.44	13.54	18.84
Multiple Machine Tool Setters/Oper.	11.58	14.32	19.20
<b>Skilled</b>			
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	9.38	15.04	25.72
Electricians	13.34	16.66	22.22
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	13.61	17.51	23.38
Machinists	10.48	13.78	18.45
Tool & Die Makers	13.58	20.07	28.55
Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers	10.29	13.81	18.82
Welding, Soldering & Brazing Machine Setters	11.67	14.27	19.47



Occupation Title	Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile		
	10th	50th	90th
<b>Technical</b>			
Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians	14.34	24.37	32.72
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologists	17.25	23.53	31.54
Computer Operators	10.46	12.76	19.73

Source: Nebraska Workforce Development, Occupational Employment Statistics Program, Second Quarter 2008 wage estimates, All Industries, Central Region, [www.dol.state.ne.us/Lmiwages/toc000.htm](http://www.dol.state.ne.us/Lmiwages/toc000.htm).

Most production workers are paid on a straight-time basis rather than an incentive basis; in addition, some companies offer production and attendance incentives.

## FRINGE BENEFITS

Local industries estimate fringe benefits to range up to 40 percent of wages.



Platte County Museum



Columbus Municipal Airport



Union Pacific Railroad

# TRANSPORTATION

## RAILROADS

Columbus is served by a main line of the Union Pacific Railroad with 75–85 freight trains passing through the city daily. Switching is performed by a local switch crew in yards and train crews on the main line.

For further information regarding Union Pacific Railroad, contact Cheryl Schow, (308) 239-2427 or (308) 289-1911, or visit [www.uprr.com/customers/ind-dev](http://www.uprr.com/customers/ind-dev).

The BNSF Railway Company has a branch line that serves ADM daily.

Nebraska Central Railroad, a short-line railroad, operates lines in Columbus and communities north of the city.

Amtrak provides Lincoln, 75 miles southeast of Columbus, with rail passenger service east to Chicago and west to Denver and San Francisco/Oakland. The Superliner features a lounge car, coach and first-class accommodations, dining car services, and checked baggage service from most cities. Travel time is 11 1/4 hours to Chicago and 46 1/2 hours to the West Coast. Amtrak has one train each way daily.

## MOTOR

### Highways

East-west U.S. Highway 30 and north-south U.S. Highway 81 intersect in Columbus. There are no local load restrictions. Interstate 80 is 54 miles south and Interstate 29 is 85 miles east of Columbus.

Both U.S. Highways 81 and 30 are included in the four-lane expressway system designated by the Nebraska Department of Roads.

Four-laning of U.S. Highway 81 north from Columbus to Norfolk has been completed. Construction was completed in 2003 on four-laning U.S. Highway 30 from Columbus east 18 miles to Schuyler.

Highway mileage to major cities:

Destination	Mileage
Lincoln	75
Omaha	85
Chicago	542
Dallas	642
Denver	470
Detroit	808
Kansas City	274
Los Angeles	1,481
Minneapolis	453
New York	1,315
St. Louis	525
San Francisco	1,597
Sioux City	121

The Nebraska Department of Roads five-year plan includes a \$10 million north arterial from north U.S. Highway 81 to east U.S. Highway 30, serving the east industrial tract, and an \$11 million reconstruction of the viaduct on U.S. Highway 30/81 through Columbus.

### Trucklines

More than 8,000 licensed motor carriers with worldwide connections are based in Nebraska and serve businesses throughout North America.

Trucklines with terminals in the Columbus area:

- ABF\*
- BMC
- Lyon Transfer
- MPG Carriers
- Mid-Nebraska Transportation
- Rickert Transportation
- Sliva Transportation
- Viessman Inc.
- Vollbracht's Inc.

\*Substation in Columbus; terminal in Omaha

## Bus Line

Arrow Stage Line provides daily passenger and package service to Omaha with one bus. Interconnections are made at Omaha to major cities in the United States. Charter services are also available.

Columbus Area Transit (CAT) is funded by the city of Columbus, Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging, the Nebraska Department of Roads, Columbus Area United Way, and area citizens and organizations. This public transportation system is available within the city limits to all residents. Advanced reservations and a boarding fee are required.

## Taxi

City Taxi serves Columbus with two taxi cabs.

## AIR

The Columbus Municipal Airport is utilized by both commercial and private aircraft. Air freight and air express services are available.

Runway Identification			
Number	Length	Surface	Lighted
14/32	6,781'	Concrete/ Asphalt	Yes
02/20	4,135'	Turf	No

Facilities at the Columbus Municipal Airport include a full service FBO (fixed base operator)

offering 100 low-lead octane and jet A fuel, full instrument landing capabilities, nonprecision approach, full maintenance, tie downs, rental cars, aircraft rental and sales, crop spraying, and flight instruction. One of the 40 private plans hangared at the airport is available for charter. The airport is operational from dawn to dusk as well as on call. The elevation at the airport is 1,444 feet, and latitude is 41°26.88'N, and the longitude is 97°20.56'W.

Commercial air service is available at the Lincoln Airport, 75 miles (75 minutes) southeast, and Omaha Eppley Airfield, 85 miles (95 minutes) east of Columbus.

## WATER

Barge service is available at 10 barge terminal facilities on the Missouri River in Nebraska. These river ports are navigable approximately eight months per year. The Omaha river port is 85 miles east of Columbus. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains a 9-foot deep, 300 foot wide channel for 735 navigable miles from Sioux City to the mouth of the Missouri River. Commodities transported by towing companies are grain and grain products, fertilizer, feed ingredients, cement, rock-aggregate, and salt.

## PIPELINE

NuStar LP operates a terminal seven miles east of Columbus.



Intersection of U.S. Highways 81 & 30

## UTILITIES

### ELECTRICITY

Loup Power District ([www.loup.com](http://www.loup.com)), a wholesale power customer of Nebraska Public Power District ([www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com)), provides electric service to 21 communities in the four-county area of Boone, Colfax, Nance, and Platte. Loup Power provides wholesale service to the communities of Leigh and Schuyler. Loup Power District, Nebraska Public Power District, and Cornhusker Public Power District ([www.cornhusker-power.com](http://www.cornhusker-power.com)) are headquartered in Columbus.

The Columbus area receives power from three sources: (1) the Columbus Hydro substation, located one mile northeast of Columbus and adjacent to a Loup 40 MW hydroelectric plant, which is tied to the statewide transmission grid system with six 115 kV lines and three 30 kV lines; (2) Columbus West 230–34.5 kV substation serves the west side of Columbus; and (3) Columbus East 115–34.5 kV substation serves the Columbus east industrial area.

Two 37 MVA and three 56 MVA transformers feed into eight 34.5 kV subtransmission lines, which form a 34.5 kV grid around and through the city and adjacent industrial areas. The distribution system voltage throughout Columbus and the surrounding area is 12,470 volts.

**BASE ELECTRIC RATES—LOUP POWER DISTRICT**  
(effective 1/1/08)

Summer bills run from June–September.  
Winter bills run from October–May.

**Residential Service:**

<b>Customer Charge:</b> \$12.50 per month		
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Winter</b>	
9.80¢	4.85¢	per kWh for the first 600 kWh used per month
6.65¢	4.25¢	per kWh for all additional use
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> \$12.50 per month		

This rate is subject to application of the retail production cost adjustment (PCA).

**Commercial (single phase):**

<b>Customer Charge:</b> \$17.50 per month		
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Winter</b>	
9.50¢	6.05¢	per kWh for the first 600 kWh used per month
8.75¢	5.55¢	per kWh for the next 600 kWh used per month
7.80¢	5.10¢	per kWh for all additional use
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> \$17.50 per month plus 50¢ per kVA transformer capacity above 25 kVA		

This rate is subject to application of the retail production cost adjustment (PCA).

**Commercial (three phase):**

<b>Customer Charge:</b> \$25.00 per month		
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Winter</b>	
9.50¢	6.05¢	per kWh for the first 1,800 kWh used per month
8.75¢	5.55¢	per kWh for the next 1,200 kWh used per month
7.80¢	5.10¢	per kWh for all additional use
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> \$25.00 per month plus 50¢ per kVA transformer capacity above 25 kVA		

This rate is subject to application of the retail production cost adjustment (PCA).

**Sample Cost per kWh:**

kW	kWh	Annual Average ¢/kWh <sup>1</sup>
100	30,000	6.18
100	36,000	6.15

<sup>1</sup>Includes Lease Payment and Gross Revenue Tax.

**Large Light & Power Service:**

(distribution delivery from lines of 12,470 volts or less and demand less than 300 kW)

<b>Customer Charge:</b> \$225.00 per month	
<b>Demand Charge:</b>	
Summer:	\$15.00 per kW per month of maximum or billing demand
Winter:	\$7.00 per kW per month of maximum or billing demand
<b>Energy Charge</b>	
Summer:	3.90¢ per kWh
Winter:	2.35¢ per kWh
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> \$225.00 per month plus \$0.50 per kVA of the transformer capacity installed	

This rate is subject to application of the retail production cost adjustment (PCA)

**Large Light & Power Service:**

(distribution delivery from lines of 12,470 volts or less and demand greater than 300 kW)

<b>Customer Charge:</b> \$275.00 per month		
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Winter</b>	
<b>Demand Charge</b>		
\$15.00	\$7.00	per kW per month of on-peak maximum billing demand
\$4.50	\$3.25	per kW per month of off-peak maximum billing demand, which is the on-peak demand
<b>Plus an Energy Charge of:</b>		
4.25¢	2.65¢	per kWh on-peak
3.45¢	2.15¢	per kWh off-peak
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> \$275.00 per month plus 50¢ per kVA transformer capacity installed		

This rate is subject to application of the retail production cost adjustment (PCA).

**Sample Cost per kWh:**

kW	kWh	Annual Average ¢/kWh <sup>1</sup>
150	30,000	8.69
150	100,000	4.67
500	100,000	8.05
500	300,000	4.65
1,000	200,000	7.91
1,000	650,000	4.47

<sup>1</sup>Includes Lease Payment and Gross Revenue Tax.

Industrial Rates Subtransmission Delivery are also available.

Prospective customers should contact president and CEO Neal D. Suess, Loup Power District, (888) 564-3171, [nsuess@loup.com](mailto:nsuess@loup.com), [www.loup.com](http://www.loup.com), for further information regarding electric rates and service.

Cornhusker Public Power District provides service to rural areas in six counties surrounding Columbus. For information regarding electrical services in the Cornhusker Public Power District service area, contact General Manager Ron Hostetter, Columbus, Nebraska, (402) 564-2821, [ronh.cppd@frontiernet.net](mailto:ronh.cppd@frontiernet.net), [www.cornhusker-power.com](http://www.cornhusker-power.com).

**NATURAL GAS**

Aquila is the retail supplier of natural gas in Columbus. The community is served by a four-inch line at 80 pounds of pressure. Northern Natural Gas Company is the transmission pipeline company.

Aquila is a full-service natural gas distribution company with Nebraska headquarters in Lincoln.

Dependent upon needs, Aquila offers three types of programs for business customers—commercial firm, small volume interruptible,

and large-volume transportation. Aquila works with several marketers to ensure that companies have flexibility to obtain a variety of suppliers in addition to providing on-system supplies and services. Aquila uses a mixed portfolio when buying natural gas for their customers. The mixed portfolio consists of approximately 30 percent indexed purchases, 40 percent fixed price, and 30 percent option products such as caps, collars, and hedges. This buying strategy helps to prevent wide swings in the cost of natural gas provided to Aquila customers.

Transportation rates for large volume users are negotiable. All other current rates for Columbus can be found at [www.aquila.com](http://www.aquila.com).

Prospective customers should contact the Economic Development Department at Aquila, (800) 232-1850, for further information regarding gas rates and services.

## OTHER FUELS

### LP Gas

LP gas is available for residential, commercial, and industrial at Central Valley Ag, Ferrellgas, Inc., Husker Co-Op, Linweld, Inc., Sapp Brothers, and Ziegler LP Gas & Oil.

### Oil

Oil is available for residential, commercial, and industrial uses at Central Valley Ag, Husker Co-Op, and Sapp Brothers.

## WATER

### Water Production Facilities

The City of Columbus obtains its water from the aquifer beneath the city. The aquifer has an effective saturated thickness of approximately 150 feet in the Columbus area and the water table is within a few feet of the surface. Twelve active wells, with an average depth of 125 feet, draw water from the aquifer and pump it to the water production facilities. The wells have an average listed capacity of 15,850 gallons per minute. A 2,000,000 gallon water tower was built in 2001 at a cost of \$2.2 million. This project was financed by utility revenue bonds.

The average daily flow, as of 2006, was 5,200,000 gallons per day or 253 gallons per capita per day. Historical maximum peak demand is approximately 14,160,000 gallons per day or 674 gallons per capita daily. The present system has a total storage capacity of 5,915,000 gallons of water (5,165,000 gallons above ground and 750,000 gallons below ground) and a maximum capacity of 18,000 gallons per minute.

The color of the water is clear, and the hardness, in parts per million, is 270. The average tap water temperature varies from 52° in the winter to 55° in the summer.

### Chemical Analysis (parts per million)

Hydrogen Ion Concentration	7.35
Calcium	80.1
Total Dissolved Solids	369
Magnesium	17.4
Iron	0.02
Nitrate	0.8
Manganese	0.45
Chloride	4.0
Fluoride	1.0
Sulfate	14.0
Total Alkalinity	250.0
Sodium	19.0
Total Hardness	270

The city operates a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Facility to treat contaminated groundwater. The remediation facility is a groundwater extraction and treatment system (GETS) for removal of PCE and TCE contaminants. There are four groundwater extraction wells that pump to the remediation facility where the contaminated groundwater is treated to below the Safe Drinking Water Standards and then pumped to the city's south water production facility for further treatment and chemical addition. The 10th Street remediation facility can provide up to 2,200,000 gallons of water per day for the distribution system.

Both the north and south water production facilities add chlorine, fluoride, and a polymer agent for binding of the iron and manganese.

The annual water quality report for Columbus is available at [www.columbusne.us/waterprod](http://www.columbusne.us/waterprod), or call the Public Works/Environmental Services Department in Columbus at (402) 562-4234.

### Water Utility System

The water distribution system provides the distribution of safe drinking water to Columbus residents and businesses. The system is served by more than 125 miles of water mains ranging in size from 4 inches to 30 inches and has approximately 9,000 metered service connections. The city is extending water and sewer services to the east and north with a planned elevated water storage tank in 2008 at an estimated cost of \$2.5 million to be funded by utility revenue bonds. The city bills on a monthly billing cycle and utilizes Metron Farnier's single-jet technology for the water meters with radio frequency-based automatic meter reading system. This program was financed by utility reserve funds.

### WATER RATES (effective 1/04)

Water connection fees are not charged for new water service.

Uses	\$/1,000 Gallons	
	Inside City	Outside City
Residential	\$0.72	\$1.34
Commercial	\$0.65	\$1.33
Industrial	\$0.65	\$1.18
<b>Plus a Monthly Service Charge</b>		
<b>Meter Size</b>	<b>All Customers</b>	
3/4" to 1"	\$3.60	
1 1/2"	\$10.80	
2"	\$18.00	
3"	\$36.00	
4"	\$54.00	
6"	\$108.00	
8"	\$180.00	
10"	\$270.00	
12"	\$504.00	

### SEWERAGE

Columbus has a municipal sanitary sewerage system and a separate storm sewer system. The system has a daily capacity of 6.0 million gallons.

The average daily flow is 3.4 million gallons and the historic peak daily demand is 7.5 million gallons. The sanitary sewer collection system includes 20 sewer lift stations, more than 185 miles of sewer lines, and more than 1,500 manholes. Several projects are currently in progress: a 33" sanitary sewer line rehabilitation using cured-in-place technology (CIP), lift station rehabilitation, and CIP rehabilitation of 6", 8", and 10" sanitary sewer mains. The city is in an ongoing process of video recording the entire sewer collection system for determining integrity of the system's pipes and prioritizing areas for repairs and evaluating the customer's lateral (sewer service pipe) connections.

### SEWER-USE CHARGES (effective 1/04)

A \$25.00 permit fee is assessed for each connection with the city sanitary sewer system. A one-time \$75.00 special connection fee is charged for each connection outside the city limits.

Uses	\$/1,000 Gallons	
	Inside City	Outside City
Residential	\$1.68	\$2.41
Commercial	\$1.68	\$2.41
Industrial	\$1.68	\$2.41
<b>Plus a Monthly Service Charge</b>		
<b>Meter Size</b>	<b>Residential</b>	<b>Commer. &amp; Industrial</b>
3/4" to 1"	\$3.00	\$3.00
1 1/2"	\$9.00	\$9.00
2"	\$15.00	\$15.00
3"	—	\$30.00
4"	—	\$45.00
6"	—	\$90.00
8"	—	\$150.00
10"	—	\$225.00

### Wastewater Treatment Facilities

The Wastewater Facility is classified as an activated sludge wastewater treatment facility. It was constructed and placed in operation in 1969 and expanded in 1989 for additional capacity and treatment to meet additional permit requirements. The design period for that expansion was to the year 2010. The facility has a design capacity of 4,500,000 gallons per day and an average load of



3,600,000 gallons per day. The design loadings are just under 10,000 pounds of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) per day and 8,400 pounds of total suspended solids (TSS) per day. In 1995 a new permit limitation for ammonia nitrogen (NH<sub>3</sub>-N) was placed on the facility, which requires more stringent removal requirements. The existing facility was not designed to remove ammonia.

In 2004 the city doubled the capacity at the wastewater treatment facility. The expansion was constructed on the protected side of the flood protection levee and included a three-channel extended aeration oxidation ditch, two final clarifiers, flow splitter structure, pump station, biosolids process and storage facility, and an administration/laboratory building. These improvements were due to NPDES permit changes and will allow the facility to more efficiently and reliably remove ammonia nitrogen (NH<sub>3</sub>-N) while allowing for future industrial and residential growth.

The expansion increased the overall daily design to 7,500,000 gallons and loadings of 16,000 pounds of BOD, 8,700 pounds of TSS, and 1,300 pounds of NH<sub>3</sub>-N. With some additional modifications, this facility may also remove phosphorus.

**SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL**

The city owns and operates a solid waste transfer station and transports the waste to the Northeast Nebraska Solid Waste Coalition Landfill, 45 miles northeast of Columbus. The city, along with 24 other cities and counties, is a member of the coalition that owns and operates the landfill.

**SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION TIPPING FEES (effective 9/08):**

<b>Item</b>	<b>\$/ton</b>	<b>Minimum</b>
Solid Waste (per net ton)	\$32.00	\$10.00 (900 lbs.)
Wood Pallet, or Masonry Rubble	\$53.00	\$3.00 (100 lbs.)
Trees & Limbs (virgin wood)	\$32.00	\$1.00 (100 lbs.)

**SOLID WASTE REMOVAL RATES (effective 7/06)**

Privately owned waste removal services are available in Columbus. Rates are negotiable with private haulers.

The city operates an oil recycling program for the residents of the city and county.

**RECYCLING**

The Columbus Recycle Center is staffed Monday through Friday and four hours on Saturday. and has 24-hour-a-day drop chutes. Items accepted include plastics, newspaper, school paper, office paper, computer paper, shredded office paper, cardboard, magazines, phone books, catalogs, hard-backed books, and steel and aluminum cans.

Bulk shredding services for confidential documents and bulk paper waste are available.



Cornhusker Public Power District



Loup Power District



Nebraska Public Power District

## COMMUNICATIONS

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Frontier Communications is the local exchange carrier in the Columbus area with a Lucent GTD-5 digital central office, served via an OC 48 and an OC 3 fiber optic system. Frontier is capable of providing T3's, T1's, ISDN, frame relay, voice mail, equal access which can service all long distance companies, and digital "class" calling features. Alternate routes are available for T1 services. Extended Area Services are provided to Creston, Duncan, Leigh, Monroe, and Platte Center. Installation and maintenance personnel are located in the community. The call switching capacity is 56,000 calls per hour. Customer premise equipment and network management records can be provided.

#### TARIFFED RATES (effective 9/00)

Residence Line	\$17.50
Business Line	\$27.50

### INTERNET

Numerous companies provide Internet service in the Columbus area ranging from 56 K dial-up to high speed Internet.

Company	Services Offered
<b>Bolte-Styskal Wireless</b> (402) 562-8866 <a href="http://www.boltestyskalwireless.com">www.boltestyskalwireless.com</a>	Broadband
<b>Community Internet/ Megavision</b> (402) 562-5904 <a href="http://www.megavision.com">www.megavision.com</a>	56K dial-up, to high speed Internet to DSL; dedicated point-to-point connection

Company	Services Offered
<b>Frontier</b> Res. (800) 921-8101 Com. (800) 921-8102 <a href="http://www.frontieronline.com">www.frontieronline.com</a>	56 K dial-up, high speed Internet services; (DSL) to dedicated Internet connections
<b>Mid-Nebraska Communications</b> (402) 564-8497	56K dial-up, high speed Internet to DSL
<b>Time Warner Roadrunner</b> (402) 563-3383 (402) 563-4511 <a href="http://www.timewarnercable.com">www.timewarnercable.com</a>	Cable services, broadband
<b>WireFree Nebraska</b> (402) 564-5904 <a href="http://www.wirefreenebraska.com">www.wirefreenebraska.com</a>	56K dial-up, to high speed Internet to DSL; dedicated point-to-point connection

Several local businesses provide a wide variety of computer services, web design, e-commerce, and related business services.

### POST OFFICE

The post office in Columbus has one contract station with two mail receipts and three dispatches daily and provides house-to-house delivery service. Postal receipts for the past five fiscal years:

Year	Receipts
2006	\$3,600,400
2005	\$3,500,800
2004	\$3,500,800
2003	\$3,600,000
2002	\$3,500,000

## PACKAGE DELIVERY SERVICES

Overnight express service availability:

	Federal Express	UPS	DHL
<b>Latest Pick-up Time*</b>	5:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
<b>Earliest Delivery</b>	8:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
<b>Next Day Delivery Guarantee**</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Saturday Delivery Guarantee**</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*Depending on drop location

\*\*Depending on zip code

The U.S. Postal Service provides overnight express services with the latest pickup time of 5:45 p.m., earliest delivery of 12:00 p.m., and has next day and Saturday delivery services.

The United Parcel Service has a hub in Columbus. The Mail Box, the UPS Store, and Mail Prep also provide wrapping and shipping of packages.

## NEWSPAPER

The Columbus Telegram is the local daily newspaper with 10,112 Sunday subscribers and 9,441 daily subscribers. The Advantage, a weekly shopping guide, is printed by the Columbus Telegram and reaches nearly 23,000 households.

The Columbus Area Choice is a regional shopper with a circulation of 21,400 in Platte, Boone, Butler, Colfax, Merrick, Nance, and Polk Counties.

The Omaha World-Herald is delivered daily and the Lincoln Journal Star and USA Today can be purchased at several retail locations in the city.

## RADIO

The six radio stations in Columbus are:

Call Letters	Frequency
KTTT-AM	1510 KHz
KKOT-FM	93.5 MHz
KJSK-AM	900 KHz
KLIR-FM	101.1 MHz
KTLX-FM	91.9 MHz
KZEN-FM	100.3 MHz

## TELEVISION

Television stations carrying local news include:

Call Letters	Channel	Location
KMTV	3	Omaha
WOWT	6	Omaha
KETV	7	Omaha
KPTM	42	Omaha
KOLN/KGIN	10 & 11	Lincoln/ Grand Island
KLKN	8	Lincoln

Time Warner Cable serves Columbus and offers 345 channels, including 15 basic, 80 extended basic, 13 premium channels, and more than 12 pay-per-view channels plus other service tiers and sports packages.

Dish Network and DirecTV satellite services are provided in Columbus with access up to 250 channels, including local networks, with 100 percent digital clarity. Free digital video recorder, high definition channels, premium movie channels, pay-per-view, and seasonal sports packages are available.



Frontier Communications



U. S. Post Office



The Telegram



Columbus Public Library



Senior Center

## TAX STRUCTURE

### VALUES FOR TAX LEVY PURPOSES—CITY OF COLUMBUS

All real property is subject to tax at market value. Agricultural land is valued at 74 percent of its actual value. Personal property that is used in a trade or business and is depreciable is subject to tax at its “net book value.” All other personal property is exempt from taxation.

	Actual Valuation		
	2005	2006	2007
Real Estate	\$892,471,850	\$947,347,125	\$969,206,580
Personal Property	32,883,307	38,877,913	43,718,631
Special (railroad and utilities)	11,101,756	9,854,496	10,773,515
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$936,456,913</b>	<b>\$996,079,534</b>	<b>\$1,023,698,726</b>

### TAX RATE (Dollars and cents per \$100 of actual value)

	2005	2006	2007
City	\$0.323880	\$0.315839	\$0.3158
County	.254816	.226262	.2247
School District	1.157700	1.178200	1.1711
Community College	.082962	.081660	.0802
Educational Service Unit	.014999	.014999	.0150
Natural Resource District	030085	.029891	.0285
Agricultural Society	.011896	.011880	.0140
Airport	.027348	.025617	.0248
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1.903686</b>	<b>\$1.884348</b>	<b>\$1.8741</b>

The 2007 tax rates at the industrial sites outside the city limits vary from \$1.458233 to \$1.594101 per \$100 of actual value.

### CITY SALES TAX

The City of Columbus has received voter approval six times since 1995 for a 1 percent or 1/2 percent city sales tax for various projects. Currently the local sales tax rate is 1.5 percent. Through April 2011, the 1 percent sales tax is allocated 90 percent to capital improvements, including street improvements and drainage projects, and 10 percent to economic development under the LB840 Economic Development Plan, not to exceed \$300,000 per year. The 1/2 percent is allocated to debt service for the \$6.5 million of bonds that were used to construct the Pawnee Plunge Water Park and for aquatic operations.

## LOCAL BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

City—Revenue Bonds (as of 9/30/07)	\$22,755,000
City—General Obligation Bonds (as of 9/30/07)	\$11,415,000
School District (as of 8/31/07)	\$24,025,000
County (as of 6/30/07)	\$5,390,000

## CITY BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 9/30/07	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
<b>Revenue</b>					
Sub Combined Revenue	7/15/03	\$8,725,000	\$8,425,000	2.00–4.50	12/15/23
Sub Combined Revenue	5/15/04	\$7,205,000	\$6,400,000	3.00–4.65	12/15/23
Combined Revenue Refunding	8/15/05	\$6,915,000	\$6,130,000	3.00–4.00	12/15/23
Combined Revenue	6/15/07	\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000	4.50	6/15/27
<b>General Obligation</b>					
GO Refunding	1/01/02	\$1,650,000	\$300,000	2.10–4.50	6/15/11
Flood Control	7/15/02	\$5,790,000	\$4,350,000	1.65–4.40	11/15/14
Various Purpose	10/15/04	\$1,060,000	\$1,060,000	1.80–4.20	10/15/19
Various Purpose	10/15/04	\$410,000	\$250,000	1.80–2.85	10/15/09
Sales Tax Revenue*	10/15/04	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	2.00–3.90	9/15/13
Sales Tax Revenue*	1/15/05	\$2,500,000	\$935,000	3.50–4.25	9/15/09
GO Refunding	8/01/05	\$585,000	\$520,000	3.00–4.00	11/15/14

\*Water Park

## SCHOOL BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 8/31/07	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
West Park Elem. Bldg.	2003	\$1,120,000	\$860,000	1.75–3.90	2015
Centennial/Emerson Elem. Bldg.	2004	\$8,865,000	\$7,620,000	1.45–4.50	2019
High School Remodel	2004	\$17,680,000	\$15,545,000	1.85–5.00	2023

## COUNTY BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 6/30/07	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
Detention Facility	3/01	\$7,000,000	\$5,390,000	3.70–4.90	2016



# LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Platte County has 18 townships and is governed by a seven-member Board of Supervisors, who are elected by district for four-year terms. The next election will be held in 2008. The county belongs to the Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District with 15 other counties. Platte County is not zoned. The 2006–07 actual budget was \$19,215,108.

## MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Columbus, a city of the first class, has a mayor-council form of government with a full-time city administrator. The next election will be held in 2008. The 2006–07 actual budget was \$47,245,724.

Municipal officials are:

Title	Term of Office
<b>Elected at Large</b>	
Mayor	4 Years
<b>Elected by Ward</b>	
Council Members (8)	4 Years
<b>Appointed</b>	
City Administrator	4 Years
City Clerk/Ass't Finance Director	4 Years
City Attorney	4 Years
City Engineer	4 Years
City Physician	4 Years
Finance Director/City Treasurer	4 Years

## FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection and ambulance services are provided in Columbus by 12 full-time fire fighters, 68 volunteers, and 21 rural volunteers. Thirty-six members are registered as Emergency Medical Technicians-Ambulance (EMTAs) and 29 are certified EMT-AD (defibrillator) with 11-member EMT-P (paramedic) certified. The

department provides protection within 100 square miles of the city.

The department has paging equipment for each volunteer fire fighter for quick response to all calls. The department has a contract with the Rural Fire Department to send a minimum of one rural truck with two fire fighters on rural calls along with available volunteers. Present policy is to send two volunteers with two pieces of equipment or two full-time fire fighters with one piece of equipment, depending on the nature of the call. The industrial sites are provided full response coverage.

The city, with more than 1,162 fire hydrants, has two fire stations. Plans are underway to construct a third station, which would be unmanned. The fire insurance classification inside the corporate limits is 4; outside it is 5/9.

Annual expenditures for fire protection (fire and ambulance) for the past three years averaged \$1,393,270.

Equipment in the fire department:

Year/Make	Description
<b>City</b>	
1985 Mack	1,250 gpm
1972 American LaFrance	1,500 gpm
2000 Pierce	1,500 gpm
2007 GMC	Ambulance
1998 Ford Ambulance	4 stretchers ALS
1992 Ford Ambulance	4 stretchers ALS
2002 Ford Ambulance	2 stretchers ALS
1963 International Snorkel	75 ft. aerial
2002 Freightliner	Utility truck
1972 Dodge	Quick response unit
2004 Hazmat	Response unit
2007 Ford	6X6 Ranger

<b>Year/Make</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Rural</b>	
1981 Mach	1,250 gpm
1980 International	1,400 gal. tanker
1993 Ford	1,250 gpm
1996 International	1,250 gpm, 75 ft. aerial
2002 Freightliner	1,600 gal. tanker
2003 Ford	Grass rig
2007 Pierce	1,250 gpm

In addition, the department has a 2004 support unit.

Fire losses, both city and rural, for the past five years have been:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2006	\$164,000
2005	\$114,000
2004	\$125,000
2003	\$ 70,270
2002	\$268,950

In 1950 the Columbus Fire Department organized a Junior Fire Patrol program. This program is set up to teach fifth grade students fire prevention, first aid, and self-protection. Approximately 420 students complete the eight-step program annually.

Each year the department tours high hazard buildings and other retail establishments. With this information, the department preplans procedures designed to be used in the event of an emergency.

A training tower, located at the airport, was financed by private funds and fund-raising projects.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

### **Police Department**

The Columbus Police Department employs 35 full-time officers and 19 support personnel (full-time and part-time) and has a fleet of 17 vehicles. The department is capable of receiving/transmitting on seven frequencies and serves as the primary public safety answering point

for a regional enhanced 911 emergency telephone reporting system, accessible also by cellular phone. The National Weather Alert System; local fire and burglar alarms; and national, state, and local crime information teletype systems are all monitored by the department. Countywide Crimestopper calls are directed to the department. The Drug Awareness Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) and Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) programs are among several crime and safety programs offered. Annual expenditures for police protection for the last three years averaged \$2,500,000. For further information, visit [www.police.columbusne.us](http://www.police.columbusne.us).

The Columbus Police Department has a three-position dispatch center with state-of-the-art technology and integrated computer aided dispatch. The new, wireless, two communication center facilitates interoperable communications with other law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, and emergency management agencies.

State-of-the-art E911 equipment used by the department allows ALI/ANI information (address and name information based upon assigned phone number). The equipment is also Phase I and Phase II compliant with the move to integrate wireless customers to E-9-1-1, in which location and name information will be available to dispatchers when all cellular providers are Phase II compliant.

The Platte County Enhanced 911 mapping system includes integration of automated vehicle locator (AVL) systems on those currently used by several agencies' emergency vehicles.

Crime rates per 1,000 population, 2006:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Violent Crimes</b>	<b>Property Crimes</b>
Columbus	0.6	34.1
Platte County	0.7	21.8
Nebraska	2.8	33.4
U.S.	4.7	34.3

### **Sheriff's Department**

The Platte County Sheriff's Department is staffed by a sheriff and 1 part-time and 64 full-time

employees. The department has 14 marked and 3 unmarked patrol cruisers, communications center, detention facility, and all required law enforcement equipment. Regular patrol provides protection to existing industries by the police and sheriff's departments. The sheriff's department patrols the industrial tracts and eight villages in the county, covering 673 square miles.

The Platte County Dive Rescue is made up of members from the Platte County Sheriff's Department and Columbus Police Department, which are available for any type of water-related rescue.

One deputy in the Sheriff's Department is a Drug Awareness Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) instructor, who presents the D.A.R.E. program to 12 different schools in the county. Other safety and drug-related programs are presented by the members of the department to schools and organizations on request.

The 60,000 square foot Platte County Detention Facility was built in 2003. The facility, designed to hold 135 inmates, is a two-story building with a second floor mezzanine. Included in the facility are law enforcement offices, kitchen and laundry facilities, booking area, holding/security cells, noncontact visitation area, indoor/outdoor recreation, library, multipurpose classrooms, medical exam area, and jail housing units. The housing units allow classification of inmates to include males, females, work release, trustees, and special management (handicapped) inmates. The second floor mezzanine, which is constantly monitored by master control, consists of strictly housing units. Security of this area is provided by both video camera and roving correctional officers.

### **State Patrol**

Troop B of the Nebraska State Patrol is headquartered in Norfolk, 45 miles north of Columbus. Troop B serves 23 counties and headquarters 50 patrol officers. A satellite office, located at the Family Resource Center in Columbus, stations 4 patrol officers and 2 carrier enforcement officers.

## **STREETS**

The Columbus Street Department provides maintenance for all city streets (including U.S. Highways 30 and 81 that intersect in Columbus), highway signs, certain traffic signal lights, and trimming and removal of trees in the city's right-of-way. Columbus has 138 miles of streets, 127 miles of which are hard-surfaced with concrete or asphalt. Designated truck routes are established for through traffic. Eighty percent of the streets have curbs and sixty percent have sidewalks.

Maintenance of city streets includes striping of street lanes, snow removal, street sweeping, and curb and street repair. Street maintenance equipment includes 2 street sweepers, 3 loaders, 2 snow blowers, 8 one-way and 2 two-way snowplows, 4 road graders, 3 tractors with mowers, 10 five-yard trucks, 1 aerial truck, 1 backhoe, 4 small 8-foot pickup salt spreaders, and 2 five-yard salt spreaders.

The North Arterial, beginning at 26th Street and East 5th Avenue and extending to U.S. Highway 81, is currently under construction with completion anticipated in 2009. A future land use overlay to facilitate development along this corridor is being prepared. This project is being financed by federal and city funds.

## **BUILDING AND ZONING REGULATIONS**

The 2003 International Building Code (with amendments), 2003 International Residential Code (with amendments), 2005 National Electrical Code, and 1997 Uniform Plumbing Code are enforced in Columbus.

Local zoning classifications are:

### **Base Districts**

AG	Agricultural
RR	Rural Residential
R-1	Single-Family Residential
R-2	Urban-Family Residential
R-3	Multiple-Family Residential
RMH	Mobile Home Residential

- O Office
- LC Limited Commercial
- UC Urban Commercial
- B-1 Central Business
- B-2 General Commercial
- ML/C-1 Limited Industrial
- MH General Industrial

**Overlay Districts**

- FP/FW Flood Plain/Floodway Overlay
- PUD Planned Unit Development Overlay
- HD Historic
- ED Environmental Resources
- A Agriculture Overlay

**PLANNING**

Columbus has a nine-member Planning Commission. Each member is appointed by the mayor and city council for a three-year term.

A Comprehensive Plan was prepared by Olsson & Associates of Lincoln, Nebraska, in 2004.



Platte County Courthouse



Columbus City Hall



Columbus Police Department



Columbus Fire Department



Lawn Chairs on the Square Activities



Columbus Day's Activities



Columbus Day's Biathlon

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

#### Columbus City Schools

Type of School	Classrooms	Students	Teacher/ Pupil Ratio	Computer/ Pupil Ratio
Elementary (K–5) 6 schools	93	1,507	1:15	1:3
Middle School (6–8)	48	773	1:13	1:4
High School (9–12)	72	1,125	1:16	1:3

School District No. 1 in Platte County covers 57.3 square miles and had an actual 2006 valuation of \$1,187,556,507. The actual valuation per student is \$303,841. This Class 3, Type K–5, 6–8, 9–12 district is accredited by the state of Nebraska and the North Central Association.

The 2006–2007 school general fund budget is \$27,955,000, with an average cost per pupil of \$7,487.

The maximum capacity of the six public elementary schools is 1,900. The public middle school, built in 1924 with additions in 1951, 1961, 1965, and 1990, has a maximum capacity of 900. The public high school, with a maximum capacity of 1,500, was built in 1958 with additions in 1965, 1976, and 1988 along with a 2006 renovation/expansion.

#### Test Results

Name	% Students Taking Test	Average Score
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Iowa Tests of Basic Skills	97	72nd %tile
ACT (2007)	61	22.5

One merit scholarship was presented to a Columbus High student in 2006–07 with one finalist and one semifinalist.

It is estimated that 86 percent of the eighth grade students finish high school, 79 percent of the graduating seniors pursue a college degree, and 14 percent of the seniors enter the job market or military immediately after graduation.

Vocational courses offered in the high school include woodworking, auto mechanics, carpentry, welding, distributive education, life skills, electronics, drafting, office occupations, metal working, electricity, special education, nurse's aide training, introduction to education, and marketing.

The high school maintains comprehensive programs in sciences, mathematics, and foreign languages. Five years of foreign language instruction are offered in Spanish and German. In the 2006–07 academic year, 52 percent of the student body was enrolled in foreign language instruction. Science courses are offered in upper level division work in chemistry, physics, and physiology; 93 percent of the student body was enrolled in science programs, including 17 percent of the senior class in two levels of college preparatory physics. Thirty-nine percent of the junior class is enrolled in two levels of college preparatory chemistry. Ninety-two percent of the student body was enrolled in mathematics classes, which culminate in an AP calculus program.

Columbus Public Schools provide a full range of special education programs for resident handicapped persons ages 0–21. Included in this programming are services for prekindergarten handicapped, severely handicapped, moderate and mildly mentally handicapped, learning disabled, behaviorally disordered, and speech and language impaired as well as services for visual and hearing impaired.

Classes for gifted students are offered to 4th–12th grades. The middle school and high

school also provide alternative programming for gifted students, including individual mentorships.

The Columbus Public Schools cooperate with the Columbus Campus of Central Community College to offer a broad range of classes in adult educational programs. Most recently is a 2+2 metals program

sponsored jointly by both schools. This program is integrated with the Linkages program. The Linkages program at Columbus High School is one of five demonstration sites in the United States where students may earn recognition for attaining proficiency in industrial standards.

### Rural Schools

Type of School	Classrooms	Students	Teacher/ Pupil Ratio	Computer/ Pupil Ratio
Lakeview High (9–12)	29	315	1:14	1:2
Platte Center (K–8)	12	110	1:12	1:2
Shell Creek (K–8)	13	210	1:15	1:5
Sunrise (K–8)	15	144	1:11	1:3
Christ Lutheran* (Pre–K–8)	5	43	1:11	1:4
St. John’s Lutheran* (K–8)	3	29	1:10	1:2

\*Lutheran schools within the boundaries of Lakeview Community Schools

### Parochial

Type of School	Classrooms	Students	Teacher/ Pupil Ratio	Computer/ Pupil Ratio	Avg. Annual Tuition
Columbus Christian (Pre–K–8)	5	48	1:10	1:5	\$2,400
Immanuel Lutheran (Pre–K–8)	12	240	1:16	1:4	\$1,260 (member)
Scotus Central Catholic Jr.-Sr. High (7–12)	35	338	1:12	1:3	\$1,975
St. Anthony (Pre–K–6)	7	120	1:17	1:5	\$1,550
St. Bonaventure (Pre–K–6)	17	220	1:14	1:4	\$1,550
St. Isidore (Pre–K–6)	16	220	1:16	1:5	\$1,550

The parochial schools cooperate with the Columbus Public Schools, Central Community College, and Educational Service Unit 7 to offer the best opportunities for their students.

### Catholic

The city’s four Catholic schools operate under a coordinated K–12 curriculum and serve approximately 900 students with an educational experience marked by traditional values: discipline, faith development, and a tradition of strong academic performance. Each school is accredited by the Nebraska Department of Education and

Scotus Central Catholic is also accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. All four schools are members in good standing with the National Catholic Education Association. Each elementary school (St. Anthony, St. Bonaventure, and St. Isidore) provides all-day kindergarten, preschool, and childcare. The St. Bonaventure preschool and childcare center is a nationally accredited program. On average, more than three-fourths of the faculty have masters degrees. During the 2006–07 school year, budgeted expenditures for the combined four schools was \$4,404,457 and in



the last three years, the schools have completed \$3.1 million in capital improvements, and Scotus Central Catholic plans to launch a multi-million dollar capital campaign for facility enhancements in fall 2007. The average cost to educate a student at the elementary level is \$4,000 and \$6,203 at the high school level, although tuition charged is roughly one-third of those levels due to strong local financial support. Scholarships are available.

A comprehensive fine and performing arts program, outstanding high-speed computer facilities, and one of the state’s most successful C-1 athletic programs complement the school’s strong college preparatory academic tradition. Dual enrollment courses are available with Central Community College as well as AP courses at Scotus. Sixty-five percent of all Scotus senior high students had a B average or better in their studies and one-third of the school’s 10th–12th grade students are members of the National Honor Society. A web-based student records management program provides real time access for parents and students. Scotus has had five National Merit Finalists in the last ten years, and, on average, 99 percent of its graduates attend some form of post-secondary education and 1 percent enter the military service.

### Test Results

Name	% Students Taking Test	%tile
Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)		
7th Grade	100	88th
9th Grade	100	91st
11th Grade	100	97th
ACT	88	24.6

### Lutheran

Immanuel Lutheran School (Pre–K–8), accredited by the National Lutheran School Accreditation and approved by the state of Nebraska, has been providing Christian education in Columbus since 1893. Teaching focuses on faith and academics. The ministry is to share Christ by educating, nurturing, and equipping God’s people for a life of Christian service. Immanuel Lutheran School

offers a program beginning with preschool (age 3) through eighth grade and operates an on-site daycare year-round.

### Christian

The Columbus Christian School (CCS), opened in 1994, is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International. CCS, a nondenominational school approved by the state of Nebraska, is Bible-based, Christ-centered, and student-focused. Its purpose is to provide an educational process for children preschool through eighth grade that puts the Bible at the center and causes students to use the Bible to evaluate all aspects of life through the eyes of God.

### Educational Service Unit

Columbus area schools receive and have access to a wide range of supplemental services from Educational Service Unit 7 (ESU) in Columbus. Services include the state-mandated core services of staff development, technology training/ infrastructure, and material resources as well as those services determined by the member school districts through advisory input. ESU 7 serves the seven counties of Boone, Butler, Colfax, Merrick, Nance, Platte, and Polk and provides services to more than 1,100 teachers and 15,000 public and nonpublic students in the area.

### Community College

Columbus is part of the Central Community College which encompasses a 25-county area. The college is governed by an 11-member Board of Governors elected by the citizens of the counties served. Administrative offices are located in Grand Island with campuses in Hastings, Columbus, and Grand Island and off-campus centers in Holdrege, Lexington, and Kearney. Classes are available through extended learning programs in approximately 80 communities within the college’s service area. During the 2006–07 academic year, 25,400 students were enrolled in Central Community College courses.

### Certificate, Diploma, and Degree Programs:

Central Community College offers 33 career and technical education programs, including more than 700 vocational technical and academic transfer college credit courses. Classes are

offered by multiple delivery methods, including traditional lecture/lab class settings. Some of the alternative delivery methods used include:

—**Independent Study:** Allows students to work on college credit classes at their own pace, using course materials from the campuses. The staff serve as contacts between the student and campus faculty and administration.

—**Distance Learning:** Uses several state-of-the-art teaching technologies, including video conferencing, satellite broadcasts, and Internet courses to deliver college credit courses.

**Adult Basic Education Program:** This program is offered by Central Community College in cooperation with the Nebraska Department of Education and the federal government. The program is designed to provide the opportunity to gain basic education skills at no cost to the student. The program has four major components:

—Adult Basic Education for those with less than an eighth grade education.

—English as a Second Language for non-English speaking persons wishing to learn to speak, read, and write English.

—High School Completion (General Educational Development—GED) for those with less than a high school diploma.

—Living Skills for adults wishing to improve their basic life skills in consumer economics, health, community resources, government and law, and occupational knowledge.

**Community Education Program:** Avocational/recreational courses are offered to provide students an opportunity to explore and develop skills for personal interest, leisure, and recreational activities.

**Business and Professional Training:** Central Community College is a primary source of training and education for business, industry, agricultural association, civic groups, governmental agencies, and other organizations within its 25-county service area. College staff provide expertise in their fields of study to develop and coordinate specially-tailored short courses, workshops, and seminars to meet specific training needs.

Central Community College works with area industries, retail establishments, and other agencies and organizations in delivering various training programs.

Central Community College offers 33 career and technical education programs with a focus on degree, diploma, and certificate programs requiring two years or less to complete. The college also offers an academic transfer program for students who want to complete the first two years of a bachelors degree before transferring to a four-year college or university. In addition, the college offers classes in communities throughout its 25-county service area, online learning, and training and development for businesses, industries, and other organizations.

For more information on Central Community College, visit [www.cccneb.edu](http://www.cccneb.edu).

<b>Central Community College</b>			
<b>2006–07 Academic Year</b>			
(Note: Numbers can be duplicated between award levels)			
<b>Program</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Diploma</b>	<b>Certificate</b>
Academic Transfer	104	NA	NA
Agriculture	5	5	3
Associate Degree in Nursing	58	NA	NA
Auto Body Technology	6	3	97
Automotive Technology	6	6	14
Business Administration/Accounting	62	31	51
Commercial Art	5	5	11
Commercial Horticulture	8	6	17



Columbus High School



Lakeview High School



Scotus Central Catholic High School



Columbus Middle School



Centennial Elementary School



Emerson Elementary School



Lost Creek Elementary School



North Park Elementary School



West Park Elementary School



Columbus Christian School



Immanuel Lutheran School



Saint Anthony's Catholic School



Saint Bonaventure Catholic School



Saint Isidore Catholic School

**Central Community College  
2006–07 Academic Year**

(Note: Numbers can be duplicated between award levels)

<b>Program</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Diploma</b>	<b>Certificate</b>
Construction Technology	17	18	24
Criminal Justice	4	0	0
Dental Assisting	14	11	NA
Dental Hygiene	14	NA	NA
Diesel Technology	6	5	0
Drafting	24	12	23
Electrical Technology	16	NA	2
Electronics Technology	14	7	8
Early Childhood Education	27	11	23
Health Information Management Services	9	27	11
Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration	6	3	0
Hospitality Management & Culinary Arts	8	NA	2
Human Services	23	10	NA
Industrial Technology	8	6	6
Information Technology	8	17	23
Machine Shop Technology	2	3	14
Media Arts	9	12	30
Medical Assisting	16	NA	14
Medical Technology	12	NA	NA
Office Technology	28	47	46
Paralegal	4	4	5
Parts Sales & Management	3	3	3
Practical Nursing	NA	63	NA
Quality Control	2	NA	9
Welding Technology	6	6	12

**Colleges and Universities**

**Wayne State College (WSC)** located in Wayne, 80 miles northeast of Columbus, serves approximately 3,500 students from throughout Nebraska and Iowa as well as more than 24 other states and 19 foreign countries. At the undergraduate level, WSC offers more than 70 nonteaching majors and minors plus 39 various teaching endorsements in four academic schools including arts and humanities, business and technology, education and counseling, and natural and social sciences. Masters degrees are also available in business and education.

Of those undergraduate students declaring a major, approximately 13 percent major in the arts and humanities, 18 percent in education and

counseling, 29 percent in business and technology, and 40 percent in natural and social sciences.

Founded in 1891, the college became a State College in 1909. The picturesque 128-acre campus serves as a state arboretum and features a walking/jogging trail, numerous indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, a renovated and expanded Student Center, a state-of-the-art business building, and a new studio arts building.

The Office of Continuing Education at Wayne State College offers undergraduate and graduate coursework via Internet and distance learning. In addition, a variety of courses are also offered onsite in several area cities. Schedules and course offerings vary.

<b>Wayne State College</b>				
<b>Program</b>	<b>Undergraduate</b>		<b>Graduate</b>	
	<b>Majors*</b>	<b>Degrees**</b>	<b>Majors*</b>	<b>Degrees**</b>
Applied Human & Sport Physiology	26	7	—	—
Art	54	7	—	—
Business	536	124	66	17
Chemistry	50	18	—	—
Computer Information Systems	58	16	—	—
Computer Science	29	9	—	—
Counselor Education/Counseling	—	—	56	33
Criminal Justice	159	44	—	—
Curriculum & Instruction	—	—	352	128
Early Childhood	21	9	—	—
Early Childhood Education	81	10	—	—
Elementary Education	305	66	—	—
English	85	21	—	1
Exercise Science	58	15	3	2
Family & Consumer Sciences	59	10	—	—
French Education	1	1	—	—
Geography	26	8	—	—
Graphic Design	45	5	—	—
Health & PE	77	7	—	—
History	68	7	—	—
Human Service Counseling	74	23	—	—
Industrial Technology	118	15	—	—
Interdisciplinary Studies	2	2	—	—
Life Sciences	104	31	—	—
Mass Communications	44	14	—	—
Mathematics	28	8	—	—
Middle Level Education	18	4	—	—
Modern Language and Culture	2	—	—	—
Music	63	8	—	—
Natural Sciences	7	2	—	—
Organizational Management-Sport/Rec. Man.	—	—	18	—
Physical Science	2	—	—	—
Political Science	31	6	—	—
Pre-Professional	250	—	—	—
Psychology	81	17	—	—
School Administration	—	—	102	28
Social Sciences	51	11	—	—
Sociology	17	9	—	—
Spanish	34	8	—	—
Special Education	46	5	3	—
Speech Communications	45	21	—	—
Sport Management	121	16	2	7
Technology	11	5	—	—

\*Includes first and second majors for Fall 2007 (as of 10/01/07)

\*\*Includes Degrees Awarded December 2006 through August 2007





Educational Service Unit 7



Central Community College, Columbus Campus



Columbus Community Hospital



Medical Office Building



Columbus Family Resource Center

Wayne State College				
Program	Undergraduate		Graduate	
	Majors*	Degrees**	Majors*	Degrees**
Theatre	23	3	—	—
Undeclared	316	—	—	—

\*Includes first and second majors for Fall 2007 (as of 10/01/07)

\*\*Includes Degrees Awarded December 2006 through August 2007

For more information contact Wayne State College at (800) 228-9972 or visit [www.wsc.edu](http://www.wsc.edu).

### Other Schools

Colleges, universities, and community colleges frequently attended by Columbus high school graduates include:

Community/College or University	Mileage
<b>Norfolk</b>	47
Northeast Community College	
<b>Fremont</b>	48
Midland Lutheran College	
<b>York</b>	51
York College	
<b>Seward</b>	51
Concordia University	
<b>Grand Island</b>	64
Central Community College, Grand Island Campus	
College Park	
<b>Milford</b>	64
Southeast Community College, Milford Campus	
<b>Blair</b>	69
Dana College	
<b>Crete</b>	80
Doane College	
<b>Wayne</b>	72
Wayne State College	
<b>Lincoln</b>	75
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	
Nebraska Wesleyan University	
Union College	
Southeast Community College, Lincoln Campus	

Community/College or University	Mileage
<b>Omaha</b>	85
University of Nebraska at Omaha	
University of Nebraska Medical Center	
Creighton University	
College of St. Mary	
<b>Hastings</b>	89
Hastings College	
Central Community College, Hastings Campus	
<b>Bellevue</b>	94
Bellevue College	
<b>Kearney</b>	106
University of Nebraska at Kearney	

### CHURCHES

Denomination	Number of Churches
Assembly of God	1
Baptist	4
Berean	1
Bible Baptist	1
Catholic	3
Church of Christ	2
Church of God	1
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	1
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Reorganized)	1
Church of the Nazarene	1
Discover Hope	1
Episcopal	1
Everlasting Love Church	1
Evangelical Free	1
First United Methodist	1
Iglesia Emanuel	1

<b>Denomination</b>	<b>Number of Churches</b>
Jehovah's Witnesses	1
Lutheran- LCMC	1
Lutheran-Nebraska Synod	1
Lutheran-Missouri Synod	2
Lutheran-Wisconsin Synod	1
New Hope Christian Life	1
Seventh Day Adventist	1
United Church of Christ	1
United Church of Christ- Presbyterian	1
Victory Christian Fellowship	1

## **SPECIALIZED SERVICES**

The **Columbus Family Resource Center** is the home of more than 25 agencies all housed under one roof committed to advance the economic well being of the region. There are 9 partner organizations located in the center that provide employment and training services to include: (1) **Arbor Education & Training** provides life skills and job skill training to persons receiving public assistance; (2) **NAF-Multicultural Human Development Corporation** assists migrant seasonal farm workers with training and supportive services and provides health outreach education to minorities; (3) **Nebraska Workforce Development** assists businesses and job seekers with employment and training needs; (4) **Vocational Rehabilitation** assists individuals with disabilities; (5) **Central Community College** provides admission and financial aid information, assistance registering for classes and general information about their campus; (6) **Experience Works**, Senior Employment Program, provides training for economically disadvantaged workers over 55 years of age; (7) **Employment Works** supports individuals in their home, in the community, and on the job; (8) **Assistive Technology Partnership** provides help to people with disabilities, their families and professionals obtain assistive technology devices; (9) **Pathfinder Support Services** provides support services, supervised visitations, drug and alcohol outpatient treatment, mental health counseling, and drug and testing for employers.

Also housed at the Columbus Family Resource Center are 17 human service agencies to include The Arc of Platte County, Apex Therapy Services, Big Pals/Little Pals of Columbus, Boy Scouts of America, Boys and Girls Home of Nebraska, Healthy Families Nebraska, Catholic Charities, Columbus Area United Way, Columbus Collaborative Team, Columbus Community Hospital Sleep Lab, Keep Columbus Beautiful, Behavioral Health Specialists, Nebraska State Patrol, Occupational Health Services, Wiggles and Giggles Therapy for Kids, NorthStar Services, and the Platte County Food Pantry.

**Center for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Survivors**, a non-profit agency, was incorporated in 1990 and serves Platte, Boone, Butler, Colfax, Nance, and Polk Counties. The center provides a variety of services for survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault, including a 24-hour hotline, shelter, advocacy and crisis counseling, education, and more. The services are free and confidential.

**Central Nebraska Community Services (CNCS)** is a nonprofit community action agency providing health, human, and community development services in 21 counties in north-central Nebraska. Approximately 10,000 individuals are served annually by CNCS through four major service departments of (1) Health and Nutrition Services, (2) Early Childhood Programs, (3) Community Economic Development, and (4) Family Outreach.

The **Columbus Rescue Mission** is a member of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions. This nonprofit corporation is staffed by Christians seeking to equip the hurting and the homeless to become responsible, contributing members of the church and society by providing food, shelter, and guidance to those in need. The mission has a 25-bed capacity for men, women, and children. Three meals are served daily and clothing and household items are available not only to the mission guest, but the public as well. An alcohol and drug recovery program is offered to men and women. This is a 9–14 month, in-house, Bible-based discipleship program.

**Sylvan Learning Center** provides supplemental education for preschoolers through adulthood. Students receive a well-balanced, research-based, personalized program. Sylvan continues to design and implement programs addressing students' specific needs and abilities.

**Mosaic** was formed by the merger of Bethphage programs in Norfolk, Fremont, and Columbus. The three programs serve approximately 100 individuals with disabilities with the mission of serving and supporting them so they may reach their potential. Programs offered by Mosaic include vocational training and employment support, independent living skills, physical therapy, respite care, special education, and community involvement. Support is provided through day service programs and residential support in semi-independent living situations.

The **Simon House** is a nonprofit ministry working with other community agencies and churches to assist those in need. Through a voucher program, individuals or families can receive charitable aid in the form of rent or lodging, past-due utility payments, gasoline, medical attention, medications, clothing, furniture, and food. The Simon House is also a thrift store that sells clean, gently used clothing and household items and all shoppers are welcomed. It houses a chapel for those seeking peace and spiritual guidance. The staff counsels clients on creating budgets and becoming more self-sufficient.

The **East-Central District Health Department** serves primarily the four counties of Platte, Boone, Colfax, and Nance. Some activities serve a broader service area. The Health Department is a full-service health department and services include: (1) family medical care to include primary medical care by full-time medical and nursing staff, prenatal care for pregnant women, reproductive health care, diabetes care and prevention program, immunizations, and paternity testing, (2) dental health care by a dentist and dental hygiene students, (3) nutritional programs such as the Womens, Infants, and Childrens (WIC) nutritional supplement program, weight loss program, and physical fitness center, (4) environmental health program with asbestos inspections, radon materials and test kits, mercury collection program, childhood lead information,

and maternal child health, (5) community health programs such as tobacco prevention program, school screening for vision, hearing and dental problems, Early Childhood Intervention programs for children with developmental delays, infectious disease surveillance programs (TB, influenza, hepatitis, etc.), avian flu workshops, and other public health emergency response preparation, confidential and anonymous HIV testing and referral, (6) mental health services to include psychiatric care, substance abuse evaluations, substance abuse treatment, and child and adult therapy and evaluation.

## HEALTH CARE

### Hospital

Columbus Community Hospital, Inc., is a non-profit, non-sectarian, voluntary corporation controlled by an 11-member, local board of directors. Its goal is to provide quality health care services, community support, and health education to the residents of Platte County and surrounding regions. The hospital, accredited by The Joint Commission, is committed to sponsoring and providing programs on excellence in healthcare.

Columbus Community Hospital moved into a new four-story, 153,000-square-foot-building on 80 acres in 2002 with an attached one-story medical office building called Healthpark, featuring local and visiting physicians, pharmacy, and hospital laboratory.

Hospital services:

- Patient Service Center
- Emergency Department
- Helicopter Pad
- Procedure Center
- Diagnostic Radiology
- Maternal Child Health
- Skilled Nursing
- Rehabilitative Services
- Occupational Health Services
- Intensive Care
- Laboratory
- Early Development Care
- Health Education

Home Health/Hospice  
Columbus Community Hospital Foundation  
Volunteer Opportunities

The Columbus Cancer Center, located in the medical office building, treats area patients with blood disorders or cancer. The hospital has 47 acute care private beds, 4 skilled nursing private beds, and 14 same-day services beds.

### **Dialysis Center**

The Dialysis Center of Columbus opened in 1997 as a satellite unit of the Dialysis Center of Lincoln, Inc. The center, in a new 12-station facility, provides outpatient hemodialysis to patients in Columbus and the surrounding areas. A specialized team of nurses, dieticians, and social workers provide for patient care under the direction of a nephrologist.

### **Clinics**

Central Nebraska Community Services, Columbus Chiropractic, Columbus Family Practice Associates, Columbus Foot Clinic, Columbus Medical Center, Dialysis Center of Columbus, Midwest Allergy and Asthma Clinic, Occupational Health Services of Columbus Community Hospital, and Urology Center serve area residents.

### **Rescue Squad**

The Columbus Fire Department, with three fully equipped ambulances and one reserve unit, has 36 members who are registered as Emergency Medical Technicians-Ambulance (EMTAs) and 29 who are certified as EMT-AD (defibrillator). Ten members are EMT-P (paramedic) certified.

The Platte County Ambulance Company/Midwest Medical Transport Company, with 3 ambulances in Columbus and 14 units statewide, employs 9 paramedics, 1 emergency medical intermediate, 8 emergency medical technicians-ambulance, and 7 advanced life support registered nurses.

## **NURSING HOMES**

**Edgewood Vista**, a 12-bed Alzheimers/Dementia assisted living facility, opened in 1999. Nursing

care is available 24-hours a day 7 days a week. Limited adult daycare is also available.

**Golden LivingCenter Columbus** is a 145-bed Medicare certified, skilled nursing facility offering 24-hour nursing services. The 20-bed Alzheimer's Care Unit specializes in caring for residents with Alzheimer's or dementia. The 10-bed Advanced Alzheimer's Care Unit cares for residents with advanced Alzheimer's or dementia in a small environment. Golden Living Community Assisted Living and Suites is a 34-unit assisted living facility adjacent to the skilled facility. Resident care is physician-directed and delivered by licensed nursing staff. Short-term rehabilitation; respite care; adult day care; and physical, occupational, and speech therapies are offered. Outpatient therapy services are provided with free van transportation.

**Morys Haven**, certified by Medicare and Medicaid, is a 48-bed facility offering 24-hour skilled nursing care. Each resident's care is directed by his/her personal physician. Well balanced, nutritious meals are prepared following therapeutic diets and individual and group activities are offered. Physical, occupational, and speech therapies are available. The facility provides a pleasant home-like living environment with specialized activities and social service programs. Van transportation is provided to medical appointments.

## **LIBRARY**

The **Columbus Public Library** is housed in a 30,000 square foot facility with an on-line catalog and circulation system. The collection includes 85,000 volumes, with an average annual circulation of 240,000. Other services include five conference rooms, an auditorium, two art galleries, walk-in copy service, and an interactive televideo conference center. A computer lab with ten workstations is available for word processing and Internet access. The Interlibrary Loan Program provides area library users access to larger collections of materials in Nebraska's cities and universities. The library contracts with Platte County to provide bookmobile service to the county schools as well as to the other communities in the county.



Golden LivingCenter Columbus



Morys Haven



Edgewood Vista



Pawnee Park Playground Equipment



Sand Volleyball in Pawnee Park



Legion Baseball Field



Lake Babcock Camping Area



**Platte Valley Literacy Association** and Central Community College-Columbus Campus provide instruction to Columbus area adults for improved reading, writing, math, living skills, English as a second language, U.S. Citizenship, and general education development (GED) preparation. These instructions, conducted at the Columbus Public Library, are provided by classes and one-on-one tutoring. A “family literacy” program provides learning experiences for children ages 4–11, while their parents are in the adult classes. Parents are encouraged to interact with their children in a positive environment in the Children’s Room at the public library.

The **Columbus Campus Resource Center** is a library and media center for students of Central Community College and residents of the surrounding area. The Resource Center has a collection of 20,000 volumes and 130 current periodicals with on-line catalog. Other services include access to Internet, on-line databases, interlibrary loan, photocopying, and computer labs with programs available on CD-ROM. Also available is a microfiche/microfilm printer reader. An interlibrary loan program provides students and area library users access to larger collections in Nebraska’s cities and colleges. The media center has numerous training tapes available for viewing. Typical tapes include such topics as welding, office technology, hydraulics, automotive technology, and leadership training. The campus offers a series of video conferences each year via either “C” band or “KU” band satellites.

## **RECREATION**

Columbus has 14 parks covering approximately 290 acres. Park Department employees are responsible for maintaining all city parks, with an average annual budget of \$510,000.

Park facilities include picnic tables, outdoor grills, shelters, playgrounds, and playgroup equipment. Pawnee Park, the “Picnic Capital of Nebraska,” covers 155 acres and is the destination of family outings. The park boasts two large group picnic shelters which can accommodate 250 and 850 people as well as four small shelters, each with an approximate capacity of 25. Pawnee Park

has modern rest room facilities, a potable water supply, and rose garden in addition to the many sports facilities.

A part of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Pawnee Park’s Memory Meadows and Civic Forest are peaceful, wooded areas. For the sports enthusiasts, Pawnee Park offers a lagoon and a one-half acre lake stocked with fish, lighted tennis courts, four state-of-the-art playground structures, lighted baseball diamond, horseshoe courts, three sand volleyball courts, and a lighted 2,200-seat stadium with football field and track.

The Pawnee Plunge Water Park, located in Pawnee Park, is a city-owned outdoor water recreation facility with a capacity for 1,706 visitors. The water park includes a zero depth entry pool with a tot-friendly aquadek, lily pad walk complete with alligator, lazy river, tube slide, speed slide, curve slide, and a unique splash bowl. The Plunge features a sand play area, food court, and concession stand.

A Quincentenary belltower is located near the main entrance of Pawnee Park. This belltower was officially dedicated April 25, 1992, as a lasting monument to the community’s celebration of the Quincentenary, the 500th anniversary of Columbus’ first voyage to the new world. This belltower features ten towers, each having a historical bell donated by industrialist Leonard Fleischer. Each of the ten bells has area significance and a plaque near each tower tells of that bell’s history. The bells can be heard chiming each quarter hour from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Another attraction in Pawnee Park is the Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial. In 2000 high school students of history teacher Gerald Meyer decided to take on a project to honor millions of soldiers, scores of workers, and one Columbus native, Andrew Jackson Higgins, the designer of the Higgins Boat and, according to President Eisenhower, “the man who won the war.” The Higgins Boat was the barge-like landing craft that carried soldiers from the ships to the beaches prior to and during an invasion. In 2002 Phase II was added to the memorial, which included three life-sized bronze statues, representing the three wars in which the Higgins boats were used—World War II, Korea, and Vietnam—along with

five large flagpoles, representing the service branches. A large Freedom Eagle, a 600-pound bronze sculpture, soaring 30 feet in the air supported by a zig-zag-shaped pole made from a steel beam from the World Trade Center, was part of the Phase III addition to this memorial. In 2006 a dedication ceremony paid homage to the men and women who died in defense of this nation. Eight granite plaques were unveiled, revealing inscriptions that denote the various conflicts in which the United States has been involved.

A six-diamond (three with lights) softball complex is located in Gerrard Park, a three-diamond lighted baseball complex is located in Centennial park, and four lighted softball/baseball diamonds are located in Bradshaw Park. An outdoor soccer complex with ten fields is located in Wilderness Park.

The 15 unsupervised playgrounds have swings, slides, merry-go-rounds, teeter-totters, jungle gyms, small rocking horses, and state-of-the-art playground structures.

The Columbus Aquatic Center is a city-owned facility open to the public seven days a week. The Aquatic Center was constructed as a cooperative project involving both the city and a local manufacturer with assistance from a Community Development Block Grant. A child-friendly shallow area ranges in depth from 2 feet 6 inches to 4 feet. This area has a toddler slide, water walking lane, and handicap ramp. The deep end ranges in depth from 4 feet to 12 feet and has steps for easy entry. The pool is 25 yards long with 8 lanes, diving board, and double tube slide. Many programs are offered including swimming lessons, water aerobics, scuba classes, youth swim team, lifeguard training, and water safety training. This facility, accommodating 300 swimmers, is also home to the Columbus High School Discoverers Swim Team.

**Area facilities:**

- Archery — Outdoor range at Centennial Park
- Boating — Lake North with 200 acres

- Bowling — Two bowling alleys (one 12-lane and one 16-lane)
- Campgrounds — Seven campgrounds with various amenities
- Fishing — Excellent fishing for crappie, bullhead, blue gill, perch, northern pike, catfish, and bass
- Golf Courses — Four golf courses, all with grass greens and clubhouses (carts available) 18-hole private at Elks Country Club, 18-hole public at Quail Run, 9-hole public at Van Berg, and 9-hole public at Country Shadows
- Hiking Trails — City parks have 3 3/4 miles of trail, plus extensive trail system north of Columbus
- Horse Races — Pari-mutuel thoroughbred horse races for 23–26 days each year with year-round simulcast racing
- Hunting — A variety of wildlife, including deer, dove, duck, goose, pheasant, prairie chicken, quail, rabbit, squirrel, and turkey
- Miniature Golf — One 27-hole miniature golf course
- Racquetball — Four indoor at the YMCA and 1 outdoor at Centennial Park
- Sand Volleyball — Court in park
- Skating — Inline hockey and roller skating
- Stock Car Racing — 3/8-mile dirt track, racing & demolition derbies
- Soccer — Ten fields at Wilderness Park



Aquatic Center



Pawnee Plunge Water Park



Columbus Family YMCA



Camp Luther



Camp Pawnee



Walking Trails

- Swimming — Pawnee Plunge water park, indoor pool at Aquatic Center, private pool at Elks Country Club, indoor pool at YMCA
- Tennis — Sixteen lighted tennis courts; two indoor courts at YMCA
- Theaters — A six-theatre complex

Summer activities include Youth Day Camp, T-ball, swim lessons, tumbling, baseball, softball, golf, soccer, and sand volleyball.

Annual events include the Platte County Fair in July and Columbus Days in August. Columbus Days is a week-long celebration including activities such as the Coronation Ball, prayer breakfast, horseshoe tournament, talent contests, baby show, ribfest, biathlon, and Columbus Days parade, Fun & Food in Frankfort Square, United Way duck race, pet show, and community picnic.

Lawn Chairs on the Square is a Thursday evening event beginning the first week of June and continuing through mid-August in Frankfort Square, downtown Columbus. Visitors to downtown enjoy a broad variety of rich musical and cultural entertainment, which is sponsored by members of the Downtown Business Association, LLC.

The first Downtown Runaround was held in July 1986. The race is a two-mile walk/run around downtown with the five-mile course going through picturesque Pawnee Park. A Junior runaround began in 1993 and is held the night before the main race. This event draws approximately 1,000 participants from as many as 11 states.

The Columbus Family YMCA provides character development and promotes Christian principles. Facilities include 3 full-size gymnasiums; a 25-yard, 5-lane indoor pool; 300-gallon whirlpool/spa; cardio center with treadmills, step machines, elliptical trainers, and exercise bikes; wellness center with 9 full-Nutilus circuits; Hammer Strength machines and free weights; a suspended running track; 4 racquetball/handball courts; 2 indoor tennis courts; 3,400-square-foot aerobic center; and a 3,000-square-foot multi-purpose

room. Many programs are offered for all ages, including swim lessons, adult and senior citizen fitness classes, youth and adult sports leagues, preschool, day-care, and many other youth and adult activities.

### Senior Center

The Columbus Senior Center offers health-related programs, caregiver support, nutrition and education, social activities, interaction, and volunteer and leadership opportunities. The nutrition program is specifically designed to help meet the daily nutrition needs of adults 60+ years of age. The weekday Congregate Meal Program and Home Delivery Meal Program are well received. Health clinics are available regularly at the Senior Center and currently include free blood pressure and hearing checks by Columbus healthcare professionals and volunteers and bi-monthly foot care clinics.

Speakers share pertinent information regarding nutrition and health topics. Caregiver support is a developing program at the center. Senior fitness opportunities are available as individual or group exercise and walking club. Scheduled informational, club and social activities, and entertainment include craft and card clubs, movies, evening meal opportunities and programs, volunteer opportunities for individuals and service groups, and meeting rooms for business retirement groups.

Columbus Senior Center provides transportation through the Columbus Area Transit. Each of the three vehicles is equipped with a wheelchair lift, and drivers receive specialized training to operate lifts, as well as assisting elderly and handicapped citizens.

Columbus Senior Center has a spacious facility and is available to rent for special events or meetings.

### Lakes, Boating, Camping, and Hiking

**Lake North**, developed by Loup Power District, is an ideal spot for recreation and outdoor enthusiasts. Located four miles north of Columbus, the park is open to the public free of charge. Lake North's 200 acres offers two miles

of beaches for swimmers and sun-bathers and provides excellent fishing. Facilities include free electric hookups, two boat launching ramps, two boat docks, parking areas for boat trailers, drinking water, rest rooms, Centennial Forest, playground equipment, picnic shelters, picnic tables, sand volleyball court, and camping area.

**Loup Park/Lake Babcock** is located west of Lake North. The wooded shores of Lake Babcock include 40 acres of well-developed camping, picnic, and playground areas. Camping facilities include free electrical hookups, picnic shelters, fireplace grills, rest rooms, water supply, and playground equipment. Fishing is also excellent at the mouth of Lake Babcock; principal catches are walleye, catfish, crappie, and carp.

In addition to Lake North and Lake Babcock, other popular recreational facilities offered to the public at no cost by Loup Power District include Powerhouse Park, Tailrace Park, and Headworks Park.

## Trails

Columbus has an extensive system of recreational trails throughout the city and adjoining area.

**Two Lakes Trail** meanders through tree-lined Lake North, Loup Park, and a wildlife refuge. This scenic trail runs for 2.4 miles along the north side of two lakes (Lake North and Lake Babcock). The 8-foot wide concrete path offers recreational opportunities for riders, runners, rollerbladers, walkers, bird watchers, and nature enthusiasts.

Cross the Castner's Crossing footbridge and continue on the **Bob Lake Trail** and then the **Robert White Trail**. Both of these trails are nine feet wide and have a crushed limestone surfaced for biking, jogging, and walking. The Bob Lake Trail is 1.3 miles and the Robert White Trail is 1.5 miles. There is free parking at both the east and west ends of the Robert White Trail. The trailhead located at the junction of the Bob Lake Trail and the Robert White Trail is across the street from the east entrance of Central Community College.

The **Wilderness Park Trail**, a ten-foot-wide concrete path, offers safe passage for walkers and

riders to the youth soccer complex. Children and adults can walk, jog, bike, and rollerblade on the trail around the perimeter of the soccer complex. This 1.5-mile trail will connect to the future Monastery Trail (planned for 2008), which will allow access to other existing recreational trails, including Robert White Trail, Bob Lake Trail, and Two Lakes Trail.

From the Wilderness Park trailhead, cross-country runners and mountain bikers can travel east along the grass and gravel **Lost Creek Drainway Trail** to Loup Power District's Powerhouse Park, a park and popular fishing hole. Follow the **Loup Power District Canal Trail** northwest and eventually reach the Robert White Trail, Bob Lake Trail, and Two Lakes Trail. Then, enjoy the scenery while riding around the two Loup Power District lakes to return to the starting point, an estimated 15-mile jaunt.

A ten-foot wide concrete trail winds through Pawnee Park along the Loup River.

Columbus has two **Volkswalk** year-round events. One route includes the Two Lakes Trail and the second route goes through downtown, residential areas, and city parks. These 10K (6.2 miles) routes are noncompetitive and participants can walk at their own pace, thus making it an excellent recreational opportunity for the entire family.

**Wilkinson Wildlife Management Area**, located just northwest of Columbus, consists of more than 900 acres of permanent wetland area for attracting migrating waterfowl. Activities include hiking, wildlife viewing, fishing, and hunting. Two small parking areas are available. It is open year-round and is subject to state regulations.

## Camps

**Camp Pawnee** is a 23-acre camp located between the Loup and Platte Rivers just south of Columbus. Camp Pawnee, with several rental cabins, is used for a variety of activities by a number of organizations including the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Cub Scouts. Camp Pawnee, available for rent by the public, is used for company and family picnics.

**Camp Luther**, located 16 miles northeast of Columbus, is nestled in 160 acres of rolling hills with an oak forest, lake, and prairie grass meadows. More than 4,000 children, youth, and adults enjoy summer camps, retreats, outdoor education, family reunions, work weekends, service projects, day camps, family camps, and much more at the camp's year-round facilities. Best known for its summer camp ministry, Camp Luther is also used year-round for a variety of retreats for youth and adults. One hundred guests can be housed overnight in winterized buildings. Gerwick Hall can seat 200 at tables or 300 in rows. Food service is available or groups can rent one of several public-use kitchens. Rest rooms and showers are in or near cabins and campground sites. Activities include swimming, waterslide, canoeing, paddle boating, fishing, hiking, frisbee golf, archery, tennis, basketball, volleyball, challenge course, sledding, and more. Camp Luther is affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and is open to the public with advance reservations.

### **Other Activities**

Special emphasis is placed on Little League baseball, basketball, football, and AYSO soccer open to all youngsters in the Columbus area. Fifteen baseball/softball diamonds are in constant use during the summertime by American Legion Baseball and city softball leagues, both men's and women's.

Organizations providing sporting activities include Columbus Baseball League Association, Columbus Chess Club, American Legion Baseball, Columbus Area Midget Football Organization, Columbus Family YMCA, Platte Valley Bass Masters, Campers Club, American Youth Soccer Organization, Columbus Women's Tennis League, Archers Club, Columbus Flying Club, Columbus Rifle and Pistol Club, and the Isaac Walton League.

The **Platte County Agricultural Society** was organized in 1941 by farmers and merchants in Platte County for the purpose of improving the agricultural and economic development of the area. The society has sponsored the Platte County Fair since 1941 and today is one of the largest

county fairs in the state. The Society's facilities have been used for horse racing annually since 1942. Facilities on the 114 acres include a grandstand with a seating capacity of more than 3,000, a club room with a capacity of 600, and an exhibit hall where many community functions are held. The arena building (130 feet by 300 feet with a 24 feet ceiling) is used for horse shows, livestock sales, and other events. The arena has an office, kitchen, and rest room facilities. The large paved parking area and the grandstand have been used for home, sports, and recreation shows and are available to other groups and organizations. The Platte County Agricultural Society awards scholarships totaling more than \$5,000 annually to Platte County resident high school graduates. Scholarships have been awarded continuously since 1958.

Horse racing fans enjoy a 23–26 day season of pari-mutuel thoroughbred horse racing in Columbus in late summer. The 5/8-mile track is located at the Agricultural Park. The Agricultural Society simulcasts 12 months a year, consisting of Nebraska tracks at Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, and Atokad. Other simulcasts are from California (Fairplex, DelMar, Santa Anita, and Hollywood Park), Florida (Calder and Gulfstream), Kentucky (Turfway, Churchill, and Ellis), Oklahoma (Remington), Arkansas (Oaklawn), Iowa (Prairie Meadows), Louisiana (Fairgrounds and L.A. Downs), Minnesota (Canterbury), and Illinois (Sportsman and Arlington).

### **Cultural Activities**

The **Columbus Area Arts Council** has been scheduling performing and visual art events since 1981, giving Columbus residents the opportunity to experience the arts in a variety of ways. Theatrical and musical performances for school children and the public, bus trips to out-of-town events, and varied exhibits in the Columbus Art Gallery are all included in a year's work. Columbus Art Gallery and Gift Shop, located in the Columbus Public Library, hosts a new show each month by regional artists. The gift shop offers unique, original, and collectible items for sale.

**Platte Valley Playhouse** is a community theatre made up of members from Columbus and surrounding areas. It provides the finest in community entertainment as well as promoting cultural education in drama. Three to four shows are produced locally each year. Performances are held at the Fine Arts Performing Theatre, Central Community College-Columbus Campus, and dinner theatre performances are held at a local restaurant.

The **Platte County Museum** offers the opportunity to travel through time in the history gallery, which contains discoveries of fossils, artifacts, and photographs of early Platte County. Step into the 1857 Gotschalk log cabin, which is the oldest in know in Columbus, and rooms of Victorian clothing, furnishings, and heirlooms. Continue by way of an authentic turn-of-the-century country schoolroom and barbershop. One room is filled with World War II memorabilia, complementing the Andrew Jackson Higgins National Monument.

**Columbus Friends of Music** is a community concert association which secures national and international artists for local performances. Five concerts are held annually in the Nantke's Performing Arts Center, located in the Columbus High School, and attended by capacity audiences.

Other cultural activities are provided by the Columbus Area Artists Club, chess clubs, Consonnaires, garden clubs, parent-teacher associations and organizations, Platte County Historical Society, Platte County Kin Seekers, book clubs, and Women's Club.

## HOUSING

### New Construction

Sixty new homes were constructed in 2006 and it is estimated 65 will be built in 2007. The cost of new home construction averaged \$105 per square foot during the past three years. Building permits in new construction totaled \$62,603,195 in 2005 and \$31,620,644 in 2006.

Building permits issued:

Type	2005	2006
Duplexes/ Townhouses	9	2
Single Family	44	60

**Housing Market** (as of 2006):

### Number of Homes on the Market

Single Family	114
Duplexes or Townhouses	4
Apartment Houses	5

### Avg. Selling Prices (New and Existing)

Single Family Home	
2,500 sq. ft. – 4 bedroom	\$205,000
2,300 sq. ft.– 3 bedroom	\$167,000
1,000 sq. ft. – 3 bedroom	\$87,500
Townhouses	
1,520 sq. ft. – 3 bedroom	\$152,000
Condominiums	
1,200 sq. ft. – 2 bedroom	\$139,000

### Number of Single Family Homes for Sale by Price (New and Existing)

Less than \$100,000	56
\$100,000–\$150,000	22
\$150,001–\$200,000	9
\$200,001+	20

### Rentals

New 2-bedroom home	\$650–\$750
Apartment Vacancy Rate	<7%

The Platte Valley Housing Development Corporation (PVHDC) attempts to meet the housing needs in Columbus by providing education for first-time home buyers, down payment assistance, and other efforts to place more citizens in affordable housing. In 2007 the Board of Directors of PVHDC partnered with the former Elkhorn Valley Community Development Corporation (EVCDC) now known as NeighborWorks Northeast Nebraska.

The City of Columbus submitted a housing grant to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for the “New Neighborhoods Initiative.” Columbus is one of four recipients in Nebraska for grant funds for the project. The city's



program is being developed for implementation in 2008, 2009, and beyond and will be overseen by NeighborWorks Northeast Nebraska. The first phase will involve approximately 45 new housing starts with a planned second phase of equal or larger size and, upon the success of phases one and two, a third phase is contemplated.

### **Affordable and/or Retirement Housing**

**Arbor Place** is a 24-unit independent living, USDA subsidized, one-bedroom senior housing complex completed in 2001. The ground-level units are handicap accessible with Braille ledger signs and all have security locks. The facility also offers an exercise room, community room, and laundry.

**Christopher Court Apartments** is a three-story, 24-unit tax credit housing facility completed in 2000. Apartments are spacious, small pet-friendly, secured units available in either one-bedroom or two-bedroom units. Each apartment has a hook-up for washer and dryer and the facility has two laundry rooms.

**Columbus Place Apartments** opened in 1981 with 60 one-bedroom apartments for the elderly. The Department of Housing and Urban Development subsidizes the apartments. The facility includes 6 handicapped apartments, community dining room, elevator, controlled building access, 24-hour emergency service, and on-site managers. The laundry, garbage, and mailboxes are located inside the building. On-going activities are planned throughout the month.

**Columbian Village, Inc.**, a 62-unit housing complex, opened in 1972. The 11 one-bedroom units, 43 two-bedroom units, and 8 three-bedroom units have been completely remodeled since 2000.

**Heritage House** was designed as a retirement village for low-income elderly and established by the Columbus Housing Authority in 1971. This one-story facility consists of 23 buildings including 74 one-bedroom, 6 handicap adaptable, and 4 two-bedroom units, each with individual private entrances. The facility has a community building including a laundromat and

an administration building for the Columbus Housing Authority.

**Realife of Columbus**, a 32-unit independent living facility for seniors, was constructed in 1990. Realife offers carefree living in one- and two-bedroom apartments with full-size kitchens, garages, an optional noon meal program five days a week, van service, library, laundry, billiards room, social activities, entry security system, emergency call system, and a guest room. Realife is a resident-owned, nonprofit organization with a resident-elected board of directors and 100 percent return of entrance share and tax benefits. It is an independent life-style alternative for middle-income people of retirement age.

Westport Apartments, a three-story, 26-unit congregate facility, offers independent living for those 62 or older, with rent based on income. Westport offers amenities such as a meal program, organized activity calendar, exercise equipment, beauty salon, large-screen television in a spacious activity room, computer for tenant's use, lending library, and laundry facilities on each floor. Each spacious apartment has a full-size kitchen and bath. The facility is secured at night.

### **Assisted Living**

**Cottonwood House Licensed Assisted Living** has been serving the seniors of the Columbus area since 1998. Cottonwood House will provide the assistance wanted and needed while maintaining the independence desired. The care and service the staff delivers supports the changing needs of the residents and fosters self-esteem. Because the staff is available 24-hours a day, someone is close at hand to help with medications, bathing, dressing, grooming, specialized tasks as well as three home-cooked meals daily, weekly housekeeping and laundry, and numerous social recreational activities. Pets are welcome and free transportation is offered.

**Meridian Gardens Assisted Living Community**, located across the street from the Columbus Community Hospital, opened in 2006. The beautiful "town square" theme features numerous amenities such as a coffee shop, theatre, library, chapel, wellness room, barber/beauty shop, and outdoor courtyard. These social areas are designed

to foster resident's independence and rejuvenate lifestyles. Various activities, outings, and family nights are also offered to residents and their families. The assisted living community thrives on individualized, quality care provided for each resident. Offering 60 spacious apartments, residents select the room size that meets their needs from five different floor plans ranging from 470 to 1,010 square feet. With six levels of care to choose from, a tailor-made plan for each resident is made under the supervision of a registered nurse as Director of Healthcare. Staff can offer peace of mind by reducing daily living concerns and providing 24-hour supervision. Three nutritious restaurant-style meals are provided each day. Weekly housekeeping, basic laundry service, emergency code alert system, and transportation are available.

**Prairie Village Retirement Center**, a retirement living community sponsored by the Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation, consists of 68 rental apartments—36 assisted living apartments and 32 independent living apartments. This one-story, residential-style building has a security system, library, chapel, community room, card room, sun rooms, exercise room, activities room, TV/lounge areas, and attached garages. Emergency call systems are monitored by professional staff 24 hours a day. Services offered include meals, scheduled transportation, in-house barber/beauty shop, housekeeping/linen service, and a variety of activities. Medication monitoring, whirlpool baths, and assistance with dressings are available to those in an assisted living apartment.

**Section 8 Housing Voucher Program** is a rental assistance program designed to serve low-income families in creating the opportunity to lease existing housing at an affordable rate.

## **Independent Living**

**Crown Villa** is a senior independent living facility for people 55 or older. The one-story facility, completed in 2003, consists of 19 two-bedroom and 41 one-bedroom apartments. Each apartment has a fully equipped kitchen and is designed to accommodate a stackable washer and dryer. The facility includes a central dining room, small gathering area, and a multipurpose common area. Residents of Crown Villa receive home-cooked meals, including breakfast, noon lunch, and evening dinner.

## **FINANCIAL**

Financial institutions serving Columbus include:

- Bank of the West
- BankFirst Columbus
- Columbus Bank & Trust Company
- Commercial Federal Bank
- Columbus United Federal Credit Union
- Cornerstone Bank
- Dale Employees Credit Union
- Farm Credit Services
- First National Columbus
- First Nebraska Bank Columbus
- Nebraska Energy Federal Credit Union
- Pinnacle Bank
- TierOne Bank
- U.S. Bank
- Union Loan, Inc.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

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### PROFESSIONAL

Architects .....	3
Attorneys .....	27
Auctioneers .....	7
Certified Public Accountants .....	12
Chiropractors .....	5
Dentists .....	14
Engineering Firms .....	7
Medical Doctors (residing in Columbus)	
—cardiologists .....	1
—ear, nose & throat .....	1
—emergency medicine .....	1
—general practitioners .....	10
—general surgeons .....	2
—internal medicine .....	1
—ophthalmologists .....	1
—orthopedic surgeons .....	2
—pediatricians .....	3
—radiologists .....	2
Medical Doctors (on hospital consulting staff)	
—allergists .....	3
—cardiologists .....	18
—chiropractors .....	1
—hemotologists & oncologists .....	7
—nephrologists .....	5
—neurosugeons .....	1
—neurologistss .....	2
—neurosurgeons .....	1
—nuclear medicine .....	2
—ob/gyn .....	2
—ophthalmologists .....	2
—orthopedic surgeons .....	3
—pathologists .....	9
—pharmacists .....	5
—podiatrists .....	1
—pulmonologists .....	2
—radiologists .....	2
—rheumatologists .....	1
—urologists .....	4
Medical Personnel (with privileges at hospital)	
—anesthesiologists .....	1
—certified registered nurse anesthetists .....	6
Nurse Practitioners .....	4
Nurses, Registered .....	97
Optometrists .....	10
Pharmacies .....	6

Physician Assistants .....	5
Podiatrists.....	1
Veterinarians .....	4

## **BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL**

Accounting/Bookkeeping Agencies.....	7
Agricultural Implement Dealers .....	1
Antique Shops.....	7
Apparel Stores.....	13
Appliance Stores .....	2
Auto Body Shops .....	14
Auto Repair & Service.....	25
Auto Supply Parts .....	6
Automobile Dealers (new & used) .....	23
Automobile Renting & Leasing .....	4
Bakeries.....	4
Barber Shops.....	10
Beauty Salons.....	38
Bed & Breakfast.....	1 (3 rooms)
Carpet & Rug Dealers .....	5
Caterers .....	7
Child Care, Licensed.....	73
Contractors—building.....	4
—concrete .....	12
—electric .....	9
—excavating.....	5
—general .....	54
—heating & air conditioning.....	13
—painting.....	7
—plumbing.....	6
—roofing .....	11
—well digging.....	2
Convenience Stores.....	12
Convention Centers.....	1
Copying & Duplicating Services .....	6
Craft Stores .....	3
Dance Studios .....	2
Department Stores.....	2
Discount Stores .....	4
Dry Cleaning & Laundry .....	3
Electric Motor Repair .....	2
Employment Services, Temporary.....	2
Farm/Ranch Supplies .....	2
Feed & Fertilizer Dealers.....	4
Floral Shops .....	4
Funeral Homes .....	2
Furniture Stores.....	3
Garbage Collectors.....	4

Gift Shops .....	15	
Grocery Stores .....	5	
Hardware Stores .....	2	
Health Clubs.....	5	
Industrial Equipment & Supplies.....	3	
Industrial Gas Suppliers.....	1	
Insurance Companies .....	32	
Interior Decorators & Designers.....	3	
Investment Securities .....	9	
Jewelry Stores .....	4	
Landscaping Contractors .....	11	
Laundromats .....	3	
Lawn Services.....	14	
Lumberyards .....	3	
Machine Shops.....	9	
Motels/Hotels .....	11	(542 rooms)
Nurseries & Garden Centers .....	2	
Office Furniture, Equipment & Supplies .....	2	
Photography Studios .....	6	
Preschools (licensed) .....	2	
Printers .....	6	
Real Estate Firms.....	13	
Restaurants—dining.....	18	
—fast food .....	30	
Shoe Stores.....	5	
Television & Radio Repair Shops.....	2	
Theaters .....	1	(6 screens)
Travel Agencies & Bureaus .....	3	
Upholstery Shops.....	2	
Welding Shops .....	8	



150<sup>th</sup> Celebration



Elks Country Club Golf Course



Quail Run Golf Course



Van Berg Golf Course

## AGRICULTURE & RAW MATERIALS

### AGRICULTURE

2002 Statistics	Platte County	State of Nebraska
Number of Farms	1,000	49,355
Land in Farms (acres)	434,529	45,903,116
Average Size of Farms (acres)	435	930
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold	\$199,414,000	\$9,703,657,000
Market Value Per Farm	\$199,414	\$196,609
Total Acres Irrigated	178,523	7,625,170
Percent of Farmland Irrigated	41.1%	16.6%
<b>Five-Year Average Production of Leading Crops (2002–2006)</b>		
Hay Alfalfa (Dry)	54,928 tons	4,516,600 tons
Oats	34,020 bu.	3,794,000 bu.
Corn for Grain	29,471,320 bu.	1,166,640,000 bu.
Soybeans	5,916,300 bu.	212,582,000 bu.
All Wheat	79,600 bu.	64,954,000 bu.
<b>Five-Year Average Livestock Population (2003–2007)</b>		
Cattle & Calves	84,800	6,400,000

During the last five years, Platte County ranked in the top six counties in Nebraska in the production of soybeans and in the top ten counties four of five years in the production of corn.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002–2007  
2002 Census of Agriculture

### RAW MATERIALS

Sand and gravel, non metallic minerals, are available in unlimited quantities; however, metallic minerals are not found in the Columbus area.

Cottonwood timber, suitable for crating, dunnage, veneers, etc., is available in limited quantities.

# CLIMATE

## TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND HUMIDITY

Month	AVERAGES						
	Temperature			Precipitation		Humidity*	
	Min.	Mean	Max.	Rain (Inches)	Snow (Inches)	Morning	Afternoon
January	11.6	21.7	31.7	0.56	5.0	76	65
February	16.9	27.2	37.5	0.76	4.8	79	65
March	26.6	37.5	48.3	1.69	4.8	80	62
April	38.8	50.8	62.8	2.66	1.2	79	52
May	50.5	62.0	73.4	4.09	0.0	80	53
June	60.6	72.2	83.8	4.27	0.0	82	55
July	65.4	76.8	88.2	3.34	0.0	84	56
August	63.3	74.5	85.7	3.31	0.0	86	58
September	53.1	65.2	77.3	2.70	0.0	83	54
October	40.8	53.0	65.3	1.82	0.5	79	52
November	27.0	37.5	48.1	1.17	3.0	80	60
December	16.3	26.1	35.9	0.67	4.6	79	66
<b>Annual</b>	39.2	50.4	61.5	27.05	23.9	81	58

\*Recorded at Norfolk Weather Station

## FROST DATA

Average date of spring freeze probabilities.....	April 27
Average date of fall freeze probabilities .....	October 7
Average length of freeze free season probabilities .....	164 days
Average number of “heating degree days” based on 65° Fahrenheit.....	6,404
Average number of “cooling degree days” based on 65° Fahrenheit .....	1,099
Wind speed in miles per hour (annual average).....	12
Prevailing wind direction (annual average) .....	South

Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center, University of Nebraska, 1948–2006, [www.hprcc.unl.edu](http://www.hprcc.unl.edu)