

COMMUNITY FACTS COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA

www.ci.columbus.ne.us

FEBRUARY 2005

POPULATION (Official U.S. Census)

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2003 Est.</u>
Columbus	20,971	20,880
Platte County	31,662	31,197
Labor Market	116,691	116,228

Development Department
Loup Power District
Columbus, Nebraska 68601
www.loup.com

Cornhusker Public Power District
Columbus, Nebraska 68601
www.cornhusker-power.com

Economic Development Department
Nebraska Public Power District
Columbus, Nebraska 68601
www.nppd.com
sites.nppd.com

INTRODUCTION

The following pages contain basic information about Columbus, Nebraska. This material was compiled by the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, Loup Power District, city of Columbus, 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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Section headings are hot linked within this Facts Book. Click on the blue text links to jump to a new section. Clicking on the blue section headings will return you to the Table of Contents.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION	1
POPULATION	1
LOCAL ECONOMY	2
ELEVATION	2
TOPOGRAPHY	2
HISTORY	2

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MANUFACTURERS	7
MAJOR NONMANUFACTURING & NONRETAIL EMPLOYERS	17
OTHER MAJOR AREA EMPLOYERS	19
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION	20
INDUSTRIAL SITES AVAILABLE	20

LABOR

LABOR SUPPLY	23
UNIONIZATION	25
WAGES	25
FRINGE BENEFITS	27

TRANSPORTATION

RAILROADS	29
MOTOR	29
AIR	30
WATER	31
PIPELINE	31

UTILITIES

ELECTRICITY	33
NATURAL GAS	34
OTHER FUELS	35
WATER	35
SEWERAGE	36
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL	36
RECYCLING	37

COMMUNICATIONS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS	39
INTERNET	39
POST OFFICE	39
PACKAGE DELIVERY SERVICES	39
NEWSPAPER	39
RADIO	40
TELEVISION	40

TAX STRUCTURE

VALUES FOR TAX LEVY PURPOSES – CITY OF COLUMBUS 41
TAX RATE 41
CITY SALES TAX 41
LOCAL BONDED INDEBTEDNESS 41
CITY BOND ISSUES 42
SCHOOL BOND ISSUES 42
COUNTY BOND ISSUES 42

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

COUNTY GOVERNMENT 43
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT 43
FIRE PROTECTION 43
LAW ENFORCEMENT 44
STREETS 45
BUILDING AND ZONING REGULATIONS 45
PLANNING 45

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES 47
CHURCHES 57
SPECIALIZED SERVICES 58
MEDICAL 58
NURSING HOMES 61
LIBRARY 61
RECREATION 62
HOUSING 70
FINANCIAL 74

COMMUNITY SERVICES

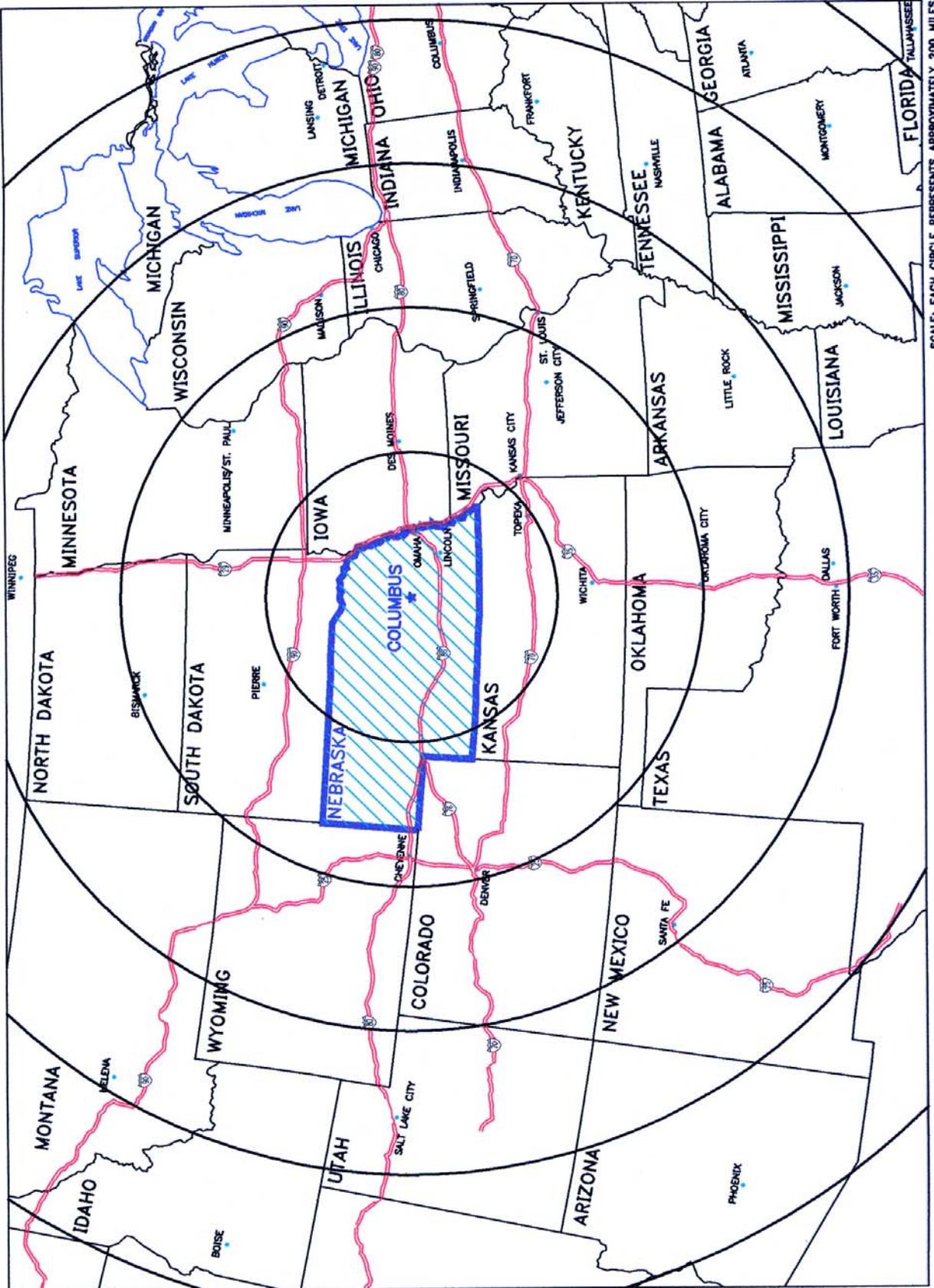
PROFESSIONAL 75
BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL 75

AGRICULTURE & RAW MATERIALS

AGRICULTURE 79
RAW MATERIALS 79

CLIMATE

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND HUMIDITY 80
FROST DATA 80



SCALE: EACH CIRCLE REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY 200 MILES

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 82 miles northwest of Lincoln and 87 miles west of Omaha.

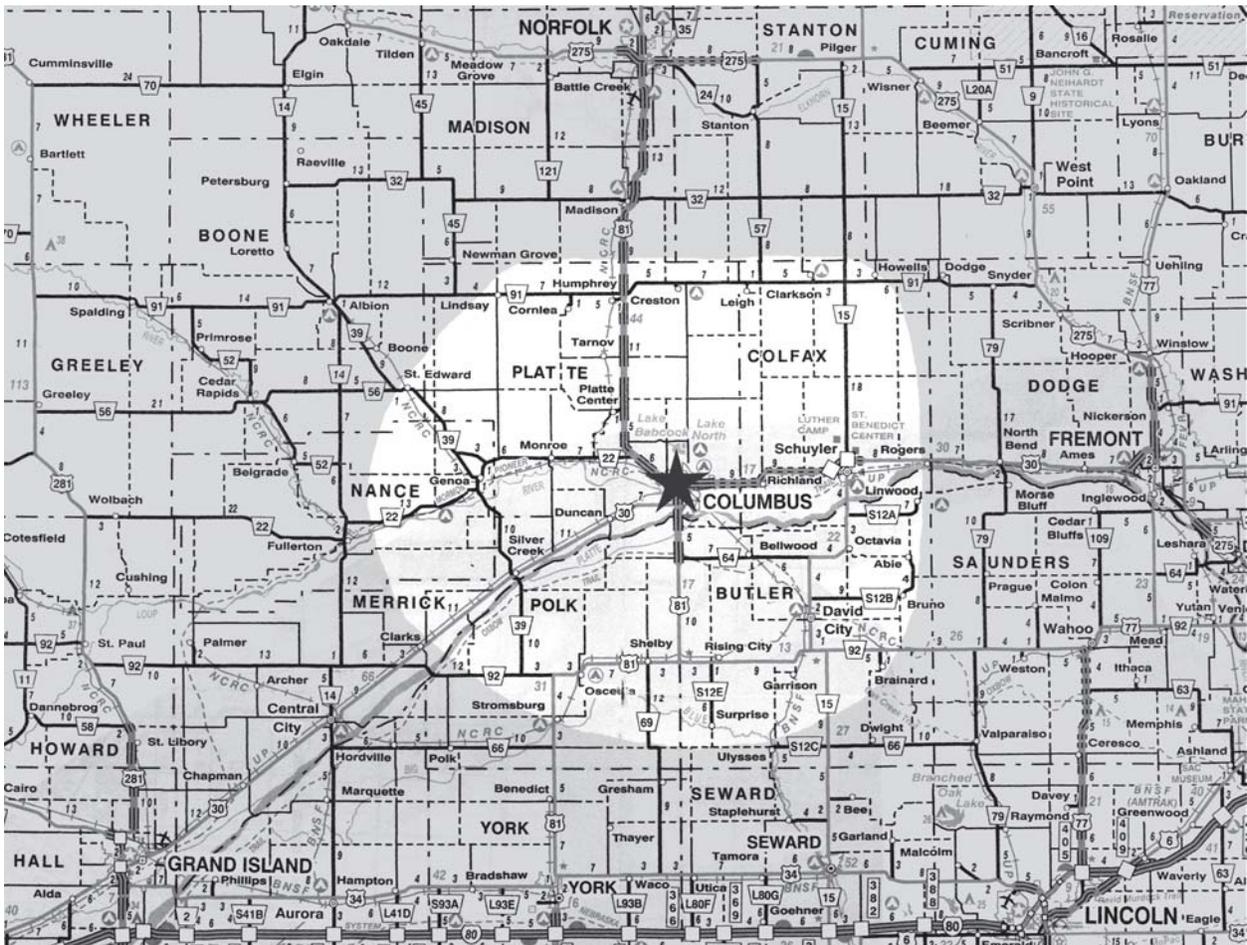
POPULATION (U.S. Census)

Year	Columbus	Platte County
1970	15,471	26,508
1980	18,060	28,852
1990	19,480	29,820
2000	20,971	31,662
2003 (Est.)	20,880	31,197

County Population by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2000 U.S. Census

One race	31,297
White	29,854
Black or African American	111
American Indian and Alaska Native	90
Asian	127
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	10
Some other race	1,105
Two or more races	365
Total Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	2,072

The 2003 U.S. Census estimates 116,228 people live within 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, retail and wholesale sales, tourism, conventions, and transportation. Columbus is also known as the headquarters of public power in Nebraska.

The primary retail trade area extends 19 miles north, 21 miles east, 23 miles southeast, 25 miles south, and 27 miles southwest and contains an estimated 57,700 people. Firms with sales tax permits in the community reported net taxable sales of \$267,817,531 in 2003 while Platte County reported retail sales of \$285,739,248. Thirty wholesale firms in Columbus 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 during the past five years with the expansions of several manufacturers, new regional hospital and attached medical office building, the Village Centre Mall, and expansions of several commercial businesses.

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 immigrants 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 that could transport an endless stream of immigrant wagons 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 previously discarded plan conceived by Babcock. Construction of the 35-mile canal between Genoa and Columbus began in 1934; peak employment during this construction period was more than 1,300 men.

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, formerly 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 “boat that won 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.

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 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 (formerly Moorman's, Inc.) 1967	Livestock feeds	National & Export	30 Total		None
ADM Corn Processing- Columbus 1992	Wet corn milling, corn starch, corn syrup, fructose, ethanol & multiple corn products	National & Export	249	36	None
BD Medical Pharmaceutical Systems 1951 (additional new facility in 2002)	Glass syringes	National & Export	182 1*	218 3*	None
BD Medical Surgical 1949	Hypodermic needles & syringes	National & Export	732 Total 14*		None
Behlen Mfg. Co. 1936	Steel buildings, agricultural & livestock equipment	National & Export	539 3*	120 4*	None
Blazer Manufacturing 1974	Athletic equipment & custom metal fabrication	National	25 Total 3*		None
CAMACO, LLC 1965	Automotive seats & frames	National & Export	348	145	None
Carneco Foods 1995	Ground beef	National	350 Total		None
Central Sand & Gravel 1947	Aggregates	Local & Regional	83 Total		None
Columbus Hydraulics Company 1952	Hydraulic & pneumatic cylinders	National	61 3*	7 1*	None
Columbus Metal Industries, Inc. 1960	Scrap metal processing	National & Export	27 Total		None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

<u>Company/ Year Established</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Market</u>	Employees		<u>Union</u>
			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Columbus Telegram 1879	Daily newspaper, printing	Local & Regional	18 9*	22 9*	None
Duo Lift Manufacturing Company, Inc. 1943	Trailers, running gears, soil samplers	National & Export	25 7*	3 1*	None
EGS Electrical Group- Appleton 1986	Electrical products	National & Export	345 Total 2*		None
FLEXcon Company, Inc. 1993	Pressure sensitive plastic film, decals, package labels, holograms, adhesive nameplates	National & Export	183	60	None
GreyStone, Inc. 1982	Aggregate handling equipment	National & Export	41 1*	2 1*	None
Heartland Products Company 1996	Steel products	National & Export	40 Total 2*		None
Henke Machine - Buffalo Equipment 1945	Earth moving scrapers, planters & cultivators	National & Export	39 4*	3	None
Mid-American Research Chemical Corp. 1970	Sanitary maintenance cleaners, floor & carpet products, insecticides & herbicides	National	14	10 2*	None
Orion Corporation 1979	Hydrodynamic bearings	National & Export	62 Total		None
Paige Electric 1979	Electric wire & cable	Local, National & Export	12	15	None
Rockwell Automation/ Reliance Electric 1994	Commercial & industrial motors	National	28	25	None
Shell Valley Companies, Inc. 1971	Molds & fiberglass products, custom steel fabrication & fiberglass work	National & Export	29 2*	7 4*	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal



ADM Alliance Nutrition



ADM Corn Processing–Columbus



BD Medical Pharmaceutical Systems



BD Medical Surgical



Behlen Mfg. Co.



Blazer Manufacturing



CAMACO, LLC



Carneco Foods



Central Sand & Gravel



Columbus Hydraulics Company



Columbus Telegram



Duo Lift Manufacturing Company, Inc.



EGS Electrical Group-Appleton



FLEXcon Company, Inc.



GreyStone, Inc.



Heartland Products Company



Henke Machine-Buffalo Equipment



Mid-American Research Chemical Corp.



Orion Corporation



Paige Electric



Rockwell Automation/Reliance Electric



Shell Valley Companies, Inc.



Technik Mfg., Inc.



Torin Products, Inc.



Tran-Tec Corporation



Vishay Dale Electronics

<u>Company/ Year Established</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Market</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Technik Mfg., Inc. 1989	Vending machines & dispensers	National & Export	17	18	None
Torin Products, Inc. 1965	Precision machined parts	National & Export	18	12	None
Tran-Tec Corporation 1979	Natural convection & forced air coolers for semi-conductors	National & Export	34 Total		None
Vishay Dale Electronics 1951	Electronic components	National & Export	525 Total		None

MAJOR NONMANUFACTURING & NONRETAIL 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	74 Total 1*		None
Beverly Healthcare-Columbus 1966 (est.)	Nursing care	130 Total 30*		None
Bierman Contracting 2002	Industrial, commercial & ag building construction	40 Total 5*		None
Central Community College- Columbus Campus 1968	Education	47 7*	47 25*	NSEA, CCCEA (faculty only)
City of Columbus 1856	Government	108 22*	54 26*	IAFF & IUPA
Columbus Community Hospital 1922	Medical	40	236 175*	None
Columbus Public Schools 1860	Education	104 7*	297 77*	CEA/ NSEA
Cornhusker Public Power District 1943	Electric utility	39 1*	5	None
Double O Trans., LLC 1990	Full service transportation	103	7 1*	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>	
Educational Service Unit No. 7 1967	Educational services	5 1*	42 13*	NSEA
Fagen, Inc. 1990	Industrial construction & maintenance	45 Total 1 Part-time		None
First National Bank & Trust Co. 1906	Financial	17 3*	64 27*	None
Hamilton Telecommunications 1996	Telemarketing	9 18*	28 49*	None
Heartland Builders 1988	General contractors/ construction	83	4 1*	None
Jackson Services 1926	Uniforms, dust control, lines, logo mats & rest room supplies	21 2*	35	None
Lakeview Community Schools 1969	Education	22 30*	87 23*	LEA/NEA
Loup Power District 1933	Electric utility	92 2*	16 10*	None
Mory's Haven 1955	Nursing home	1 1*	37 15*	None
Nebraska Public Power District 1941	Electric utility	244 6*	164 5*	None
New World Inn 1973	Lodging & convention center	9 5*	29 10*	None
Northwest Electric, Inc. 1953	Sales & repairs of rebuilt motors	38	7	None
PST 1994	Pork producers	250 Total		None
Platte County 1856	Government	91 4*	68 4*	None
RVW, Inc. 1938	Architecture & engineering	62	14 2*	None
Scotus Central Catholic Jr-Sr High 1878	Education	16 2*	24 13*	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>	
State of Nebraska (Platte Co.)	Government	113 Total		NAPE
U.S. Post Office 1856	Communications	26 4*	15 4*	APWU, NALC, NRLCA
Cliff Viessman, Inc 1992	Full-service transportation	48 15*	3	None

OTHER MAJOR AREA EMPLOYERS (employing 100 or more)

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Schuyler, 18 miles				
Alegent Health/Memorial Hospital, Inc.	Medical	145 Total		None
Cargil Meat Solutions	Beef processing	1,606	623	UFCW
Schuyler Grade Schools	Education	117 Total		SEA/ NEA/ NSEA
David City, 33 miles				
Butler County Health Care Center	Medical	14	91	None
David City Public Schools	Education	28	83	NSEA
David Place, Inc.	Multi-health care	5	95	None
David City Manufacturing Fargo Assembly of PA	Electrical harnesses	34	84	None
Henningsen Foods, Inc.	Frozen, liquid & dehydrated egg products	79	51	None
Kennel Vaccine Vet Supply	Animal health supplies & human natural supplements	15	87	None
Timpte, Inc.	Truck trailers	113	11	None
St. Joseph's Villa & Court	Nursing care/assisted living	7	98	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>	
Lindsay, 33 miles				
Lindsay Manufacturing Co.	Irrigation equipment & diversified manufacturing	428 Total		None

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

The Columbus Economic Council, 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. The Council consists of approximately 30 individuals representing a cross section of the business community of Columbus including city, county, and state government as well as financial, industrial and utility representatives. Robert E. White, president and CEO, and David Bell, development/marketing manager, Loup Power District, serve as co-chairs of the Columbus Economic Council.

Loup Power District established the first industrial site in Columbus in 1940s. The 90-acre site is completely occupied today with local and national industries. Loup Power District presently controls more than 250 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.

Since 2000 BD Medical Systems constructed an additional \$75 million plant and added 130 positions. The Columbus Development Corporation currently owns a new 32,000 square foot speculative building for industrial recruitment purposes. This building is available and will be finished to the client's specifications.

Approximately 250 acres of land in and adjacent to Columbus are zoned for industry. The price for industrially zoned land ranges from \$5,000 to \$7,000 per acre, depending on improvements.

INDUSTRIAL SITES AVAILABLE

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



Fagen, Inc.



Hamilton Telecommunications



Heartland Builders Company



RVW, Inc.



U.S. Post Office

LABOR

LABOR SUPPLY

- A. Employment in the Columbus labor market which is defined as the whole of Platte County and the total labor market consisting of Platte County and the contiguous counties of Boone, Butler, Colfax, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Polk, and Stanton (annual average, 2004):

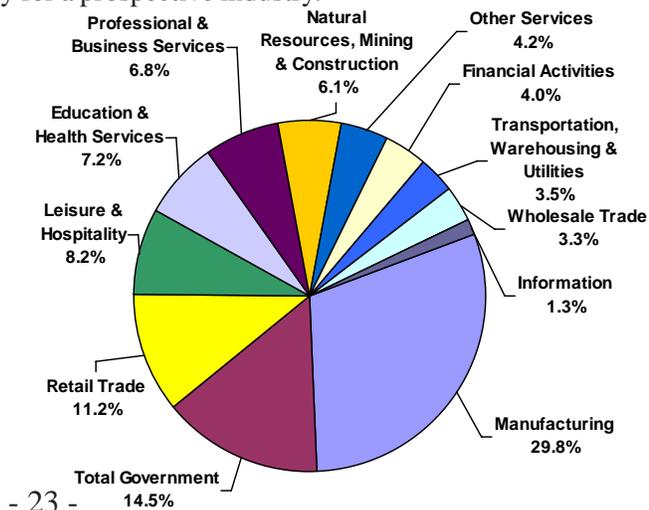
<u>Nonfarm Employment</u> (wage and salary workers)	<u>Platte County</u>	<u>Total</u>
Goods Producing	6,278	16,716
Manufacturing	5,219	(D)
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	1,059	(D)
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	3,131	12,218
Wholesale Trade	569	(D)
Retail Trade	1,949	(D)
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	613	(D)
Information	221	(D)
Financial Activities	705	2,145
Professional & Business Services	1,179	(D)
Education & Health Services	1,245	(D)
Leisure & Hospitality	1,421	4,108
Other Services	740	(D)
Government	2,521	10,208
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS	17,440	56,853
Farm Employment*	1,255	7,505
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	17,358	64,986
B. Commuting Out of County	1,485	N/A
C. Unemployment	724	2,375
TOTAL LABOR FORCE	18,082	67,361
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	395	
TOTAL POTENTIAL LABOR SUPPLY (B, C, D & E)	3,454	

(D) Data unavailable due to disclosure suppression.

*Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Data for 2000

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

NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT PLATTE COUNTY ANNUAL AVERAGE, 2004

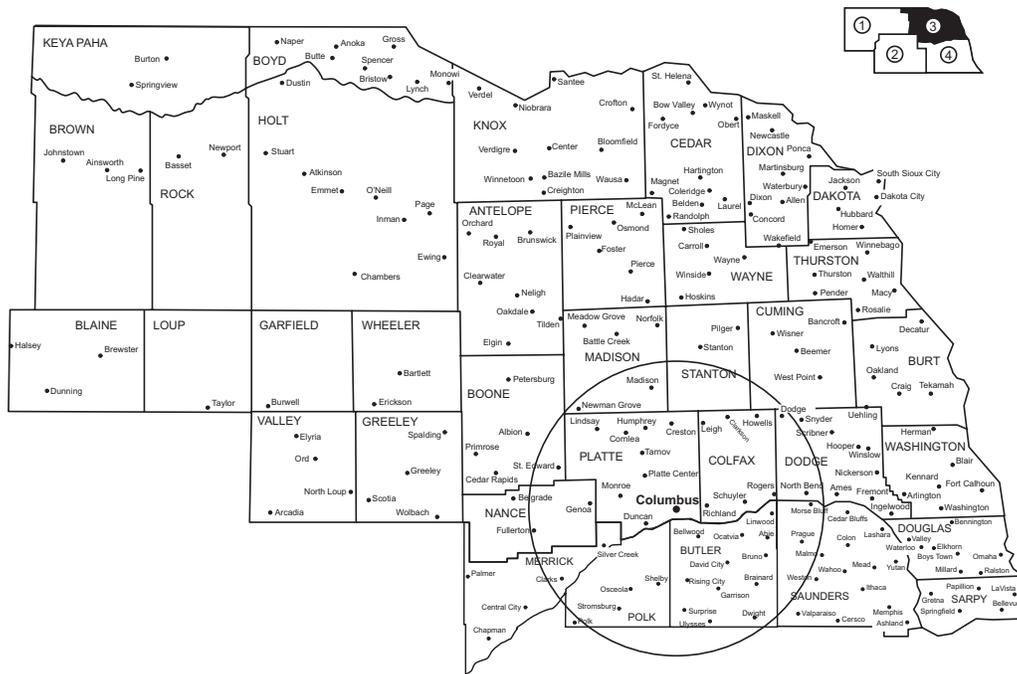


2000 POPULATION DATA						Median Household Effective Buying Income (2003)
Location	Density/ Sq. Mile	% 65 Yrs & Over	Median Age	% High School Graduate or Higher	% Bachelor's Degree or Higher	
Platte Co.	46.7	13.8	35.8	84.7	17.2	\$35,347
Nebraska	22.3	13.6	35.3	86.6	23.7	\$35,948
U.S.	79.6	12.4	35.9	84.0	26.0	\$38,201

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
 Sales and Marketing Management, 2004
 Statewide General Election 2004 Results, www.sos.state.ne.us/elec/canvass/general2004.htm

LABOR POTENTIAL IN THE COLUMBUS AREA



POPULATION DATA U.S. Census Estimates

2003 Estimate		
City of Columbus	—	20,880
Platte County	—	31,197
30-Mile Radius	—	72,052

Platte County Population by Age/Gender, 2003		
Ages	Male	Female
18-24	1,610	1,523
25-44	4,005	3,805
45-64	3,804	3,756

UNIONIZATION

Nebraska has a right-to-work provision in its constitution. In 2000, 13.1 percent of Nebraska's manufacturing workers were members of labor unions compared to a national figure of 14.8 percent. Union membership in Nebraska is concentrated in the railroad and packinghouse industries.

Labor organizations operating in Columbus:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Union</u>
Aquila	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Automated Flight Service Station	National Association of Air Traffic Specialists/ Professional Airways Systems Specialists
Central Community College, Columbus Campus (Certified Staff Only)	Central Community College Education Association
City of Columbus	Nebraska State Education Association
Columbus Public Schools (Certified Staff Only)	International Union of Police Associations/ International Association of Fire Fighters
Education Service Unit No. 7 (Certified Staff Only)	Columbus Education Association/ Nebraska State Education Association
Frontier Communications	Nebraska State Education Association
Lakeview Community School	Communications Workers of America
State of Nebraska	Lakeview Education Association/ Nebraska Education Association
U.S. Post Office	National Association of Professional Employees American Postal Workers Union/ National Association of Letter Carriers/ National Rural Letter Carriers Association

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 twenty years. None of the manufacturers in Columbus are unionized.

WAGES

<u>Occupation Title</u>	<u>Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile</u>		
	<u>10th</u>	<u>50th</u>	<u>90th</u>
Professional			
Accountants & Auditors	15.27	21.82	33.52
Engineers			
Civil Engineers	18.17	27.22	36.62
Electrical Engineers*	23.21	34.67	49.50
Industrial Engineers	18.15	25.78	35.63
Mechanical Engineers	18.49	25.26	34.79
Computer Programmers*	13.45	23.47	33.31
Computer Systems Analysts	18.54	35.21	51.50
Registered Nurses	15.44	21.11	27.46

* Wage information taken from Balance of the State (nonmetropolitan areas)

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile		
	10th	50th	90th
Retail			
Hotel, Motel & Resort Desk Clerks	6.59	8.28	9.74
Retail Salespersons	5.89	7.96	14.40
Truck Drivers-Light or Delivery Services	6.85	10.03	16.43
Driver/Sales Workers	6.00	9.95	21.88
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	6.33	10.04	15.87
Shipping, Receiving & Traffic Clerks	7.45	11.45	16.84
Clerical			
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	7.59	10.66	15.56
Customer Service Representatives	6.27	9.79	15.34
Data Entry Keyers	7.41	10.38	13.62
Secretaries, excl. Legal, Medical & Executive	7.05	10.17	13.87
Office Clerks, General	6.28	9.37	13.50
Receptionists & Information Clerks	6.71	8.95	11.57
Telemarketers	6.82	8.30	10.83
Unskilled			
Laborers & Freight, Stock & Material Movers, Hand	7.08	9.36	13.14
Packers & Packagers, Hand	6.02	8.52	12.46
Assemblers & Fabricators, All Others	8.10	11.61	13.75
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants	7.49	9.55	12.25
Semi-Skilled			
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	9.30	11.62	16.70
Truck Drivers, Heavy or Tractor-Trailer	9.50	14.58	21.52
Maintenance Workers, Machinery	11.87	14.39	20.25
Machine Operators			
Lathe & Turning Machine Tool Setters/Oper.	10.32	12.80	17.07
Drilling & Boring Machine Tool Setters/Oper.*	9.63	11.72	16.76
Milling & Planing Machine Setters/Oper.*	9.45	12.44	15.82
Grinding, Lapping, Polishing & Buffing Mach. Oper.	9.86	12.45	15.16
Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters/Oper.	7.70	9.05	13.24
Cutting, Punching & Press Machine Setters/Oper.	8.38	12.01	16.36
Multiple Machine Tool Setters/Oper.	9.88	14.58	17.03
Skilled			
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	7.15	11.98	19.61
Electricians	10.32	16.22	21.79
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	12.54	16.12	21.08
Machinists	9.60	13.17	17.45
Tool & Die Makers	14.10	18.83	24.49
Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers	9.40	12.67	17.57
Welding, Soldering & Brazing Machine Setters*	9.91	12.99	17.68

* Wage information taken from Balance of the State (nonmetropolitan areas)

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile		
	10th	50th	90th
Technical			
Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians	11.57	23.76	32.59
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologists	13.31	19.69	26.66
Computer Operators	9.48	12.03	18.55

*Wage information taken from Balance of the State (nonmetropolitan areas)

Source: Nebraska Workforce Development, Occupational Employment Statistics Program, First Quarter 2005 wage estimates, All Industries, Northeast Region, 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 range up to 40 percent of wages.



Platte County Museum



Centrum Plaza



Cherry Creek Plaza



30 Center Mall



East Point Plaza



Ernst Retail Center



Northtown Mall



Pershing Center



Village Center Mall



Westgate Center

TRANSPORTATION

RAILROADS

Columbus is served by the main line of the Union Pacific Railroad with 75 to 85 freight trains daily. Switching is done daily by a local switch crew in yards and train crews on the main line. Reciprocal switching is available.

The Burlington Northern Santa Fe 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.

Railroad mileage to major cities:

Destination	Mileage
Omaha	83
Lincoln	114
Chicago	546
Dallas	785
Denver	528
Kansas City	283
Los Angeles	1,711
Minneapolis	427
St. Louis	558
San Francisco	1,768

Amtrak provides Lincoln, 82 miles south 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 service, and checked baggage service from most cities. Travel time is 11 hours to Chicago and 42 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. No local load restrictions exist. Interstate 80 is 54 miles south and Interstate 29 is 85 miles east of Columbus.

Both U.S. Highway 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 and construction from Columbus south to York is scheduled to be completed by 2010. 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	82
Omaha	92
Chicago	543
Dallas	643
Denver	468
Detroit	810
Kansas City	274
Los Angeles	1,482
Minneapolis	453
New York	1,317
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; a \$2 million reconstruction of the intersection of U.S. Highways 30 and 81; and a \$7 million reconstruction of the viaduct on U.S. Highway 30/81 through Columbus.

Bus Line

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

Bus Lines

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.

Trucklines

Less-than-truckload carriers (all with truckload capabilities) serving Columbus:

Nearest Terminal/ Company	Trailers Per Day	Express Capabilities
Columbus		
ABF*	2	Yes
Lyon Transfer**	3	No
David City		
M & S Transfer**	1	No
Grand Island		
Conway Central	1	Yes
Kearney		
Brown Transfer	2	No
Lincoln		
WSKT	1	No
Norfolk		
Saia	1	No
Omaha		
Dohrn	1	No
Fed Ex Freight	1	Yes
Lakeville Motor Express	1	Yes
Midwest Motor Express	1	No
Nebraska Transport Co.	1	Yes
Overnight Transportation	1	Yes
R & L Motor Lines	1	No
Roadway Express	1	Yes
USF Dugan	1	No
USF Holland	1	No
Yellow Transportation	2	Yes

*Substation in Columbus; terminal in Omaha
 **Intrastate

Truckload carriers serving Columbus:

Nearest Terminal/ Company	Trucks Daily	Inter/ Intrastate
Columbus		
BMC	As needed	Inter/Intra
Double O Trans.	80	Inter/Intra
Mid-Nebraska Transp.	2	Interstate
Rickert Transp.	7	Interstate

Nearest Terminal/ Company	Trucks Daily	Inter/ Intrastate
Sliva Transportation	15	Inter/Intra
Viessman	35	Inter/Intra
Vollbracht's Inc.	2	Interstate
Cedar Rapids		
Zentner Transport	15	Interstate
David City		
M & S Transfer	2	Intrastate
Grand Island		
G.I. Express	150	Inter/Intra
Lincoln		
Crete Carrier Corp.	3,700	Interstate
Norfolk		
Andrews Van Lines	50	Inter/Intra
Central Transport	35	Inter/Intra
Omaha		
Werner Enterprises	3	Inter/Intra
Yellow Transport	As needed	Inter/Intra
Seward		
Seward Motor Fr.	125	Inter/Intra

Taxi

City Cab serves Columbus with three 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	6,780'	Concrete/ Asphalt	Yes
02/20	4,135'	Turf	No

Facilities at the Columbus Municipal Airport include 100 low-lead octane and jet fuel, full instrument landing capabilities, nonprecision approach, full maintenance, tie downs, courtesy and rental cars, aircraft rental and sales, crop spraying, and flight instruction. One of the 20 private planes 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, the latitude is 41°26.88'N, and the longitude is 97°20.56'W.

The Automated Flight Service Station opened in October 1985 and provides aeronautical information to pilots. The flight service station is operated by the Federal Aviation Administration as one of 61 Automated Flight Service Stations in the United States.

Commercial air service is available at the Lincoln Airport, 75 miles (75 minutes) southeast, and Omaha's Eppley Airfield, 84 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 95 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

Kaneb Pipeline Company operates a terminal seven miles east of Columbus.



Columbus Municipal Airport



Automated Flight Service Station



BMC Transportation



Double O Trans., LLC



Cliff Viessman, Inc.

UTILITIES

ELECTRICITY

Loup Power District (www.loup.com), a wholesale power customer of Nebraska Public Power District (www.nppd.com), provides electric service to 22 communities in the four-county area of Boone, Colfax, Nance, and Platte. Loup Power provides wholesale service to the communities of Clarkson, Leigh, and Schuyler as well as to Nebraska G & T. Loup Power District, Nebraska Public Power District, and Cornhusker Public Power District (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 230 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.

ELECTRIC RATES—Loup Power District (effective 2/1/05)

Residential Service:

Customer Charge: \$12.50 per month		
Summer	Winter	
9.00¢	4.20¢	per kWh for the first 600 kWh used per month
5.85¢	3.69¢	per kWh for all additional use
Minimum Bill: \$12.50 per month		

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

Commercial Service (single phase):

Customer Charge: \$17.50 per month		
Summer	Winter	
8.80¢	5.40¢	per kWh for the first 600 kWh used per month
8.05¢	4.90¢	per kWh for the next 600 kWh used per month
7.10¢	4.45¢	per kWh for all additional use
Minimum Bill: \$17.50 plus 50¢ per kVA transformer capacity above 25 kVA		

This rate is subject to application of a retail production cost adjustment.

Commercial (three phase):

Customer Charge: \$25.00 per month		
Summer	Winter	
8.80¢	5.40¢	per kWh for the first 1,800 kWh used per month
8.05¢	4.90¢	per kWh for the next 1,200 kWh used per month
7.10¢	4.45¢	per kWh for all additional use
Minimum Bill: \$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.

Commercial - Sample Cost per kWh:

kW	kWh	Annual Average ¢/kWh ¹
100	30,000	5.51
100	36,000	5.48
300	90,000	5.56
300	150,000	4.28
500	150,000	5.56
500	180,000	5.04

¹Includes Lease Payment and Gross Revenue Tax.

Large Light and Power Service (distribution delivery less than 300 kW demand):

Customer Charge: \$225.00 per month		
Demand Charge		
Summer	Winter	
\$13.50	\$6.50	per kW per month of maximum billing demand
Plus an Energy Charge of		
Summer	Winter	
3.30¢	1.90¢	per kWh
Minimum Bill: \$225.00 per month plus 50¢ per kVA transformer capacity installed		

This rate is subject to application of the Retail Production Cost Adjustment.

Large Light and Power Service (distribution delivery greater than 300 kW demand):

Customer Charge: \$275.00 per month		
Demand Charge		
Summer	Winter	
\$13.50	\$6.50	per kW on-peak demand
\$ 4.25	\$3.00	per kW off-peak demand above on peak demand
Plus an Energy Charge of		
Summer	Winter	
3.70¢	2.25¢	per kWh on-peak
2.90¢	1.75¢	per kWh off-peak
Minimum Bill: \$275.00 per month plus 50¢ per kVA transformer capacity installed		

This rate is subject to application of the Retail Production Cost Adjustment.

Industrial rates subtransmission delivery are also available.

Industrial - Sample Cost per kWh:

kW	kWh	Annual Average ¢/kWh ¹
150	30,000	7.53
150	100,000	3.92
500	100,000	7.13
500	300,000	4.00
1,000	200,000	6.99
1,000	650,000	3.83

¹Includes Lease Payment. Does not include Gross Revenue Tax.

For further information regarding electric rates and service, prospective customers should contact president and CEO, Robert E. White, Loup Power District, Columbus, Nebraska, (402) 564-3171, email: rwhite@loup.com, or visit www.loup.com.

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, email: cppd@megavision.com, or visit 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 pipeline company.

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

Natural gas, with an average value of 1,000 BTU per cubic foot, is available for residential, commercial, and industrial customers for base and peak use on a firm basis. Interruptible service is available for customers with alternate fuel capability. Annual curtailment of interruptible customer varies with the type of service selected by the customer.

NATURAL GAS RATES (effective 3/03/04):

Rates vary slightly due to seasonal fluctuations.

Residential:

Customer Charge:	\$11.00 per month
All therms	\$ 0.76826 per therm

Commercial/Industrial:

Customer Charge:	\$15.00 per month
All therms	\$ 0.79915 per therm

Small Volume Interruptible*:

Customer Charge:	\$50.00 per month
All therms	\$ 0.66930 per therm

*This schedule applies to commercial and industrial customers with daily requirements less than 200 Mcf and is contingent on adequate gas supply and distribution system capacity.

Commercial/Industrial - Large Volume:

Rates are negotiable and determined by individual customer contract.
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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

Propane gas is available for residential, commercial, and industrial uses at Ferrellgas, Inc., Sapp Brothers, and Central Valley Ag.

Oil

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

WATER

The municipal water system in Columbus has 13 wells with an average depth of 150 feet. The system, serving 99 percent of the city’s population, has a combined pumping capacity of 17,800 gallons per minute and an overhead and underground storage capacity of 6,826,000 gallons. The average daily demand is 6,217,000 gallons, and the historic peak daily demand is 14,160,000 gallons per day. The system has a rated capacity of 32,198,400 gallons daily. The static pressure is 55 pounds per square inch and the residual pressure is 50 pounds per square inch.

Groundwater is available in the Columbus vicinity for industrial uses. A 150-foot well will produce

2,000 gallons of water per minute. The water table has not changed significantly during the past five years.

The two water treatment facilities add chlorine, fluoride, and polyphosphate. The facilities have a combined capacity of 23,535,360 gallons per day.

The color of the water is clear and the hardness, in parts per million, is 271. The average tap water temperature varies from 52° in winter to 55° in summer.

Chemical Analysis (parts per million)

Hydrogen Ion Concentration	7.35
Calcium	80.1
Total 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	271.0
Potassium	N/A

N/A - Not available

The annual water quality report for Columbus is available at www.hhs.state.ne.us, the website of the Nebraska Health and Human Services System, or call Public Works/Environmental Service Department in Columbus, at (402) 562-4234.

WATER RATES (effective 1/01/2004)

Water connection fees are not charged for new water service.

Residential, Commercial & Industrial:

Use	Inside <i>per thousand gallons</i>	Outside
Residential	\$0.72	\$1.34
Commercial	\$0.65	\$1.33
Industrial	\$0.65	\$1.18

Plus a service charge of:

Meter (inches)	
5/8 & 3/4	\$ 3.60
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

A 2 million gallon water tower was built in 2001 at a cost of \$2.2 million. This project was financed by utility revenue bonds. The city is extending water and sewer services to the east and north with a planned elevated water storage tank in 2008 at a cost of \$2.5 million to be funded by utility revenue bonds.

SEWERAGE

Columbus has a municipal sanitary sewerage system and a separate storm sewer system. The existing wastewater facility, built in 1969, is classified as an activated sludge wastewater treatment facility. The facility was expanded in 1989 for additional capacity and treatment to meet additional permit requirements at that time. The facility has a daily design capacity of 4.5 million gallons and design loadings of just under 10,000 pounds of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) per day and 8,400 pounds of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) per day. The average daily flow is 3.1 million gallons and the historic peak daily discharge is 3.8 million gallons. In 1995 a new permit limitation for ammonia nitrogen (NH₃-N) was placed on the facility, which required more stringent removal requirements. The existing facility was not designed to remove ammonia.

The city expanded the wastewater treatment facility with a 3 million gallons per day, three-channel extended aeration oxidation ditch, two secondary clarifiers, a Class "A" biosolids process facility, and administration building. The \$6.5 million expansion increased the overall design to 7.5 million gallons per day and loadings of pounds

of 16,000 BOD per day, 8,700 pounds of TSS per day, and 1,300 pounds of NH₃-N per day. With some modifications, this facility may also remove phosphorus. This project was completed in 2004 and financed by utility revenue bonds .

SEWER-USE CHARGES (effective 1/01/04)

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

Residential, Commercial & Industrial:

Use	Inside	Outside
	<i>per thousand gallons</i>	
Residential	\$1.68	\$2.41
Commercial	\$1.68	\$2.41
Industrial	\$1.68	\$2.41

Residential rates are based upon winter water usage while commercial and industrial rates are based on actual monthly usage.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

The city owns and operates a transfer station and transports items to the Northeast Nebraska Solid Waste Coalition Landfill, 32 miles northeast of Columbus. The city, along with 24 other cities and counties, is a member of this coalition. An expansion of the landfill is currently in progress.

TRANSFER TIPPING FEES (effective 10/01/04):

Solid waste (per net ton)	\$53.00 per ton
Automobiles & pickup trucks w/o trailers carrying <566 lbs.	\$15.00 minimum
Trees, limbs, wood pallets, or masonry rubble unloaded or deposited in designated area	\$3.00 minimum

SOLID WASTE REMOVAL RATES

Residential:

Average cost \$17.50 per month

Commercial & Industrial:

Negotiable with private hauler

RECYCLING

The Columbus Recycle Center is staffed six hours a day Monday through Friday and four hours on Saturday. Drop chutes for plastics, paper, and aluminum are available 24 hours each day. The

following items are accepted: #1 and #2 plastics, newspaper, school paper, office paper, computer paper, shredded office paper, corrugated cardboard, magazines, phonebooks, catalogs, and steel and aluminum cans. For additional information, visit www.megavision.com/recycle.



Columbus Public Library



Senior Center



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 digital central office served via an OC 48 and an OC 3 fiber optic system. Frontier is capable of providing ISDN; frame relay; equal access, which can service all long distance companies; T1's; T3's; voice mail; and digital "class" calling features. Alternate routes are available for T1 services. Extended Area Services (EAS) 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 09/01/00)

Residential Line	\$17.50
Business Line	\$27.50

INTERNET

Columbus has high speed Internet services provided via DSL, cable modem, and wireless technologies. Six companies provide Internet service ranging from 56K dial-up to the high speed service available from Community Internet (a local and statewide ISP offering DSL service), Time Warner Roadrunner (cable modem), and Frontier (telephone ILEC). Several local entrepreneurial businesses provide a 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. House-to-house delivery is provided. The nearest general mail facility is located in Omaha, 88 miles.

Postal receipts for the last five fiscal years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Receipts</u>
2004	\$ 3,537,609
2003	\$ 3,600,000
2002	\$ 3,500,000
2001	\$ 3,300,000
2000	\$ 3,150,000

PACKAGE DELIVERY SERVICES

Overnight express service availability:

	Federal Express	UPS	DHL
Latest Pick-up Time	5:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Earliest Delivery	8:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	12 noon
Next Day Delivery Guarantee	Yes	Yes	Yes
Saturday Delivery Guarantee	Yes	Yes	Yes

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

NEWSPAPER

The Columbus Telegram, the local daily newspaper, has 9,967 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 24,000 in Columbus as well as six other counties.

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

RADIO

The six radio stations in Columbus are:

Call Letters	Frequency
KTTT	1510 KHz
KKOT	93.5 MHz
KJSK	900 KHz
KLIR	101.1 MHz
KTLX	91.9 MHz
KZEN	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 180 channels, including 15 basic, 70 extended basic, 51 premium channels, and more than 66 pay-per-view channels.

Dish Network and DirecTV satellite services are provided in Columbus with access up to 500 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. Call (800) 474-4088 for more information.



Columbus Fire Department

TAX STRUCTURE

VALUES FOR TAX LEVY PURPOSES – CITY OF COLUMBUS

All real property is required to be appraised at its actual value. Agricultural land is valued at 80 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		
	2002	2003	2004
Real Estate	\$795,690,590	\$821,254,155	\$844,863,310
Personal Property	20,130,660	32,149,943	32,345,356
Special (railroad and utilities)	23,600,700	13,295,838	12,378,364
TOTAL	\$808,291,290	\$866,699,936	\$889,587,030

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

	2002	2003	2004
City	\$0.327831	\$0.332930	\$0.336131
County	.242122	.237606	.229421
School District	1.110402	1.171028	1.193856
Community College	.070000	.079063	.082411
Educational Service Unit	.015334	.014998	.014998
Natural Resource District	.021258	.024359	.023104
Agricultural Society	.011996	.011724	.011785
Airport	.021944	.015626	.032245
TOTAL	\$1.820887	\$1.887334	\$1.923951

The tax rate at the industrial sites outside the city limits varies from \$1.330425 to \$1.617018 per \$100 of actual value.

CITY SALES TAX

Effective April 1, 2005, a total of 1.5 percent sales tax will be imposed in Columbus. The 1 percent local option sales tax has been in effect since 1995 and sunsets in 2007. City sales tax has been earmarked by the voters for the following projects: 25 percent street improvements, 25 percent capital improvements, and 50 percent surface drainage. A .5 percent sales tax to be effective April 1, 2005, was passed by the voters in September 2004 to construct a \$6.5 million Columbus Family Water Park.

LOCAL BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

As of September 30, 2004:	
City—Revenue Bonds	\$23,955,000
City—General Obligation Bonds	\$ 7,415,000
As of August 31, 2004	
School District	\$27,150,000
As of June 30, 2004	
County	\$ 6,620,000

CITY BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 9/30/04	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
Revenue Bonds					
Combined Rev. Refunding	09/01/97	\$6,235,000	\$4,000,000	4.00–5.20	12/15/11
Combined Revenue	12/16/99	\$1,725,000	\$1,725,000	4.80–5.20	12/15/17
Combined Revenue	08/15/01	\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000	4.50–5.00	06/15/21
Sub Combined Revenue	07/15/03	\$8,725,000	\$8,725,000	2.00–4.50	12/15/23
Sub Combined Revenue	05/15/04	\$7,205,000	\$7,205,000	3.00–4.65	12/15/23
General Obligation Bonds					
Various Purpose	11/15/99	\$ 875,000	\$ 685,000	4.00–5.60	11/15/14
GO Refunding	01/01/02	\$1,650,000	\$1,010,000	2.10–4.50	06/15/11
Flood Control	07/15/02	\$5,790,000	\$5,720,000	1.65–4.40	11/15/14

Voters approved a \$6.5 million bond issue in September 2004 for a family water plex.

SCHOOL BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 08/31/04	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
Building (West Park Elem.)	2003	\$ 1,120,000	\$ 1,105,000	.9–3.9	2015
Building (Centennial/ Emerson Elementaries)	2004	\$ 8,865,000	\$ 8,510,000	1.05–4.5	2019
High School Remodel	2004	\$17,680,000	\$17,535,000	1.2–5.0	2023

COUNTY BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 6/30/04	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
Detention Facility	03/2001	\$7,000,000	\$6,620,000	3.70–4.90	2014

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Platte County has 18 townships and is governed by a seven-member Board of Supervisors, who are elected by popular vote for four-year terms. The next election will be held in 2006. The county belongs to the Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District along with 15 other counties. Platte County is not zoned. The 2004–05 actual budget is \$18,476,932

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 2006. The 2004–05 actual budget is \$49,405,475. Municipal officials are:

Title	Term of Office
Elected	
Mayor	4 years
City Council (8)	4 years
Appointed	
City Administrator	4 years
City Clerk/Ass't.	4 years
Finance Director	
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 the community by 12 full-time firefighters, 68 city 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 firefighter for quick response to all calls. The department has a contract with the Rural Fire Department (21 volunteers) to send a minimum of one rural truck with two firemen on rural calls along with available volunteers. Present policy is to send two full-time firemen with two pieces of equipment or two full-time firemen with one piece of equipment, depending on the nature of the call. The industrial sites are provided full coverage.

The city, with more than 1,150 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 \$1,248,351.

Equipment in the fire department:

Year/Make	Description
City	
1985 Mack	1,250 gpm
American	1,500 gpm
LaFrance	
2000 Pierce	1,500 gpm
1987 Ford Ambulance	2 stretchers BLS
1998 Ford Ambulance	4 stretchers ALS
1992 Ford Ambulance	4 stretchers ALS
2002 Ford Ambulance	4 stretchers ALS
1963 International Snorkel	75' aerial
2002 Freightliner	Utility truck
1972 Dodge	Quick response unit
Rural	
1981 Mack	1,250 gpm
1980 International	1,400 gal. tanker
1993 Ford	1,250 gpm
1996 International	1,250 gpm/ 75' aerial
2002 Freightliner	1,600 gal. tanker
2003 Ford	Grass rig

In addition, the department has a 2004 hazmat unit and support unit.

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

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2003	\$ 70,270
2002	\$268,950
2001	\$500,000
2000	\$350,000
1999	\$400,000

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 each year.

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.

The fire department also has a training tower located at the airport. This project was financed by private funds and fund-raising projects.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Police Department

The Columbus Police Department employs 35 full-time police 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 (NWAS); local fire and burglar alarms; and national, state, and local crime information teletype systems are all monitored by the department. Countywide Crimestoppers 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. The department cooperates with the Platte County Sheriff's Department and the Platte County Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons to form the Platte County Area (TRIAD)

providing an educational program directed to senior citizens. Annual expenditures for police protection for the last three years averaged \$2,500,000. For further information, visit www.megavision.net/police.

The 2002 crime rate per 1,000 population was 26.8 in Columbus and 23.8 in Platte County compared to a state crime rate of 42.6 and a national rate of 41.2.

Sheriff's Department

The Platte County Sheriff's Department is staffed by a sheriff, 23 full-time and 3 part-time officers, and 12 support personnel. The department has 10 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 the 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 new 60,000 square foot Platte County Detention Facility was completed 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 correction 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 Resources Center in Columbus stations four patrol officers and two carrier enforcement officers.

STREETS

The city 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.

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, and 1 aerial truck.

Thirty blocks of 38th Street are scheduled for paving during the next two years at a cost of \$1,500,000 to be financed by street assessments and federal funds.

BUILDING AND ZONING

REGULATIONS

The 2003 International Building Code, 1997 Uniform Plumbing Code, and the 2002 National Electric 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 District
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
PUD	Planned Unit Development
HD	Historic District
ED	Environmental Resources
A	Agricultural

PLANNING

Columbus has a nine-member Planning and Zoning Commission. Each member is appointed by the mayor and the 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

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Columbus Public School System

Type of School	Classrooms	Students	Teacher/ Pupil Ratio	Computer/ Pupil Ratio
Elementary (K–5)	93 (6 schools)	1,511	1 to 15	1 to 3
Middle School (6–8)	48	857	1 to 13	1 to 4
High School (9–12)	72	1,148	1 to 16	1 to 3

School District No. 1 in Platte County covers 57.3 square miles and had an actual 2003 valuation of \$1,056,455,378. 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 North Central Association.

The 2003–04 school operating budget was \$23,825,000, with an average cost per pupil of \$6,284.

The maximum capacity of the 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 was built in 1958 with additions in 1965, 1976, and 1988 and has a maximum capacity of 1,400. A \$17 million bond issue was passed in 2004 to remodel and expand the current high school.

Test Results

Name	% Students Taking Test	Average Score
7th Grade	100	78th
Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)		percentile
ACT	60	composite 22.3

One merit scholarship was presented to a Columbus High student in 2003–04 with one finalist and one semifinalist.

It is estimated that 86 percent of the eighth grade students finish high school, 83 percent of the graduating seniors pursue a college degree, and 13 percent of the graduates enter the job market directly after high school.

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. Four years of foreign language instruction are offered in Spanish and German. In the 2003–04 academic year, 51 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; 52 percent of the student body was enrolled in science programs, including 20 percent of the senior class in two levels of college preparatory physics. Sixty-nine percent of the junior class is enrolled in two levels of college preparatory chemistry. Ninety-four 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

Name of School	Classrooms	Students	Teacher/ Pupil Ratio	Computer/ Pupil Ratio
Lakeview High (9–12)	25	321	1 to 14	1 to 1.9
Platte Center (K–8)	12	120	1 to 11	1 to 2.4
Shell Creek (K–8)	13	191	1 to 15	1 to 3.8
Sunrise (K–8)	11	129	1 to 9	1 to 3.2
Christ Lutheran* (Pre–K–8)	5	52	1 to 10	1 to 4.3
St. Johns Lutheran*(K–8)	3	28	1 to 9	1 to 1.9

*Lutheran schools within the boundaries of Lakeview Community Schools

Lakeview Community Schools, reorganized in 1997 as a K–12, Class III district, had an actual 2004 valuation of \$533,019,099, or an actual valuation per pupil of \$688,655. The 2003–04 school operating expenses totaled \$7,053,728 (excluding parochial schools), with an average cost per pupil of \$8,015. The high school is accredited “A” by the state of Nebraska and the North Central Association of Schools and Universities.

the high school. Adult education programs are offered in the high school in conjunction with various colleges. Lakeview also offers a wide variety of clubs, organizations, and activities. School Match has recognized Lakeview High School nine times as a leader in creating an educational program that matches public needs.

Various course offerings in agriculture education, industrial technology, family and consumer sciences, and business education are offered in

Test Results

Name	% Students Taking Test	Average Score
ACT	69	composite 22.2

Parochial Schools

The parochial schools cooperate with the Columbus Public Schools, Central Community College, and Educational Service Unit No. 7 to offer the best opportunities to students.

Type of School	Class Rooms	Students	Teacher/ Pupil Ratio	Computer/ Pupil Ratio	Annual Avg. Tuition
Catholic Jr.-Sr. High (7–12)	35	368	1 to 12	1 to 3.5	\$1,825
Lutheran Elementary (Pre–K–8)	12	240	1 to 16	1 to 3.5	\$1,260 (member)
Christian (Pre–K–8)	4	60	1 to 12	1 to 6.6	\$2,000 (1 - 8)
St. Anthony (Pre–K–6)	7	114	1 to 17	1 to 5	\$1,450
St. Bonaventure (Pre–K–6)	17	189	1 to 14	1 to 3.7	\$1,400
St. Isidore (Pre–K–6)	7	212	1 to 16	1 to 5	\$1,375



Columbus 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



Scotus Central Catholic High School



Lakeview High School



Educational Service Unit No. 7



Central Community College, Columbus Campus

Catholic

The Nebraska Department of Education accredits the Catholic elementary schools. The Nebraska Department of Education and the North Central Association accredits Scotus Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School. During the 2003–04 school year, budgeted expenditures for Columbus Catholic Schools were \$4,000,306. The average cost per elementary pupil is \$3,545 and \$5,263 for the high school. Tuition assistance and scholarships are available at all of the Catholic schools. The Columbus Catholic Schools operate under a coordinated K–12 curriculum in addition to K–6. The three Catholic elementary schools—St. Anthony, St. Bonaventure, and St. Isidore—offer preschool and daycare programs. Scotus offers a comprehensive college preparatory curriculum in an atmosphere conducive to teaching and learning. Advance placement courses are offered in three areas of the curriculum at Scotus Central Catholic. The average ACT composite score for Scotus students is 23.0. In the last three years, 99 to 100 percent of the Scotus graduates have attended college.

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. For more than 110 years, Immanuel has provided quality education with a strong tradition of excellence. 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 as well as operates an on-site daycare year round. For more information, call (402) 564-8423 or (402) 564-0502 or visit www.immanuelweb.org.

Christian

The Columbus Christian School (CCS), opened in 1994, is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International. CCS, a nondemoninational 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. For more information, visit www.columbuschristian.org or call (402) 562-6470.

Educational Service Unit

Columbus area schools receive and have access to a wide range of supplemental services from Educational Service Unit No. 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 No. 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.

Colleges and Universities

Columbus is part of the Central Community College system, 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 2003–04 academic year, 25,749 students were enrolled in Central Community College courses, with approximately 7,699 participating in off-campus programs.

Central Community College operates a Learning Center at several locations in Columbus. Courses are taught on an individual basis, using course materials from the Columbus Campus. Materials include books, cassette tapes, slides, films, and various type of study packets. A Learning Center Manager helps students as they work through courses that pertain to a special degree with academic transfer and serves as a contact with the Columbus Campus faculty.

Certificate, Diploma, and Degree Programs:

Coursework in nearly all major areas of study is available, including more than 100 vocational-technical and academic transfer college credit courses. Classes are available through various delivery methods, including:

—**Independent Study:** Allows students to work on college credit classes at their own pace, using course materials from the campuses. The staff serve as a contact 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 provides 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 planning in-service and/or in-plant training programs.

CCC Graduate Report 2003–04

Program	# of Graduates
Accounting	26
Academic Transfer	85
Agriculture Occupations	18
Art, Commercial	7
Associate Degree in Nursing	39
Auto Body Technology	35
Automotive Technology	24
Business Administration	62
Commercial Horticulture	11
Construction Technology	53
Criminal Justice	10
Dental Assisting	21
Dental Hygiene	15
Diesel Technology	12
Drafting Occupations	37
Electrical Technology	20
Electronics Technology	11
Family and Consumer Science	42
Health Information Management Services	32
Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration	15
Hospitality Management & Culinary Arts	11
Human Services	20
Industrial Technology	45
Information Technology	53
Machine Tool Technology	20
Media Arts	18
Medical Assisting	6
Office Technology	36
Paralegal Studies	18
Parts Sales & Management	7
Practical Nursing	91
Quality Control	22
Truck Driving (certificates not awarded)	
Welding Technology	13

Business & Industry Technology Training

Since 1998 the Columbus Campus has designed several customized training programs and assisted in securing more than \$1.4 million in state and federal grant funding to upgrade the skills of Nebraska's workforce. They were the catalyst in developing Nebraska's Statewide Interactive Multimedia Training Library (open 24 hours every day), which includes more than 800 training topics. Because of these initiatives, the Columbus Campus was selected as the national winner of the 2000 Bellwether Workforce Development Award, sponsored by the Institute of Higher Education—University of Florida and the National Council for Occupational Education.

Other Schools

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

Community/College or University	Mileage
Norfolk	46
Nebraska Christian College	
Northeast Community College	
Fremont	49
Midland Lutheran College	
York	50
York College	
Seward	52
Concordia University	
Grand Island	63
Central Community College, Grand Island Campus	
College Park	
Milford	64
Southeast Community College, Milford Campus	
Blair	72
Dana College	
Crete	80
Doane College	
Wayne	80
Wayne State College	
Lincoln	82
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	
Nebraska Wesleyan	
Union College	
Southeast Community College, Lincoln Campus	

Community/College or University	Mileage
Omaha	87
University of Nebraska at Omaha	
University of Nebraska Medical Center	
Creighton University	
College of St. Mary	
Hastings	89
Hastings College	
Central Community College, Hastings Campus	
Bellevue	99
Bellevue College	
Kearney	115
University of Nebraska at Kearney	

CHURCHES

Denomination	Number of Churches
Baptist	3
Berean	1
Bible Baptist	1
Catholic	3
Church of Christ	1
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
Episcopal	1
Everlasting Love Church	1
Evangelical Free	1
Federated (United Church of Christ-Presbyterian)	1
First United Methodist	1
Iglesia Emanuel	1
Jehovah's Witnesses	1
Lutheran—ELCA	2
Lutheran—Missouri Synod	3
Lutheran—Wisconsin Synod	1
Presbyterian	1
Seventh Day Adventist	1
Spanish	1
United Church of Christ	1
Victory Christian Fellowship	1
Word of Life (Assembly of God)	1

SPECIALIZED SERVICES

The **Columbus Family Resource Center** is the home of the One-Stop Center to advance the economic well being of the region. There are four partner organizations located in the center: (1) ACS Office provides life skills and job skill training; (2) NAF-Multicultural Human Development Corporation aides in the physical, educational, financial, and social well being disadvantaged persons; (3) Nebraska Workforce Development provides services to assist in finding employment and job training; and (4) Vocational Rehabilitation assists individuals with disabilities. The 14 human service agencies include The Arc of Platte County, Big Pals-Little Pals of Columbus, Boy Scouts of America, Boys & Girls Home of Nebraska, Building Nebraska Families, Catholic Charities, Center for Survivors, Central Community College, Columbus Area United Way, Columbus Collaborative Team, Lutheran Family Services, Northstar Services, Platte County Food Pantry, and Salvation Army.

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. An alcohol and drug addiction program with limited enrollment is offered. This is a year-long, in-house, Bible-based work-study program.

Sylvan Learning Center opened in Columbus in 1996. Sylvan 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.

Bethphage Northeast Nebraska Region 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 Bethphage 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, used clothing and household items. 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 the four counties of Platte, Boone, Colfax, and Nance. Services include WIC program, immunizations and maternal child health, good neighbor community health center, wellness center, community risks reduction, and center for family health as well as other program information.

MEDICAL

Hospital

Columbus Community Hospital, Inc., is a nonprofit, nonsectarian, 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



Columbus Community Hospital



Medical Office Building Adjoining Hospital



Columbus Family Resource Center



Beverly Healthcare



Morys Haven



Edgewood Vista

regions. The hospital, accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations, 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 Health Park, featuring local and visiting physicians, pharmacy, and hospital laboratory. The Columbus Cancer Center, also located in the medical building, treats area patients with blood disorders or cancer. The hospital has 42 acute care private beds, 9 skilled nursing private beds, and 14 ambulatory private beds.

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

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 twelve station facility, provides outpatient hemodialysis to patients in the Columbus and surrounding areas. A specialized team of nurses, dieticians, and social workers provide for patient care under the direction of a nephrologist.

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 certified.

The Platte County Ambulance 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

Morys Haven, built in 1956 and certified by Medicare and Medicaid, is a 48-bed facility offering 24-hour skilled nursing care. Resident care is directed by the residents' personal physician. The facility offers individual and community activities. Physical, occupational, and speech therapies are available in a new therapy room. Well balanced, nutritious meals are prepared following therapeutic diets. The facility provides a pleasant home-like living environment through specialized activities and social service programs. Wheel chair accessible van transportation is provided.

Beverly Healthcare - 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 Alzheimers or dementia. Beverly Squares Assisted Living and Suites is a 20-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 daycare; and physical, occupational, and speech therapies are offered. Outpatient therapy services are provided with free van transportation.

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.

LIBRARY

The **Columbus Public Library** is housed in a 30,000 square foot modern 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, typewriters, and

an interactive televideo conference center. A computer lab with ten work stations 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.

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 diploma preparation. These instructions, conducted at the Columbus Public Library, are provided by classes and/or one-on-one tutoring. A "family literacy" program provides learning experiences for children age 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 350 acres. The Park Department, with one part-time/seasonal and eight full-time employees, has responsibilities for all parks. The department has an average annual budget of \$510,000.

Park facilities include picnic tables, fireplaces, shelters, playgrounds, and playground equipment. **Pawnee Park**, the "Picnic Capital of Nebraska," covers 225 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 a capacity of approximately 25. Pawnee Park has modern rest room facilities, a potable water supply, and rose garden in addition to the many sports activities.

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, 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.

A \$6.5 million bond issue was approved by the voters in 2004 for a 15,645 square foot water park. The water park, anticipated to open in summer 2006, will feature a zero depth entry, splash play area, one small slide, double flume slide, speed slide, and a "swirl bowl slide," one of the first slides of its kind in Nebraska. Other park features are a sand play area, lazy river, floating water walk, and food court.

A six-diamond (three with lights) softball complex is located at Gerrard Park, a three-diamond lighted baseball complex is located at Centennial Park, and three lighted softball/baseball diamonds are located in Bradshaw Park. An outdoor soccer complex with ten fields is located at Wilderness Park. A skate/bike facility in Gerrard Park is designed for skateboards, in-line skates, and BMX freestyle bikes.

The 15 unsupervised playgrounds have swings, slides, merry-go-rounds, teeter-totters, jungle gyms, small rocking horses, and state-of-the-art playground structures. There are 43 acres per 1,000 population devoted to parks and playgrounds.

Columbus has facilities for:

Archery — Outdoor range at Centennial Park



Pawnee Park Playground Equipment



Sand Volleyball in Pawnee Park



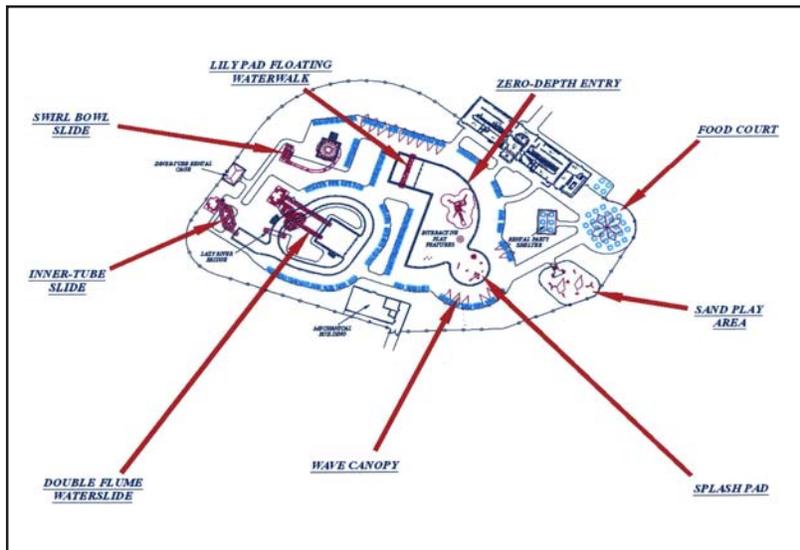
Legion Baseball Field



Lake Babcock Camping Area



Aquatic Center



Proposed Water Park



Columbus Family YMCA

Boating — Lake North with 200 acres

Bowling — One 12-lane and one 16-lane bowling alley

Fishing — Excellent fishing for crappie, bullhead, blue gill, perch, northern pike, catfish, and bass

Golf — 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

Horse Races — Pari-mutual thoroughbred horse races for 23–26 days each year with year-round simulcast racing

Hunting — A variety of wildlife including pheasant, quail, rabbit, squirrel, deer, duck, and prairie chicken

Miniature Golf — One miniature golf course, 27 holes

Racquetball — Four indoor courts at Columbus Family YMCA and one outdoor at Centennial Park

Skating — In-line hockey and skate center and an ice skating pond; outdoor facility at Gerrard Park is designed for skate boards, in-line skates, and BMX freestyle bikes

Stock Car Racing— Three-eighths-mile stock car track with races and demolition derbies

Swimming — Indoor Olympic sized pool at the Columbus Aquatic Center, private pool at the country club, and indoor pool at the Columbus Family YMCA; a family water park is scheduled to open in summer 2006

Tennis — Sixteen lighted tennis courts; two indoor courts at the YMCA

Theatres — 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, horseshoe tournament, talent contests, baby show, turtle races, biathlon, and Columbus Days parade, art market, fly in breakfast, United Way duck derby, pet show, and community picnic.

Lawn Chairs on the Square is a Thursday evening event held from June through August in Frankfort Square in downtown Columbus. Entertainment includes Christian youth chorale groups, athletic demonstrations, and various musical groups.

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 and around scenic Stires Lake. 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 Icarian; 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.

The **Columbus Aquatic Center** is a city-owned facility open to the public six days a week. The Columbus Aquatic Center was constructed as a cooperative project involving both public and private sectors and a Community Development Block Grant. The Columbus Aquatic Center has an Olympic size pool, ranging in depth from 2 feet 6 inches to 12 feet. The pool has a low board, tot slide, and medium size tube slide. Programs offered include swimming lessons, water exercise classes, lap swimming, youth swim team, and scuba lessons. This facility is also home of the Columbus High School swim team.

The **Columbus Senior Center** offers a noon meal program Monday through Friday. The congregate meal program provides all the necessary daily nutrition requirements. A major resource for information and numerous activities which are held each month such as card clubs, ceramics, sing-alongs, crafts, exercise classes, dances, and walking club. Professional services are provided at the center or referred to other agencies. Activities and interaction generated through the center are an important factor in making Columbus a great place to live for seniors. The Columbus Area Transit, based out of the Columbus Senior Center, offers subsidized rides to senior and disabled patrons.

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.

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. A natural surface trail skirts Lake Babcock and connects to Two Lakes Trail.

Other popular area recreational facilities offered to the public at no cost by Loup Power District include Loup Park, Powerhouse Park, and Tailrace Park.

Two Lakes Trail meanders through tree-lined, Lake North Park, Loup Park, and a wildlife refuge. This 2.3-mile, 8-foot wide, concrete path offers scenic recreational opportunities for riders, runners, rollerbladers, walkers, bird watchers, nature enthusiasts, and wheelchairs.

Cross the footbridge and continue on the **Bob Lake Trail**, a 15-foot wide limestone shale-surfaced trail. This 3.5 mile-long section is recommended for well-equipped hikers and mountain bikers. Follow the path along the dike to the Lake North perimeter road. This 1-mile leg ends at the entrance parking lot. Free parking is available at the east and west trailheads.

The **Wilderness Park Trail**, a ten foot wide concrete path, offers safe passage for walkers and riders to the youth soccer complex located on 18th Avenue. The 1.5-mile trail allows access to other existing recreational trails, including Two Lakes Trail and Bob Lake Trail. Children and adults can walk, jog, bike, and rollerblade on the trail around the perimeter of the soccer complex.

From the Wilderness Park trailhead, enthusiasts can follow more than 10 miles of existing recreational trails. 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 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.



Wilderness Park Soccer Fields



Lawn Chairs on the Square Activities



Columbus Day's Activities



Elks Country Club Golf Course



Quail Run Golf Course



Van Berg Golf Course

Volkswalk is a leisurely 10K (6.2 miles), year-round walk through historic Columbus over a predetermined route. The walk is 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 630 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 regulation.

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 Columbus Family YMCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Cub Scouts. Camp Pawnee, available for rent by the public, is used for company and family picnics.

Camp Luther, 16 miles northeast of Columbus, is nestled in 160 acres of rolling hills with an oak forest, lake, and open meadows of prairie grass. Besides a regular summer program, the camp also sponsors canoe camps, bike camps, horse camps, rocketry camps, cross-cultural camps, owl camps, and parent/child camps. Camp Luther is also used year-round for a variety of retreats for youth and adults. Many schools use Camp Luther's outdoor education program each spring and fall. One hundred guests can be housed overnight in winterized buildings and 150 during warmer months. The main hall can seat 250 at tables or 400 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 tent/trailer sites. Activities include swimming, waterslide, canoeing, paddle boating, fishing, hiking, frisbee golf, archery, tennis, basketball, volleyball, challenge course, sledding, and more. Camp Luther is open to the public. Visit www.campluther.org for more information.

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. Also available are tennis courts, driving range, miniature golf, track, swimming, horseshoe pits, golf, and picnicking.

Organizations providing sporting activities include Columbus Baseball League Association, Columbus Chess Club, American Legion Baseball, 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 Izaak 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 it 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 x 300 feet with a 24 foot 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 Ag 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 & 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 theater made up of members from Columbus and surrounding areas. It provides the finest in community entertainment as well as promotes cultural education in drama for residents. Four to six shows are produced locally each year.

Columbus Friends of Music is a community concert association which secures national and international artists for local performances. Five concerts are held annually and attended by capacity audiences.

Other cultural activities are provided by the Columbus Area Artists Club, the Travel and Adventure Series, the Cinema Arts Guild, the Book Discussion Group, the Book Review Club, and the Consonaires.

HOUSING

New Construction

There were 93 new homes constructed in 2002 and 2003 and 41 new homes were built in 2004. The average cost of new home construction during the past three years was \$105 per square foot.

Building permits totaled \$62,603,194 in new construction in 2005. Building permits issued from 2002 to 2005:

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Apartment Units (independent living units)	60	0	0	0
Duplexes/Townhouses	3	4	6	9
Single Family	49	44	41	44

As of August 2004:

Number of Homes on the Market

Single Family -	157
Duplexes or Townhouses -	9
Apartment Houses -	1 (8 units)

Avg. Selling Prices (New and Existing)

Single Family Home	
>2,500 sq. ft. – 4 bedrooms	\$290,000
>2,300 sq. ft – 3 bedrooms	\$205,000
1,000 sq. ft – 3 bedrooms	\$ 89,000
Townhouses	
1,500 sq. ft. – 2 bedrooms	\$200,000
Condominiums	
1,200 sq. ft. – 2 bedrooms	\$ 84,000

Rentals

New 2-bedroom home	\$650 to \$750
Apartment Vacancy Rate	less than 7%

Number of Single Family Homes

for Sale by Price (New and Existing)

Less than \$100,000	98
\$100,001 – \$150,000	31
\$150,001 – \$200,000	18
\$200,001 and over	10

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 room. There is an emergency call system, which alerts office staff either in the office or at their homes of anyone needing assistance.



Arbor Place



Columbus Place Apartments



Columbian Village



Heritage House



Realife of Columbus



Westport Apartments

Christopher Court, is a three-story, 24-unit tax credit housing facility completed in 2000. Apartments are spacious and are available in either one-bedroom or two-bedroom units. Apartments have 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 access to the building, 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, 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, designed as a retirement village, was 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 apartments, 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 lots of 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, built in 1998, is a 39-unit, Medicaid approved, assisted living facility for aging and disabled adults who need assistance with daily living. Home like setting boasts three apartment sizes all on one level, a center courtyard, wide hallways, three home cooked meals a day, daily activities with staff available 24 hours a day, registered nurse on staff, emergency call system, weekly housekeeping and laundry, utilities paid, transportation coordination, routine maintenance, and small animals are accepted.

Prairie Village Retirement Center, a retirement living community operated by the Presbyterian Welfare Foundation, consists of rental apartments—36 assisted living suites and 32 independent living apartments. This one-story, residential-style building has a library, chapel/community room, card room, exercise room, activities room, 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 activities. Medication supervision and assistance with bathing and dressing are offered for residents when required.

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

Independent Living

Crown Villa, is a senior independent living facility for people 62 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 areas, and a multipurpose common area. Residents of Crown Villa receive two daily meals

(continental breakfast and noon lunch) as well as bimonthly housekeeping and linen service.

FINANCIAL

As of September 30, 2004:

Name	Capital Accounts	Deposits	Loans
BankFirst Columbus	\$ 19,621,530	\$ 144,499,492	\$ 130,100,315
Columbus Bank & Trust Co	\$ 6,797,000	\$ 58,220,000	\$ 56,190,000
Commercial Federal Bank	\$ 767,858,000	\$ 6,249,222,000	\$ 7,651,557,000
Cornerstone Bank	N/A to branch	\$ 29,864,373	\$ 8,662,737
First National Columbus	\$ 32,732,000	\$ 350,719,000	\$ 345,399,000
First Nebraska Bank	\$ 3,973,338	\$ 41,780,996	\$ 35,137,888
Pinnacle Bank (as of 6/30/04)	\$ 153,854,000	\$ 1,447,469,000	\$ 1,304,626,000
TierOne Bank	\$ 269,892,000	\$ 1,802,343,000	\$ 2,439,463,000
U.S. Bank (as of 11/1/04)	\$ N/A	\$ 7,154,000	\$ 12,507,000

Other financial concerns include Union Loan, Inc. and Farm Credit Services. Credit unions present in the community include Columbus United Federal Credit Union, Dale Employee Credit Union, and Nebraska Energy Federal Credit Union.



New Construction



Townhouse

COMMUNITY SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL

Allergists	5	(commute)
Architects	3	
Attorneys	23	
Auctioneers	7	
Certified Public Accountants	22	
Chiropractors	7	
Dentists	14	
Dermatologists	2	(commute)
Engineering Firms	8	
Medical Doctors (residing in Columbus)		
—cardiologists	1	
—ear, nose & throat	1	
—emergency medicine	1	(3 commute)
—general practitioners	10	
—general surgeons	2	
—internal medicine	1	
—ophthalmologists	1	
—orthopedic surgeons	2	
—pediatricians	4	
—radiologists	2	
Medical Doctors (on hospital consulting staff)		
—allergists	1	
—cardiologists	22	
—chiropractors	2	
—dentists	4	
—hematologists & oncologists	7	
—general practitioners	1	
—nephrologists	6	
—neurosurgeons	1	
—nuclear medicine	2	
—ob/gyn	2	
—ophthalmologists	1	
—oral surgeons	2	
—orthopedic surgeons	2	
—pathologists	11	
—pediatric cardiologists	1	
—pharmacists	6	
—podiatrists	2	
—pulmonologists	2	
—radiologists	2	
—rheumatologists	1	
—urologists	4	
—vascular surgeons	2	

Medical Personnel (with privileges at hospital)	
—anesthesiologists	4
—audiologists	1
—certified registered nurse anesthetists	6
—mid-wives	1
Nurse Practitioners	1
Nurses, Registered	101
Physician Assistants	4
Veterinarians	12

BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL

Accounting/Bookkeeping Agencies	5
Advertising Agencies	4
Agricultural Implement Dealers	8
Antique Shops	5
Apparel Stores—children’s	3
—combination	2
—men’s	4
—women’s	7
Appliance Stores	2
Auto Repair & Service	22
Auto Supply Parts	9
Automobile Dealers	26
Automobile Renting & Leasing	4
Bakeries	4
Banquet Facilities, Halls & Auditoriums	12
Beauty Salons & Barber Shops	36
Bed & Breakfast	1 (3 rooms)
Carpet & Rug Dealers	5
Caterers	8
Contractors—building	47
—carpentry	47
—concrete	17
—electric	11
—excavating	7
—general	47
—gravel	5
—heating & air conditioning	9
—industrial	2
—painting	9
—plumbing	6
—remodeling & repairing	47
—roofing	12
—well digging	1
Convenience Stores	12
Copying & Duplicating Services	5
Craft Stores	7

Dance Studios	2
Day Care, Licensed	69
Discount Stores	4
Dry Cleaning & Laundry	3
Electric Motor Repair	2
Employment Services, Temporary	2
Feed & Seed	7
Funeral Homes	2
Floral Shops	4
Furniture Stores	7
Garbage Collection	4
Gift Shops	16
Grocery Stores	6
Hardware Stores	4
Hatcheries	1
Health Clubs	4
Heavy Equipment Repair	1
Industrial Distributor of Supplies	4
Industrial Equipment & Supplies	2
Industrial Gas Suppliers	4
Insurance Companies	54
Interior Decorators & Designers	5
Jewelry Stores	4
Landscaping Equipment & Supplies	10
Laundries, Self-Service	3
Lawn Services	12
Lumberyards	3
Machine Shops	9
Motels	10
Nurseries & Garden Centers	3
Office Machine Repairs	3
Office Equipment Services & Supplies	5
Pharmacies	7
Photography Studios	5
Preschools	8
Real Estate Firms	14
Restaurants—fast food	19
—dining	26
Service Stations	13
Shoe Stores	7
Television & Radio Repair	2
Theatres	1 (6 screens)
Tool & Die Makers	4
Travel Agencies & Bureaus	3
Upholstery Shops	2
Welding Shops	2



Cottonwood House



Crown Villa



Prairie Village Retirement Center

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%
Five-Year Average Production of Leading Crops (1999-2003)		
All Alfalfa Hay	47,600 tons	4,721,000 tons
Corn for Grain	25,055,700 bu.	1,074,450,000 bu.
Oats	37,840 bu.	3,827,000 bu.
Sorghum Grains	48,050 bu.	31,894,000 bu.
Soybeans	5,213,840 bu.	187,201,000 bu.
All Wheat	42,360 bu.	66,816,000 bu.
Five-Year Average Livestock Population (1999-2003)		
All Cattle	80,400	6,462,200

SOURCE: National Agricultural Statistics Service, www.nass.usda.gov:81/ipedb
2002 Census of Agriculture, www.nass.usda.gov/census

RAW MATERIALS

Sand and gravel, nonmetallic minerals, are available in unlimited amounts; however, no metallic minerals are 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	7.0	21.4	32.7	0.59	4.9	76	65
February	12.6	27.1	40.8	0.80	4.9	79	65
March	25.9	37.2	43.9	1.91	4.7	80	62
April	43.7	50.6	59.1	2.86	1.2	79	52
May	56.2	62.0	68.4	4.27	0.0	80	53
June	65.5	72.2	78.5	4.27	0.0	82	55
July	70.2	76.8	81.9	3.78	0.0	84	56
August	67.6	74.6	81.8	3.17	0.0	86	58
September	57.1	65.1	71.3	2.57	0.0	83	54
October	45.9	53.1	63.3	1.91	0.6	79	52
November	27.5	37.4	47.3	1.51	2.9	80	60
December	6.4	26.1	35.7	.83	4.6	79	66
Annual	47.3	50.2	53.4	28.47	24.4	81	58

*Recorded at Norfolk Weather Station

FROST DATA

Average date of last frost in spring	April 29
Average date of first frost in fall	October 7
Average length of growing season	161 days
Average number of "heating degree days" based on 65° Fahrenheit	6,428
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, 1931-2001, www.hpccsun.unl.edu