COMMUNITY FACTS

COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA

www.columbusne.us

NEBRASKA
Economic Development
Certified Community

JANUARY 2011

POPULATION

(Official U.S. Census)

	2000	2009 Est.
Columbus	**20,971**	**21,914**
Platte County*	**31,568**	**32,515**
Labor Market**	**116,691**	**113,695**

***Also the Columbus Micropolitan Statistical Area**
****Includes Platte County and contiguous counties**

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

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INTRODUCTION

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

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

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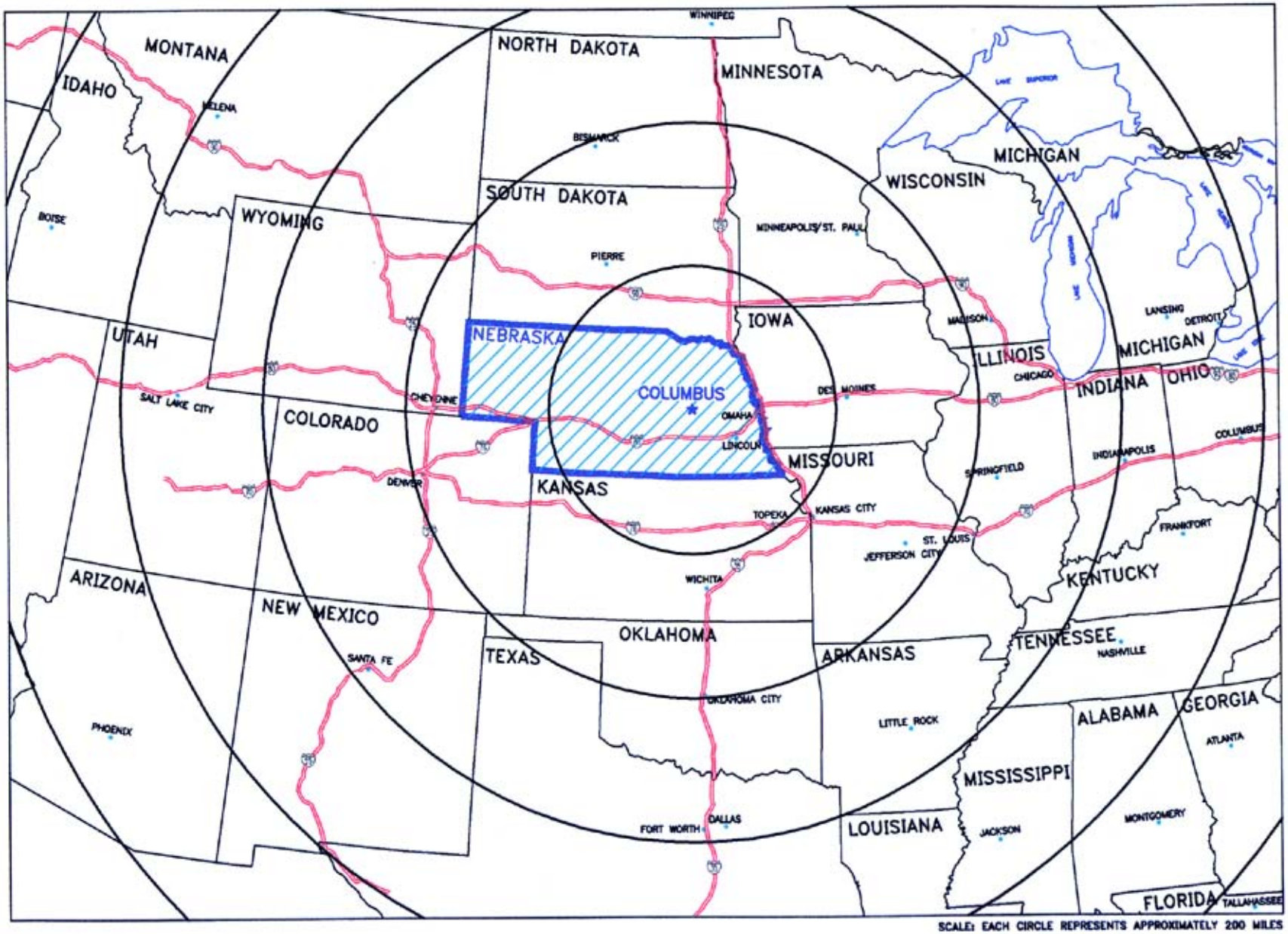
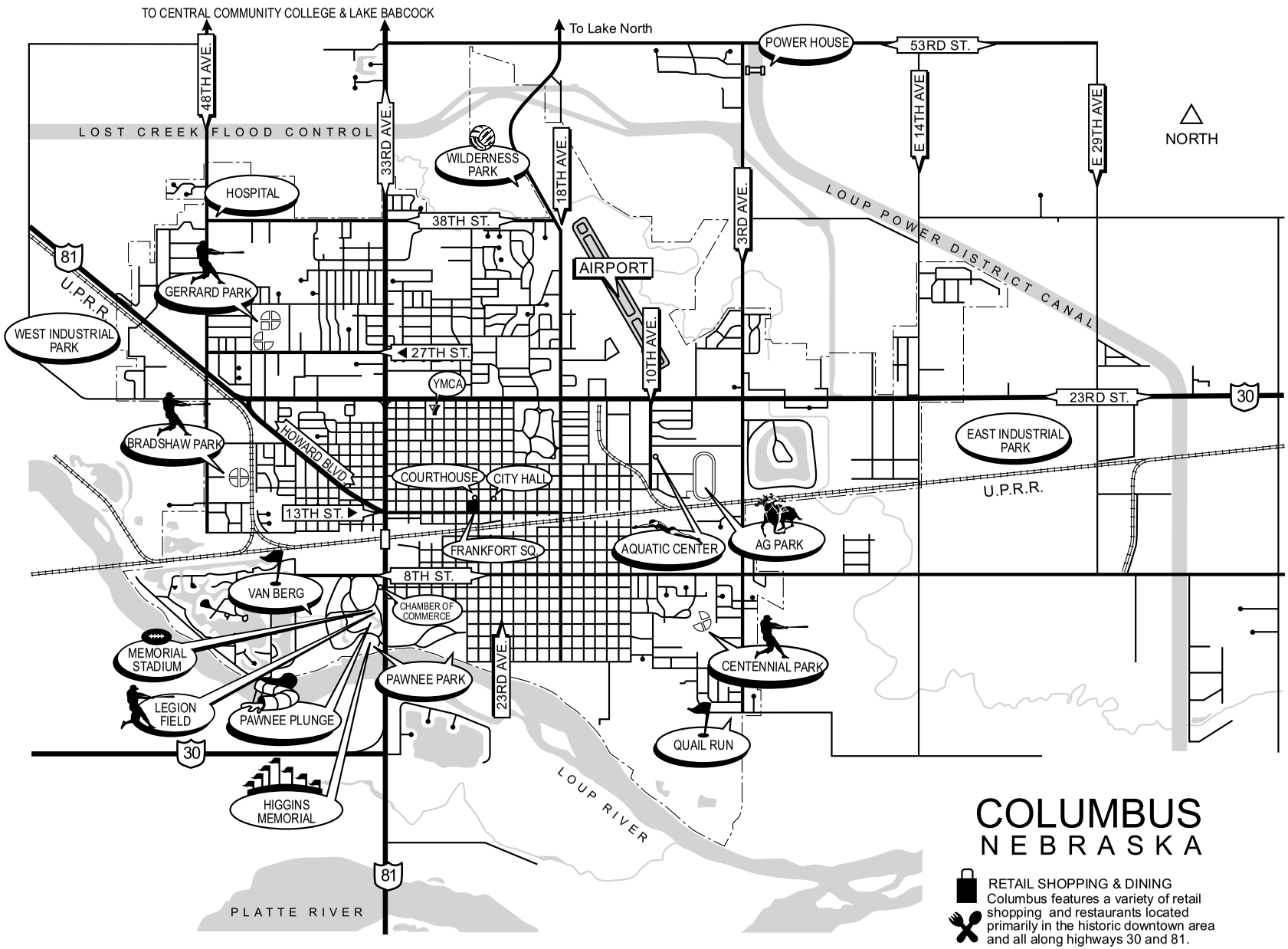


SCALE: EACH CIRCLE REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY 200 MILES



COLUMBUS
NEBRASKA

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

General Information

Location

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

Population (U.S. Census)

Year	Columbus	Platte County
1970	15,471	26,544
1980	17,328	28,852
1990	19,600	29,820
2000	20,971	31,568
2009 (Est.)	21,914	32,515

Platte County Population by Race and Hispanic Origin 2009 U.S. Census	
One Race	
White	97.2%
Black	0.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.5%
Asian	0.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%
Two or More Races	0.9%
Hispanic or Latino Origin*	12.0%
White Not Hispanic	86.0%

*Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories.

The 2009 U.S. Census estimates 32,515 people live in the Columbus Micropolitan Statistical Area, which is comprised of all of Platte County. The Census also estimates 113,695 people live in Platte County and the contiguous counties of Boone, Butler, Colfax, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Polk, and Stanton.

Primary Retail Trade Area

Local Economy

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

The primary retail trade area extends approximately 20 miles north, 21 miles east, 12 miles southeast, 25 miles south, and 27 miles southwest and contains an estimated 50,230 people. Firms in Columbus with retail sales tax permits reported 2009 net taxable retail sales of $331,861,028, while Platte County reported retail sales of $357,049,720. Wholesale firms in the community distribute health care supplies, auto supplies, industrial supplies, welding supplies, agricultural products, petroleum products, vending products, building materials, hardware, and food items.

The city's economy has grown rapidly during the past five years with the construction and expansion of several manufacturers and retail and commercial businesses. Despite the recent economic woes, Columbus has managed to keep its unemployment rates low. In 2009 Columbus was named by *Money Magazine* as #3 for "Best Places for Jobs" in the country. Additionally, Columbus was listed among the top 100 "Best Small Towns" to live in America by *CNNMoney .com*. The low unemployment rate and large manufacturing sector contributed to the city's success.

Columbus, like many other communities, is undergoing a review of its levee along the Loup River to comply with Federal Emergency Management Administration requirements. The levee, built in the mid '60s by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, must meet current standards to ensure a reconstruction with federal assistance should a potential failure or flood occur. Preliminary investigations show a raising of the freeboard along the seven-mile stretch of levee from several inches to approximately 18 inches along the corridor is necessary. No areas have been found where the levee has degraded or where potential undermining has occurred. The proposed improvements will be completed in 2011 by the city with funding assistance from the Lower Loup Natural Resources District.

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 16-member group who called themselves the "Columbus Town Company" formulated plans to establish a new settlement somewhere along its route. These 16 settlers from Columbus, Ohio (for which the city was named), decided to locate the town at the confluence of the Loup and Platte Rivers in May 1856. The particular location of the townsite had a two-fold purpose—the region promised excellent land for raising crops and the site selected was convenient for establishing a ferry across the fast moving Loup River.

On October 8, 1858, in the Territorial Council, the fifth session of the legislature, a bill to incorporate Columbus was read for the first time. The bill was read the second time on October 9, 1858, and referred to the appropriate committee. On February 11, 1865, nine years after its founding, Columbus was incorporated as the "Town of Columbus" by a special act of the legislature of the Territory of Nebraska. At that time, Columbus was also named the county seat for Platte County. Columbus 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) in September 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 people's first concerted effort 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 operated for approximately one year.

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

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

In 1946 Columbus developed the first publicly owned industrial park in the nation. Due to aggressive economic development, Columbus is recognized today as the "most industrialized city per capita" in Nebraska. Columbus was once known as the "crossroads of the nation" because of its location on U.S. Highway 30, originally known as the Lincoln Memorial Highway, and U.S Highway 81, also known as the North-South Meridian Highway.

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

Today visitors can travel through history at the Platte County Museum or visit the Quincentenary Belltower built in 1992 as the community's celebration of the 500th anniversary of Columbus' first voyage to the new world. The Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial was built in 2001 to honor Mr. Higgins, the designer of the ramp-fronted landing craft that helped win World War II. The Higgins Memorial is also home to the "Freedom Memorial," a touching monument containing the largest amount of steel in the United States that was recovered from the World Trade Center.

The Columbus Sesquicentennial was celebrated in 2006. Events included the opening of

Pawnee Plunge Water Park, community picnic, Tour Nebraska car show, Columbus Barbecue Classic, all-city reunion, Columbus Hot Air Balloon Rally, bandshell dedication at Frankfort Square, and a world-record attempt Corn Maze.

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

From the Columbus Town Company who had dreams, visions, and courage, Columbus has grown to a city of 22,000 residents. Today Columbus is the hub of public power in Nebraska with the headquarters of Cornhusker Public Power District, Loup Power District, Nebraska Public Power District, and the Nebraska Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Inc.

Downtown Columbus

Economic Development

Manufacturers (employing 25 or more)

Company/Year Established	Product	Market	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
ADM Alliance Nutrition, Inc. 1967	Livestock feeds	National & Export	24 Total 2* Total		None
ADM Corn Processing-Columbus 1992	Wet corn milling, corn starch, fructose, ethanol	National & Export	430 Total		None
BD Medical Pharmaceutical 1951	Glass syringes	National & Export	316	361	None
BD Medical Surgical 1949	Hypodermic needles & syringes	National & Export	473 2*	404 5*	None
Behlen Mfg. 1936	Steel buildings, agricultural & livestock equipment	National & Export	566 Total		None
Blazer Manufacturing Co. Inc. 1974	Athletic equipment & custom metal fabrication	National	22 Total 3* Total		None
CAMACO, LLC 1965	Automotive seats & frames	National & Export	445 FTE 4 PTE		None
Cargill Value Added Meats 1995	Ground beef	National	350 Total 2* Total		None
Central Sand & Gravel 1947	Aggregates	Local & Regional	70 Total		None
Columbus Hydraulics Company, Inc. 1952	Hydraulic & pneumatic cylinders	National	85 3*	0	None
DuoLift Manufacturing Company, Inc. 1943	Ag & commercial trailers, custom trailers, soil samplers	National & Export	46 4*	3 1*	None

* Part-time and/or seasonal

Company/Year Established	Product	Market	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
FLEXcon 1993	Pressure sensitive plastic film, decals, package labels, holograms, adhesive nameplates	National & Export	169 Total 1* Total		None
Gehring Construction & Ready Mix 1958	Ready-mixed concrete	Regional	54 Total		None
Gerhold Concrete Co., Inc. 1869	Concrete blocks, precast concrete & ready mix	Regional	30 Total		None
GreyStone, Inc. 1982	Aggregate handling equipment	National & Export	20 1*	4 1*	None
John Crane Orion Corporation 1979	Hydrodynamic bearings	National & Export	63	7	None
KATANA Summit, LLC 2008	Tubular wind towers	Regional & National	65 Total		None
MasterCare Patient Equipment, Inc. 1994	Patient bathing systems	National & Export	15 3*	16	None
Mid-American Research Chemical Corp. (MARC) 1970	Sanitary maintenance cleaners, floor & carpet products, insecticides & herbicides	National	15 1*	12 1*	None
Mid-Plains Industries (dba Central Confinement Services) 1982	Agricultural & livestock equipment	National	28 3*	4	None
Nebraska Irrigation 1975	Irrigation equipment	National	26 Total		None
Paige Electric Company, L.P. 1979	Electric wire & cable	Local, National & Export	12	13	None
Platte Valley Precast, Inc. 1992	Concrete precast & concrete construction	Local	40 6*	0	None

* Part-time and/or seasonal

ADM Alliance Nutrition, Inc.

ADM Corn Processing-Columbus

BD Medical Pharmaceutical

BD Medical Surgical

Behlen Mfg.

Blazer Manufacturing Co. Inc.

CAMACO, LLC

Cargill Value Added Meats

Columbus Hydraulics Company, Inc.

DuoLift Manufacturing Company, Inc.

FLEXcon

John Crane Orion Corporation

Company/Year Established	Product	Market	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
Tasty Toppings, Inc. 1963	Salad dressing	Regional	29 Total		None
TORIN Products, Inc. 1965	Precision machined parts	National & Export	15 7*	5 1*	None
Vishay Dale Electronics 1951	Electronic components	National & Export	206	331	None

* Part-time and/or seasonal

MAJOR NONMANUFACTURING & NON-RETAIL EMPLOYERS (employing 40 or more)

Employer/Year Established	Type of Activity	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
Apogee Retail 2008	Telecommunications	N/A		None
B-D Construction, Inc. 1963	Industrial, commercial & ag building construction	53	3	None
Bierman Contracting, Inc. 2002	Industrial, commercial & ag building construction	32 3*	2 3*	None
Central Community College-Columbus 1968	Education	49 39*	60 67*	CCC in assoc. with NEA (teachers only)
City of Columbus 1856	Government	110 6*	45 7*	IAFF, IUPA (police & fire only)
Columbus Community Hospital 1922	Medical	52 18*	295 137*	None
Columbus Public Schools 1860	Education	98 12*	331 139*	CEA, NSEA (teachers only)

*Part-time and/or seasonal

Employer/Year Established	Type of Activity	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
Columbus Telegram 1879	Daily newspaper	11 6*	18 5*	None
Cornhusker Public Power District 1943	Electric utility	41 1*	5 1*	None
Educational Service Unit 7 1967	Educational services	6	51 16*	NSEA (teachers only)
First National Bank & Trust Co. 1906	Financial	17 2*	76 26*	None
Golden LivingCenter of Columbus 1966 (est)	Skilled nursing & assisted living	7	91 48*	None
Hamilton Contact Center Services 1996	Telemarketing	5 3*	44 5*	None
Heartland Builders Co. 1988	General contractors/ construction	82 1*	4 1*	None
Jackson Services, Inc. 1926	Uniforms, dust control, linens, logo mats & rest room supplies	28 3*	38 1*	None
Jacobs Field Services 1972	General contractor/ construction	138	2	None
Lakeview Community Schools 1969	Education	24 16*	81 17*	NSEA, LEA (certified staff only)
Loup Power District 1933	Electric utility	99 3*	17 6*	None
Mory's Haven 1955	Nursing care	1 1*	39 17*	None
Nebraska Pork Partners (Platte County) 2005	Pork producers	63 Total		None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

Employer/Year Established	Type of Activity	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
Nebraska Public Power District (Columbus General Office) 1941	Electric utility	248 14*	170 6*	None
New World Inn 1973	Lodging & convention center	7 3*	6 31*	None
Platte County 1856	Government	98 1*	79 4*	None
Progressive Swine Technology (Platte County) 1995	Pork producers	16	28 3*	None
Scotus Central Catholic High School 1878	Education	17 1*	36 12*	None
State of Nebraska (Platte County)	Government	159 Total		NAPE
U.S. Post Office 1856	Government	18 6*	14 5*	APWU, NALC
Walker Foundations, Inc. 1988	Residential & commercial foundations, silage bunker walls, foundation water proofing	38 Total 6* Total		None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

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

Employer	Type of Activity	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
Schuyler, 18 miles				
Alegent Health Memorial Hospital	Medical	7 3*	75 28*	None
Cargill Meat Solutions	Beef processing	1,254 11*	554 11*	UFCW
Schuyler Community Schools	Education	51	194	SEA, NEA, NSEA

*Part-time and/or seasonal

Employer	Type of Activity	Employees Male	Employees Female	Union
David City, 33 miles				
Butler County	Government	43 20*	30 8*	None
Butler County Health Care Center	Medical	15	95	None
David City Public Schools	Education	27	85	NSEA
Fargo Assembly of PA, Inc.	Electrical harnesses	23 3*	84 12*	None
Henningsen Foods, Inc.	Frozen, liquid & dehydrated egg products	59	44	None
Heritage of David City, Inc.	Multi-health care	4	98	None
St. Joseph's Villa & Court	Skilled nursing, assisted living & adult day care	7	98	None
Timpte, Inc.	Truck trailers	266	28	None
Lindsay, 33 miles				
Lindsay Corporation	Irrigation equipment & diversified manufacturing	291	85 3*	None
Madison, 31 miles				
Countryside Home	Nursing home	36 3*	57 48*	None
Madison County	Government	72 11*	56 16*	None
Tyson Fresh Meats	Hog slaughter	680 9*	430 2*	None

*Part-time and/or seasonal

Economic Development Organizations

The Columbus Economic Council (CEC), a division of the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, is assigned the responsibility of industrial recruitment and coordination of economic development activities for the community. Consisting of approximately 46 members, the council represents a cross

section of the business community including city, county, and state government as well as financial, industrial, and utility representatives. Neal Suess, president and CEO, and David Bell, vice president of Development/Marketing, Loup Power District, serve as co-chairs of the Columbus Economic Council. The CEC can be reached at (402) 564-3171.

The first industrial site in Columbus was established in the 1940s by Loup Power District. The 90-acre site is completely occupied today with local and national industries. Loup Power District presently controls approximately 150 acres zoned for heavy manufacturing, four miles east of Columbus on U.S. Highway 30. The site has access to the Union Pacific Railroad and city utilities and is available for prospective industries.

The Columbus Economic Council maintains an inventory of available industrial sites and buildings ranging from 5,000–300,000 square feet (several buildings have additional land available if an expansion is needed).

KATANA Summit began production in a new 290,000-square-foot tubular wind tower plant in 2007. Apogee Retail, a call center, began operation in 2008. In July 2010 ADM Corn Processing held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of its new ethanol dry mill operation. The plant, creating 125 full-time jobs, has the capacity to produce 300 million gallons of ethanol annually.

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

Approximately 150 acres of land in and adjacent to Columbus are zoned for industry.

Industrial Sites Available

Click here to go to Nebraska Public Power District's searchable sites and buildings database.

GreyStone, Inc.

KATANA Summit, LLC

Mid-American Research Chemical Corp.

Paige Electric Company, L.P.

TORIN Products, Inc.

Vishay Dale Electronics

LABOR

LABOR SUPPLY

A. Employment in the Columbus Micropolitan Statistical Area (MC), which is defined as the whole of Platte County and the total labor market which consists of Platte County and the contiguous counties of Boone, Butler, Colfax, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Polk, and Stanton (11-month average, 2010):

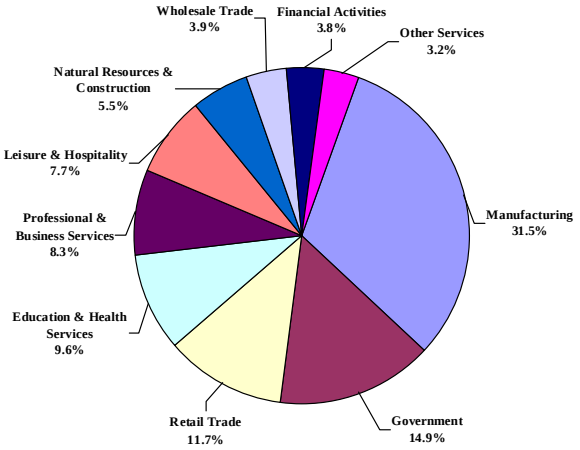
		Columbus MC	Total
	Nonfarm Employment (wage and salary workers)		
	Goods-Producing	6,937	15,047
	Manufacturing	5,601	(D)
	Natural Resources & Construction	1,336	(D)
	Service-Providing	11,608	38,549
	Wholesale Trade	650	3,145
	Retail Trade	2,013	6,106
	Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	417	(D)
	Information	143	(D)
	Financial Activities	682	2,153
	Professional & Business Services	1,360	(D)
	Education & Health Services	1,759	(D)
	Leisure & Hospitality	1,415	3,711
	Other Services	563	1,588
	Government	2,605	9,997
	TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS	18,545	53,596
	Farm Employment	950	5,731
	TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	17,581	61,025
B.	Commuting Out of County	4,570	N/A
C.	Unemployment	762	2,645
	TOTAL LABOR FORCE	18,342	63,669
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.	940	
E.	Estimated number of county high school graduates annually	450	
	TOTAL POTENTIAL LABOR SUPPLY (B, C, D & E)	6,722	

(D) Data not available due to disclosure suppression.

Source: Nebraska Workforce Development
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), data for 2008
U.S. Census

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

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
COLUMBUS MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA
11-MONTH AVERAGE, 2010



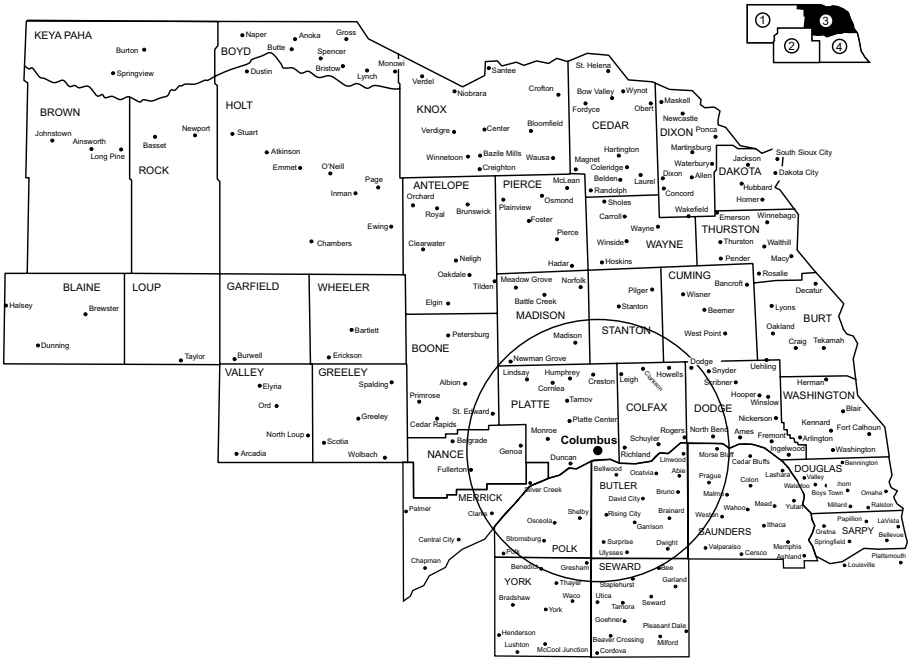
POPULATION DATA

Location	2000 Density/Sq. Mile	2000 % High School Graduate or Higher	2000 % Bachelor's Degree or Higher	2009 % 65 Yrs. & Over	2009 Median Age	2010 (est.) County Median Family Income
Platte Co.	46.7	84.7	17.2	16.9	39.9	$61,900
Nebraska	22.3	86.6	23.7	13.4	35.8	$62,600
U.S.	79.6	80.4	24.4	12.9	36.8	$64,400

Platte County had 19,829 registered voters in 2008; 68.8 percent voted in the national election compared to 70.2 percent in Nebraska.

Source: U.S. Census, **www.census.gov**
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2010
Statewide General Election 2008 Results, **www.sos.state.ne.us**

LABOR POTENTIAL IN THE COLUMBUS AREA



POPULATION DATA
U.S. Census Estimates

2009 Estimate		
City of Columbus	—	21,914
Platte County (Columbus Micropolitan Statistical Area)	—	32,515
30-Mile Radius	—	71,582

Platte County Population Ages/Gender, 2009

Ages	Male	Female
18–24	1,458	1,378
25–44	3,581	3,271
45–64	4,421	4,318

UNIONIZATION

Nebraska has a right to work provision in its constitution. In 2008, 4.2 percent of Nebraska's private sector wage and salary workers were members of labor unions compared to a national figure of 7.6 percent.

Labor organizations operating in the Columbus area:

Company	Union
Black Hills Energy	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Central Community College, Columbus	Nebraska Education Association
City of Columbus	International Union of Police Association, International Association of Fire Fighters
Columbus Public Schools	Columbus Education Association, Nebraska State Education Association
Educational Service Unit 7	Nebraska State Education Association
Frontier Communications	Communications Workers of America
Lakeview Community School	Lakeview Education Association, Nebraska State Education Association
State of Nebraska	National Association of Public Employees
U.S. Post Office	American Postal Workers Union, National Association of Letter Carriers

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

WAGES

	Hourly Wage ($)/Percentile		
Occupation Title	**10th**	**50th**	**90th**
Professional			
Accountants & Auditors	16.24	23.82	44.42
Engineers			
Civil Engineers	19.81	33.31	46.53
Electrical Engineers	27.54	33.15	40.75
Industrial Engineers	22.84	30.86	43.52
Mechanical Engineers	16.66	28.78	45.98
Computer Programmers	14.43	30.01	43.14
Computer Systems Analysts	28.19	38.06	48.40
Registered Nurses	18.66	24.80	33.15

*Wage information taken from Balance of State

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage ($)/Percentile 10th	50th	90th
Retail			
Hotel, Motel & Resort Desk Clerks	6.92	7.71	9.10
Retail Salespersons	7.08	8.86	15.46
Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services	7.31	12.83	21.09
Driver/Sales Workers	7.62	17.04	26.12
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	7.11	9.00	14.99
Shipping, Receiving & Traffic Clerks	9.32	13.63	19.57
Clerical			
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	8.12	12.69	18.56
Customer Service Representatives	7.68	13.05	20.37
Data Entry Keyers	7.74	11.04	15.81
Secretaries, excl. Legal, Medical & Executive	8.34	11.68	17.02
Office Clerks, General	7.17	10.13	15.58
Receptionists & Information Clerks	7.55	10.78	15.17
Telemarketers	7.74	10.29	12.22
Unskilled			
Laborers & Freight, Stock & Material Movers, Hand	8.27	12.32	17.56
Packers & Packagers, Hand	7.25	10.80	14.88
Assemblers & Fabricators, All Other	10.87	14.51	17.49
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants	8.47	10.81	14.05
Semi-Skilled			
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	10.99	14.13	18.36
Truck Drivers, Heavy or Tractor-Trailer	10.46	17.66	25.19
Maintenance Workers, Machinery	13.87	21.95	25.68
Machine Operators			
Drilling & Boring Machine Tool Setters/Oper.*	9.86	12.91	19.32
Milling & Planing Machine Setters/Oper.	13.58	16.32	18.44
Grinding, Lapping, Polishing & Buffing Mach. Oper.	13.18	15.32	20.88
Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters/Oper.	7.41	11.19	18.28
Lathe & Turning Machine Tool Setters/Oper.	14.68	17.86	22.01
Cutting, Punching & Press Machine Setters/Oper.	8.34	12.36	18.01
Multiple Machine Tool Setters/Oper.*	11.90	15.30	19.80
Skilled			
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	9.64	16.29	24.07
Electricians	11.05	17.35	31.36
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	13.89	18.93	34.08
Machinists	10.29	16.89	37.11
Tool & Die Makers	14.90	19.22	24.93
Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers	10.36	13.63	19.57
Welding, Soldering & Brazing Machine Setters	11.92	14.72	18.78

*Wage information taken from Balance of State

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage ($)/Percentile 10th	50th	90th
Technical			
Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians*	15.39	27.72	35.92
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologists	17.64	25.33	31.81
Computer Operators	8.73	12.77	19.72

*Wage information taken from Balance of State

Source: Nebraska Workforce Development, Occupational Employment Statistics Program, Third Quarter 2010 wage estimates, All Industries, Northeast Region, **http://neblswages.nwd.ne.gov**.

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

Fringe Benefits

Local industries estimate fringe benefits to range up to 60 percent of wages.

Welcome to Columbus

Columbus Public Library

Columbus Senior Center

TRANSPORTATION

RAILROADS

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

For further information regarding Union Pacific Railroad, contact Cheryl Schow, (308) 289-1911, or visit **www.uprr.com/customers/ind-dev**.

The BNSF Railway Company has a branch line that serves ADM six days per week.

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

Amtrak provides Lincoln, 75 miles southeast of Columbus, with rail passenger service east to Chicago and west to Denver and San Francisco/ Oakland. The Superliner features a lounge car, coach and first-class accommodations, dining car services, and checked baggage service from most cities. Travel time is 11 hours to Chicago and 42 3/4 hours to the West Coast. Amtrak has one train each way daily.

MOTOR

Highways

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

U.S. Highway 81 is four-laned from seven miles south of Columbus to north of Norfolk. U.S. Highway 30 is four-laned from Columbus to Schuyler, 18 miles east.

Highway mileage to major cities:

Destination	Mileage
Lincoln	75
Omaha	85
Chicago	542
Dallas	642
Denver	470
Detroit	808
Kansas City	274
Los Angeles	1,481
Minneapolis	396
New York	1,315
St. Louis	524
San Francisco	1,598
Sioux City	121

The Lost Creek Parkway, providing arterial vehicular travel around the northern edge of the city, is underway. Two phases have been completed and opened to traffic from the easterly end. The remaining sections will complete the four-lane paving west to U.S. Highway 81. The new arterial will provide an expanded roadway network to relieve heavy truck traffic and commuter traffic volumes on the congested segment of U.S. Highways 30 and 81 within the central area of Columbus. At its completion, the new road will function as an integral part of the city's roadway network and will provide bypass benefits for through movements, resulting in an improved level of service for the city's transportation system. This project is expected to be completed in 2011 with a total cost of nearly $21 million. The Federal Highway Administration and the federal stimulus package assisted in the funding of this project.

The viaduct on U.S. Highway 30/81 over the Union Pacific Railroad Company tracks was reconstructed and reopened to traffic in November 2009. Federal assistance was used in this reconstruction project.

Trucklines

More than 11,500 licensed motor carriers with worldwide connections are based in Nebraska and serve businesses throughout North America.

Trucklines with terminals in the Columbus area:

ABF*
BMC
Cliff Viessman, Inc.
Lyon Transfer
MPG Carriers
Mid-Nebraska Transportation
Puntney Trucking
Rickert Transportation
Volbracht's Inc.

*Substation in Columbus, terminal in Omaha

Bus Line

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

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

Taxi

City Taxi serves Columbus with two taxi cabs.

AIR

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

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

Facilities at the Columbus Municipal Airport include a full service FBO (fixed base operator) offering 100 low-lead octane and jet A fuel, full instrument landing capabilities, nonprecision approach, full maintenance, tie downs, rental cars, aircraft rental and sales, crop spraying, and flight instruction. One of the 40 private 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 1,447 feet, the latitude is 41-27N, and the longitude is 097-21W.

Commercial air service:

Lincoln Airport, Lincoln
Distance: 75 miles southeast (1 hour, 15 min.)
Airline: United Airlines & Delta
Destination: Denver International, Chicago & Minneapolis

Central Nebraska Regional Airport, Grand Island
Distance: 63 miles west (1 hour, 11 min.)
Airline: Great Lakes Airlines
Destination: Denver International
Airline: Allegiant Air
Destination: Las Vegas / Phoenix-Mesa

Eppley Airfield, Omaha
Distance: 85 miles southeast (1 hour, 35 min.)
Airlines: Airtran (via Skywest)
American Airlines
Continental Airlines
Delta Air Lines
Frontier/Midwest
Southwest Airlines
United Airlines
US Airways
Destination: Nationwide

WATER

Barge service is available at four barge terminal facilities on the Missouri River in Nebraska. These river ports are navigable approximately eight months per year. The Omaha river port is 87 miles east of Columbus. These river ports are navigable approximately eight months per year. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains a 9 foot deep, 300 foot wide channel for 735 navigable miles from Sioux City, Iowa, to the mouth of the Missouri River near St. Louis, Missouri. Commodities transported by towing companies are fertilizers, feeds, grain, steel, lumber, salt, steel coils, steel bar, and steel plate.

PIPELINE

NuStar LP operates a terminal seven miles east of Columbus.

Intersection of U.S. Highways 30 and 81

New Viaduct on U.S. Highways 30 and 81

Union Pacific Railroad

Columbus Airport Administration Building

ELECTRICITY

Loup Power District (**www.loup.com**), a wholesale power customer of Nebraska Public Power District (**www.nppd.com**), provides electric service to 21 communities in the four-county area of Boone, Colfax, Nance, and Platte. Loup Power provides wholesale service to the communities of Leigh and Schuyler. Loup Power District, Nebraska Public Power District, and Cornhusker Public Power District (**www.cornhusker-power.com**) 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 45 MW hydroelectric plant, which is tied to the statewide transmission grid system with seven 115 kV lines and four 34.5 kV lines; (2) Columbus West 230–34.5 kV substation serves the west side of Columbus; and (3) Columbus East 345/230/115–34.5 kV substation serves the Columbus east industrial area.

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

BASE ELECTRIC RATES—LOUP POWER DISTRICT (effective 1/15/11)

Summer bills run from June 15–October 14.
Winter bills run from October 15–June 14.

Residential Service:

Customer Charge: $13.00 per month

Summer	Winter	
$0.1100	$0.0600	per kWh for the first 600 kWh used per month
$0.0820	$0.0575	per kWh for all additional use

Minimum Bill: $13.00 per month

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

General Service (single phase)**:**

Customer Charge: $19.50 per month

Summer	Winter	
$0.1051	$0.0720	per kWh for the first 1,200 kWh used per month
$0.0940	$0.0665	per kWh for all additional use

Minimum Bill: $19.50 per month plus 50¢ per kVA transformer capacity above 25 kVA

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

General Service (three phase)**:**

Customer Charge: $30.00 per month

Summer	Winter	
$0.1051	$0.0720	per kWh for the first 3,000 kWh used per month
$0.0940	$0.0665	per kWh for all additional use

Minimum Bill: $30.00 per month plus 50¢ per kVA transformer capacity above 25 kVA

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

Sample Cost per kWh for General Service:

kW	kWh	Annual Average ¢/kWh[1]
100	30,000	7.74
100	36,000	7.71

[1]Includes Lease Payment and Gross Revenue Tax.

Large Light & Power Service:
(distribution delivery from lines of 12,470 volts or less and demand less than 300 kW)

Customer Charge: $235.00 per month		
Demand Charge:		
Summer	**Winter**	
$17.60	$9.45	per kW per month of maximum or billing demand
Plus an Energy Charge of:		
$0.0450	$0.0295	per kWh
Minimum Bill: $235.00 per month plus 50¢ per kVA transformer capacity installed		

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

Large Light & Power Service:
(distribution delivery from lines of 12,470 volts or less and demand greater than 300 kW)

Customer Charge: $350.00 per month		
Demand Charge:		
Summer	**Winter**	
$17.60	$9.75	per kW per month of on-peak maximum billing demand
$4.75	$3.50	per kW per month of off-peak maximum billing demand, which is above the on-peak demand
Plus an Energy Charge of:		
$0.0480	$0.0326	per kWh on-peak
$0.0400	$0.0270	per kWh off-peak
Minimum Bill: $350.00 per month plus 50¢ per kVA transformer capacity installed		

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

Sample Cost per kWh for Large Light & Power Service:

kW	kWh	Annual Average ¢/kWh[1]
150	30,000	10.33
150	100,000	5.53
500	100,000	10.05
500	300,000	5.70
1,000	200,000	9.88
1,000	650,000	5.47

[1]Includes Lease Payment and Gross Revenue Tax.

Industrial Rates Subtransmission Delivery are also available.

Prospective customers should contact President and CEO Neal D. Suess, Loup Power District, (888) 564-3171, nsuess@loup.com, **www.loup.com**, for further information regarding electric rates and service.

Cornhusker Public Power District provides service to rural areas in six counties surrounding Columbus. For information regarding electrical services in the Cornhusker Public Power District service area, visit **www.cornhusker-power.com** or contact CEO/General Manager Clay Gibbs, Columbus, Nebraska, (402) 564-2821, clayg@cppd.us.

Natural Gas

Black Hills Energy is the retail supplier of natural gas in Columbus. The transmission provider is Northern Natural. Black Hills Energy is a full-service natural gas distribution company with Nebraska headquarters in Lincoln.

Columbus is served by three different lines. The lines are 4-inch (68 psi), 4-inch (80 psi), and 10-inch (68 psi) steel pipe.

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 customers varies with the type of service selected by the customer.

Rates vary slightly due to seasonal and commodity price fluctuation. Current rates for the commercial/light industrial class customer, as well as one year's history for the Nebraska Area 3, can be found at **www.blackhillsenergy.com**.

Contact the Economic Development Department of Black Hills, (800) 232-1850, for further information regarding gas rates and services available.

Other Fuels

LP Gas

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

Oil

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

Water

Water Production Facilities

The City of Columbus obtains its water from the aquifer beneath the city. The aquifer has an effective saturated thickness of approximately 150 feet in the Columbus area and the water table is within a few feet of the surface. Twelve active wells, with an average depth of 125 feet, draw water from the aquifer and pump it to the water production facilities. The wells have an average listed capacity of 15.9 million gallons per minute.

The average daily flow, as of 2009, was 5.2 million gallons per day, an equivalent of 248 gallons per capita per day. Historical maximum peak demand is approximately 14.2 million gallons per day, an equivalent of 674 gallons per capita per day. The present system has a total storage capacity of 5.9 million gallons of water (5.1 million gallons above ground and 0.8 million gallons below ground) and a maximum capacity of 18,000 gallons per minute.

The color of the water is clear, and the hardness, in parts per million, is 318. The average tap water temperature varies from 52° in the winter to 55° in the summer.

Chemical Analysis (parts per million)

Hydrogen Ion Concentration	7.58
Calcium	94.9
Total Dissolved Solids	386
Magnesium	19.7
Iron	0.01
Nitrate	0.2
Manganese	0.34
Chloride	5.0
Fluoride	1.0
Sulfate	14.0
Total Alkalinity	250
Sodium	16.3
Total Hardness	318

The city operates a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Facility to treat contaminated groundwater. The remediation facility is a groundwater extraction and treatment system (GETS) for removal of PCE and TCE contaminants. There are four groundwater extraction wells that pump to the remediation facility where the contaminated groundwater is treated to below the Safe Drinking Water Standards and then pumped to the city's south water production facility for further treatment and chemical addition. The 10th Street remediation facility can provide up to 2.2 million gallons of water per day for the distribution system.

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

The annual Consumer Confidence Report and the water quality data for Columbus is available at **www.columbusne.us/waterprod**, or call the Public Works/Environmental Services Department in Columbus at (402) 562-4234.

Water Utility System

The water distribution system provides the distribution of safe drinking water to Columbus residents and businesses. The system is served by more than 125 miles of water mains ranging in size from 4 inches to 30 inches and has approximately 9,000 metered service connections. The city is extending water and sewer services to the east and north with a planned elevated water storage tank in 2013 at an estimated cost of $2.5 million to be funded by utility revenue bonds. The city bills on a monthly billing cycle and utilizes Metron Farnier's single-jet technology for the water meters with radio frequency-based automatic meter reading system. This program was financed by utility reserve funds.

Projects currently in progress include:

- $2.1 million new South Water Production Facility
- $0.3 million city water main looping project for a closed system
- $0.5 million water city main replacements

WATER RATES (effective 10/10)

Water connection fees are not charged for new water service.

	$/1,000 Gallons	
Uses	**Inside City**	**Outside City**
Residential	$1.16	$2.31
Commercial	$1.05	$2.28
Industrial	$1.02	$2.14

Plus a Monthly Service Charge (based on meter size)

Meter Size	All Customers
3/4" to 1"	$5.85
1 1/2"	$17.48
2"	$29.00
3"	$58.00
4"	$87.00
6"	$175.00
8"	$290.00
10"	$436.00
12"	$815.00

SEWERAGE

Columbus has a municipal sanitary sewerage system and a separate storm sewer system. The system has a daily capacity of 6.0 million gallons. The average daily flow is 3.58 million gallons and the historic peak daily demand is 7.5 million gallons. The sanitary sewer collection system includes 20 sewer lift stations, more than 185 miles of sewer lines, and more than 1,500 manholes. Projects currently in progress include a $0.4 million sanitary sewer line rehabilitation using Cured-in-Place (CIP) technology and new southeast regional lift station. The city is in an ongoing process of video recording the entire sewer collection system for determining integrity of the system's pipes and prioritizing areas for repairs and evaluating the customer's lateral (sewer service pipe) connections.

SEWER-USE CHARGES (effective 10/10)

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

	$/1,000 Gallons	
Uses	**Inside City**	**Outside City**
Residential	$2.28	$3.27
Commercial	$2.28	$3.27
Industrial	$2.28	$3.27

Plus a Monthly Service Charge

Meter Size	Residential	Commer. & Industrial
3/4" to 1"	$4.08	$4.08
1 1/2"	$12.25	$12.25
2"	$20.40	$20.40
3"	—	$41.00
4"	—	$61.00
6"	—	$123.00
8"	—	$204.00
10"	—	$306.00
12"	—	$571.00

Wastewater Treatment Facilities

The original conventional activated sludge wastewater treatment facility was constructed in 1969 and expanded in 1989. In 2004 an Orbal Multichannel Oxidation System was constructed, which increased capacity and expanded solids processing to meet city growth.

The latest expansion increased the overall daily design to 7.7 million gallons per day capacity with loadings of 8,590 pounds of BOD, 10,740 pounds of TSS, and 1,070 pounds of NH3-N. With some additional modifications, this facility may also incorporate phosphorous removal.

The current projects underway at the wastewater treatment facility are:

- Geodesic dome covers for the secondary clarifiers
- Converting the chlorination/dechlorination disinfection process to Ultraviolet disinfection

Solid Waste Disposal

Columbus, along with Fremont and Norfolk, co-own and operate a solid waste disposal site, 45 miles northeast of Columbus in Stanton County. Columbus is a member of the Northeast Nebraska Solid Waste Coalition along with 24 other Nebraska cities.

The Columbus Solid Waste Division is currently studying the feasibility of the co-location of a newly constructed transfer station and recycle center.

Solid Waste Transfer Station Tipping Fees (effective 10/10)**:**

Item	$/ton	Minimum/ Vehicle
Solid Waste (per net ton)	$30.00*	$10.00 (900 lbs.)
Wood Pallet, or Masonry Rubble	$53.00	$3.00 (120 lbs.)
Trees & Limbs (virgin wood)	$30.00*	$1.50 (100 lbs.)

*Plus occupation tax

Solid Waste Removal Rates

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

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

Recycling

The Columbus Recycle Center is staffed Monday through Friday and four hours on Saturday. There are 24-hour-a-day drop chutes for #1 and #2 plastics, newspapers, and aluminum cans. Items accepted include plastics, newspapers, school paper, office paper, computer paper, shredded office paper, cardboard, magazines, phone books, catalogs, hard-backed books, and steel and aluminum cans. Bulk shredding services for confidential documents and bulk paper waste are available.

Curbside recycling is available through privately owned and operated contractors.

Other privately owned services are available at Columbus Metal Industries, Shred Monster, Maine Plastics, and various churches.

Loup Power District
Columbus Powerhouse

Cornhusker Public Power District

Loup Power District

Nebraska Public Power District

Communications

Telecommunications

Frontier Communications is the local exchange carrier in the Columbus area with a Lucent GTD-5 digital central office, served via an OC 48 and an OC 3 fiber optic system. Frontier is capable of providing T3s, T1s, ISDN, dedicated Internet service, frame relay, voice mail, equal access which can service all long distance companies, and digital "class" calling features. Alternate routes are available for T1 services. Extended Area Services are provided to Creston, Duncan, Leigh, Monroe, and Platte Center. Frontier also provides video services via DISH Networks in Columbus. 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. Frontier can meet and exceed the needs of new and expanding businesses.

Tariffed Rates (effective 12/04)

Residence Line	$17.50
Business Line	$27.50

Time Warner Cable Business Class services include phone with local, in-state, or interstate long distance calls at no additional charge; cable television; Ethernet with point-to-point connectivity between two business locations; a range of bandwidth speeds on a Hybrid Fiber Coax network; and dedicated Internet access that delivers a protected link between your network and the Internet. Cable television, high-speed Internet, and phone services are also available to residential customers. For more information, call (888) 892-2925 or (402) 563-4511 (residential).

Cellular

Alltel has four authorized dealers in Columbus. U.S. Cellular has one authorized dealer in the community.

Internet

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

Company	Services Offered
Community Internet/ Megavision (402) 562-5904 **www.megavision.com**	56K dial-up, high speed Internet, DSL; dedicated point-to-point connection
Frontier Res. (800) 921-8101 Com. (800) 921-8102 Local Office (402) 563-9366 **www.frontieronline.com**	56K dial-up, high speed Internet services; (DSL) to dedicated Internet connections
Time Warner Roadrunner (402) 563-4511 **www.timewarnercable.com**	High speed
Wire Free Nebraska (402) 564-5904 **www.wirefreenebraska.com**	High speed broadband

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

Post Office

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

Year	Receipts
2009	$3.2 million
2008	$3.4 million
2007	$3.6 million
2006	$3.6 million
2005	$3.5 million

Package Delivery Services

Overnight express service availability:

	Federal Express	UPS	U.S. Postal Service
Latest Pick-up	4:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
Earliest Delivery	8:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	12:00 p.m.
Next Day Delivery Guarantee*	Yes	Yes	Yes
Saturday Delivery Guarantee*	Yes	Yes	Yes

*Depending on drop location and/or zip code

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 is the local daily newspaper with 9,693 Sunday subscribers and 8,883 daily subscribers.

The Columbus Area Choice is a regional shopper with a circulation of 25,000 in Platte, Boone, Butler, Colfax, Merrick, Nance, and Polk Counties.

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

Radio

The six radio stations in Columbus are:

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

Television

Television stations carrying local news:

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 offers digital cable including video on demand, local programming with no extra fees, no fee HD, an interactive program guide with parental controls, and more. Pay-per-view events, sports packages, and premium channels such as HBO, Showtime, and others are also available.

DISH Network and DIRECTV satellite services are provided in Columbus with access up to 350 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.

Columbus Post Office

Columbus Telegram

Frontier Communications

Columbus Police Station

Hazmat Trailer

Columbus Volunteer Fire Department Station 2

Tax Structure

Values For Tax Levy Purposes—City of Columbus

All real property is subject to tax at market value. Agricultural land is valued at 70 percent of its market 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		
	2008	**2009**	**2010**
Real Estate	$1,003,086,150	$1,053,215,535	$1,118,598,380
Personal Property	54,384,988	58,110,651	49,191,270
Special (railroad and utilities)	12,271,430	16,174,534	17,424,079
TOTAL	$1,069,742,568	$1,127,500,720	$1,185,213,729

Tax Rate (Dollars and cents per $100 of actual value)

	2008	**2009**	**2010**
City*	$0.329873	$0.328692	$0.325830
County	.219908	.213875	.224738
School District	1.161560	1.161600	1.154341
Community College	.090980	.099275	.112023
Educational Service Unit	.015000	.015000	.014990
Natural Resource District	.028519	.038858	.038715
Agricultural Society	.015277	.013856	.011839
TOTAL	$1.861117	$1.871156	$1.882476

*The Columbus Airport Authority merged into the City of Columbus on December 1, 2008. Tax rates have been restated to merge the Airport Authority levy into the city levy for all years for comparison purposes.

The 2010 tax rates at the industrial sites outside the city limits vary from $1.385994 to $1.882476 per $100 of actual value.

City Sales Tax

The City of Columbus has received voter approval eight times since 1995 for a 1 percent or 1/2 percent city sales tax for various projects. Currently the local tax rate is 1.5 percent. Through April 2017, the 1 percent sales tax is allocated 90 percent to capital improvements, including street improvements and drainage projects, and 10 percent to economic development under the LB840 Economic Development Plan, not to exceed $300,000 per year. The 1/2 percent is allocated to debt service for the $6.5 million of bonds that were used to construct the Pawnee Plunge Water Park and for aquatic operations.

At the November 2, 2010 election, Columbus voters renewed the 1/2 percent sales tax and approved the issuance of $5,350,000 of sales tax bonds. The bonds will provide funding for public facility improvements, as determined by the Mayor and Council, including field turf and running tract at Pawnee Park Memorial Stadium, expansion of Pawnee Plunge Water Park, planning for a library/cultural arts facility, and related costs of issuance. The continuation of the 1/2 percent sales tax provides funds to pay the bonds and for aquatic operations.

Local Bonded Indebtedness

City—Revenue Bonds (as of 9/30/10)	$23,810,000
City—General Obligation Bonds (as of 9/30/10)	$6,175,000
School District (as of 8/31/10)	$20,140,000
County (as of 6/30/10)	$2,455,000

City Bond Issues

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 9/30/10	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
Revenue					
Sub Combined Revenue	2003	$8,725,000	$8,125,000	2.00–4.50	2023
Sub Combined Revenue	2004	$7,205,000	$5,100,000	3.00–4.65	2023
Combined Revenue Refunding	2005	$6,915,000	$4,275,000	3.00–4.00	2023
Combined Revenue	2007	$1,800,000	$1,800,000	4.50	2027
Combined Revenue	2010	$4,510,000	$4,510,000	1.90–4.66	2030
General Obligation					
Refunding	2002	$1,650,000	$50,000	2.10–4.50	2011
Sales Tax Revenue*	2004	$4,000,000	$1,415,000	2.00–3.90	2013
Refunding Water Park	2005	$585,000	$325,000	3.00–4.00	2014
Flood Control	2008	$3,400,000	$2,865,000	2.50–3.50	2014
Various Purpose	2008	$500,000	$450,000	3.25–4.50	2023
Refunding	2009	$1,070,000	$1,070,000	1.40–4.00	2019

*Water park

School Bond Issues

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 8/31/10	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
High School Remodel	2004	$17,680,000	$13,450,000	1.85–5.00	2023
Elementary School Remodel	2009	$6,690,000	$6,690,000	0.65–4.00	2019

County Bond Issues

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 6/30/10	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
Detention Facility	2008	$3,685,000	$2,455,000	2.00–3.15	2013

Local Government

County Government

Platte County has 18 townships and is governed by a seven-member Board of Supervisors, elected by the district for four-year terms. The county belongs to the Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District with 17 other counties. Platte County does not have county zoning. The 2010–11 budget is $27,451,280.

Municipal Government

Columbus, a city of the first class, has a mayor-council form of government with a full-time city administrator. The 2010–11 actual budget is $54,960,195.

Municipal officials are:

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

Fire Protection

Fire protection and ambulance services are provided in Columbus by 12 full-time fire fighters, 60 volunteers, and 21 rural volunteers. Thirty-six members are registered as Emergency Medical Technicans-Ambulance (EMTAs) and 29 are certified EMT-AD (defibrillator) with 11 memberd EMT-P (paramedic) certified. The department provides protection within 100 square miles of the city.

The department has paging equipment for each fire fighter 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 fire fighters on rural calls along with available volunteers. Present policy is to send two full-time fire fighters with two pieces of equipment or two full-time fire fighters with one piece of equipment, depending on the nature of the call. The industrial sites are provided full coverage.

The city, with more than 1,171 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 $1,542,800.

Equipment in the fire department:

Year/Make	Description
City	
2010 Rosenbauer	110-ft. aerial
2007 GMC	Ambulance
2002 Ford	Ambulance, 2 stretchers ALS
2002 Freightliner	Utility truck
2000 Pierce	1,500 gpm
1998 Ford	Ambulance. 4 stretchers ALS
1992 Ford	Ambulance, 4 stretchers ALS
1985 Mack	1,250 gpm
1972 Dodge	Quick response unit
1972 American LaFrance	1,500 gpm
Rural	
2007 Pierce	1,250 gpm
2003 Ford	Grass rig
2002 Freightliner	1,600 gal. tanker
1996 International	1,250 gpm/75-ft. aerial
1993 Ford	1,250 gpm

In addition, the department has a 2010 education trailer and a 2004 hazmat and support unit.

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

Year	Amount
2009	$109,000
2008	$104,000
2007	$212,000
2006	$184,000
2005	$114,000

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 annually. With the addition of a Fire Prevention Trailer, the department teaches fire prevention to youngsters in preschools and day-care centers.

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

The fire department also has a training tower located near the airport. Volunteers, paid fire fighters, and fire fighters from surrounding towns receive training at this tower. The fire department also has a "live burn trailer" for training purposes.

Law Enforcement

Police Department

The Columbus Police Department employs 36 full-time officers and 19 support personnel (full-time and part-time) and has a fleet of 17 vehicles. The department is capable of receiving/transmitting on seven frequencies. The National Weather Alert System; local fire and burglar alarms; and national, state, and local crime information teletype systems are all monitored by the department. Countywide Crimestopper calls are directed to the department. The Drug Awareness Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) and Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) programs are among several crime and safety programs offered in Columbus parochial schools. Annual expenditures for police protection for the last three years averaged $3,462,589. For further information, visit **www.police.columbusne.us**.

The Columbus Police Department (CPD) operates as the primary enhanced 911 public safety answering point for the Platte County area. CPD Dispatchers work closely with Platte County Sheriff's Office Dispatchers and other public safety organizations to provide coverage for law enforcement, fire, medical, and other public safety professionals throughout the county.

Various state-of-the-art technologies are utilized throughout the city and county dispatch to provide prompt and efficient responses to emergency situations. Enhanced 911 provides immediate location information from callers on land line and VOIP telephones. Other technologies, including tower triangulation and cell phone GIS technology, are used to provide accurate location information for callers using cellular phones. The Platte County area dispatchers are connected to the new statewide Interoperable Communications network. While this network is still under construction, it currently allows for advanced communications scenarios in the Platte County area. The Platte County area has also implemented an Emergency Notification System (ENS) that allows for automated telephone calling of citizens based on events and their location. The ENS has the ability to simultaneously contact thousands of telephone subscribers who are selected based on their geographic proximity to events (i.e., lowland creek flooding).

Crime rates per 1,000 population, 2009:

Location	Violent Crimes	Property Crimes
Columbus	0.6	19.7
Platte County	0.8	16.9
Nebraska	2.7	26.7
U.S.	4.3	30.4

Sheriff's Department

The Platte County Sheriff's Department is staffed by a sheriff and 1 part-time and 64 full-time employees. The department has 14 marked and 3 unmarked patrol cruisers, communications center, detention facility, and all required law enforcement equipment. Regular patrol provides protection to existing industries by the police and sheriff's departments. The sheriff's department patrols the industrial tracts and eight villages in the county, covering 673 square miles.

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

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

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

State Patrol

Troop B of the Nebraska State Patrol is headquartered in Norfolk, 46 miles north of Columbus. Troop B serves 23 counties and headquarters 48 patrol officers. A satellite office, located at the Family Resource Center in Columbus, stations 4 patrol officers, 2 carrier enforcement officers, and 3 investigators.

Streets

The Columbus Street Department provides maintenance for all city streets (including U.S. Highways 30 and 81 that intersect in Columbus), highway signs, certain traffic signal lights, and trimming and removal of trees in the city's right-of-way. Columbus has 144 miles of streets, 133 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 60 percent have sidewalks.

Maintenance of city streets includes striping of street lanes, snow removal, street sweeping, and curb and street repair. Street maintenance equipment includes 2 street sweepers, 3 loaders, 2 snow blowers, 10 one-way and 2 two-way snowplows, 4 road graders, 3 tractors with mowers, 11 five-yard trucks, 1 aerial truck, 1 backhoe, 4 small 8-foot pickup salt spreaders, and 3 five-yard salt spreaders.

Completion of the Lost Creek Parkway (arterial around the northern edge of the city), beginning at 23rd Street (U.S. Highway 30) and East 6th Avenue and extending to U.S. Highway 81, is anticipated in 2011. A future land use overlay to facilitate development along this corridor is being prepared. This project is being financed by federal and city funds.

Building and Zoning Regulations

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

Local zoning classifications are:

Base Districts

AG	Agricultural
RR	Rural Residential
R-1	Single-Family Residential
R-2	Urban-Family Residential
R-3	Multiple-Family Residential
RMH	Mobile Home Residential
O	Office
LC	Limited Commercial
UC	Urban Commercial
B-1	Central Business
B-2	General Commercial
ML/C-1	Limited Industrial
MH	General Industrial

Overlay Districts

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

Planning

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

A Comprehensive Plan was updated by Olsson & Associates of Lincoln, Nebraska, in 2005.

Columbus City Hall

Platte County Courthouse

Community Facilities

Schools and Colleges

Columbus Public Schools

Type of School	Classrooms	Students	Teacher/ Pupil Ratio	Computer/ Pupil Ratio
Elementary (K–5) 5 schools	101	1,714	1:8	1:3
Middle School (6–8)	48	834	1:5	1:3
High School (9–12)	72	1,119	1:8	1:3

School District No. 1 in Platte County covers 57.3 square miles and had an actual 2009–10 valuation of $1,439,431,343; the actual valuation per student was $392,536. This Class 3, Type K–5, 6–8, 9–12 district is accredited by the state of Nebraska and the Baldridge System.

The 2010–2011 school general fund budget is $34,650,000, with an average cost per pupil of $8,930.

The maximum capacity of the five public elementary schools is 2,000. The public middle school, built in 1924 with additions in 1951, 1961, 1965, and 1990, has a maximum capacity of 900. The public high school, with a maximum capacity of 1,500, was built in 1958 with additions in 1965, 1976, 1988, and a 2006 renovation/expansion.

Test Results

Name	% Students Taking Test	% at 50th Percentile or Above
7th Grade MAP		
- Reading	98	62
- Math	98	54
ACT	52	21.4 composite

Most recently, Columbus High School (CHS) registered a 91 percent graduation rate and a dropout rate of 1.5 percent. More than 44 percent of the 2009–10 graduating seniors earned college credit while attending Columbus High. Of the 2010 graduating class, 80 percent pursued post-secondary education, 6 percent joined the military, and 8 percent entered the work force.

The High Ability Learner (HAL) program provides critical and creative learning opportunities for qualifying students. High school students can take advantage of numerous Advanced Placement (AP) and dual credit (high school and college credit at the same time) courses in a variety of departments, in addition to multiple extra curricular opportunities.

A continuum of Special Education services and programs are provided to meet individual needs. These services include support of families and children in home and preschool settings. School age children receive Special Education services in regular education classrooms and in self-contained settings as determined by each child's individualized educational plan.

Students attending Columbus Public Schools can choose from a wide array of extra curricular activities. The high school offers more than 50 options, including 19 sports.

Columbus Public Schools offers students a chance to experience many career opportunities. All students take career classes at both the middle and high schools. Career portfolios begin at Columbus Middle School and are worked on through their senior year at CHS.

The Linkages Manufacturing Program began through a cooperative venture between Central Community College, businesses, and CHS in the early 1990s. Passing courses in this program results in Levels II and III certifications in either the Tool and Die Pathway or the Pre-Engineering Pathway.

CHS has the best-equipped high school automotive lab in the state of Nebraska.

Specialized programs provide CHS students with outstanding opportunities. Most recently a health care academy was launched in cooperation with other area high schools, Columbus Community Hospital, and Central Community College.

Columbus citizens have shown their support for the district through a variety of ways. Voters approved more than $29 million for facilities during the last 12 years.

Rural Schools

Type of School	Classrooms	Students	Teacher/ Pupil Ratio	Computer/ Pupil Ratio
Lakeview High (7–8)	21	116	1:13	1:2
Lakeview High (9–12)	39	275	1:11	1:2
Platte Center (K–6)	9	142	1:17	1:3
Shell Creek (K–6)	14	175	1:17	1:3
Christ Lutheran* (K–8)	3	29	1:10	1:3
St. John's Lutheran* (Pre–K–8)	4	42	1:10	1:2

*Lutheran schools within the boundaries of Lakeview Community Schools

Parochial Schools

Type of School	Classrooms	Students	Teacher/ Pupil Ratio	Computer/ Pupil Ratio	Avg. Annual Tuition
Columbus Christian (Pre–K–8)	6	70	1:12	1:3	$2,950
Immanuel Lutheran (Pre–K–8)	13	247	1:14	1:4	$1,700 (member)
Scotus Central Catholic Jr.–Sr. High (7–12)	34	382	1:14	1:3	$2,315
St. Anthony (K–6)	7	120	1:18	1:4	All Catholic elementary schools $1,725 - 1st child $975 - 2nd child $625 - 3rd child
St. Bonaventure (K–6)	14	210	1:16	1:5	
St. Isidore (K–6)	15	198	1:20	1:1	
St. Anthony (Pre)	2	28	1:9		
St. Bonaventure (Pre)	3	66	1:9		
St. Isidore (Pre)	2	47	1:8		
St. Lukes (Pre)	5	41	1:7		

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

Catholic

The city's four Catholic schools operate under a coordinated K–12 curriculum and serve students with an educational experience marked by traditional values, faith development, a safe

Columbus High School

Columbus High School Preforming Arts Center

Columbus Middle School

Centennial Elementary School

Emerson Elementary School

Lost Creek Elementary School

North Park Elementary School

West Park Elementary School

Lakeview High School

Columbus Christian Elementary School

Immanuel Lutheran Elementary School

Educational Service Unit 7

Scotus Central Catholic High School

St. Anthony Elementary School

St. Bonaventure Elementary School

St. Isidore Elementary School

and supportive environment, involvement, and a tradition of strong academic performance. Each school is accredited by the Nebraska Department of Education and National Catholic Education Association, and Scotus Central Catholic is also accredited by the North Central Association. On average, more than one-half of the faculty have masters degrees. Each elementary school (St. Anthony, St. Bonaventure, and St. Isidore) provides all-day kindergarten, preschool, and childcare. All three schools have recently completed major capital improvements. The St. Bonaventure preschool and childcare center is nationally accredited. A dress and grooming code is enforced at all four schools and several active parents and friend booster clubs assist the schools with financial as well as volunteer support. Tuition charges are equal to less than one-third of the cost of educating students with the other two-thirds coming from fund raising and parish support. A web-based student records management system provides real time parental access to student grades, attendance, homework assignments, school announcements, etc., at all four schools.

During the 2009–10 school year, budgeted expenditures for the combined four schools totaled $4,584,413 providing an economic impact to the Columbus area of more than $11.5 million annually. The average cost to educate a student at the elementary level is $4,570 and $5,838 at the secondary level.

Test Results - Catholic Schools

Name	% Students Taking Test	Percentile
Iowa Tests of Basic Skills		
7th Grade	100	81
9th Grade	100	78
11th Grade	100	84
ACT		**Composite**
12th Grade	94	24.6

For the past 126 years, Scotus Central Catholic High School has proudly served the 7–12 grades of Catholic education in the Columbus area. Scotus is supported financially by the three Catholic parishes (31.1% tuition assistance), endowment and fund raising (33.8%), and tuition (35.1%). Most recently the school successfully completed a $2.65 million capital campaign to improve the HVAC system and to renovate the locker rooms. The school has approximately 4,000 active alumni and alumnae, including those in religious vocations, professionals in many fields, and notably a recently retired U.S. Senator. A comprehensive fine and performing arts program, high-speed computer facilities, and one of the state's most successful C-1 athletic and activity programs enhance the school's strong academic tradition. Advanced placement courses and dual enrollment courses with Central Community College are also provided. On average, 99 percent of Scotus graduates continue their studies in post-secondary education and 1 percent enter the military or workforce.

Christian

Columbus Christian School and Preschool (CCS) has been providing the Columbus area with quality Christian education since 1994. CCS is a non-denominational school approved by the Nebraska Department of Education and is a member of the Association for Christian Schools International.

The purpose of Columbus Christian School and Preschool is to provide an education for children that puts the Bible at the center and causes students to learn to use Scripture to evaluate all of life through the eyes of God. CCS is Bible-based, Christ-centered, and student-focused. The desire is to assist families and churches in the process of educating young people to follow Christ and to mature spiritually, academically, socially, physically, and emotionally.

Lutheran

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

with preschool (age 3) through eighth grade and operates an on-site day care year round.

Educational Service Unit

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

Community College

Columbus is served by the **Central Community College** which encompasses a 25-county area. The college is governed by an 11-member Board of Governors elected by the citizens of the counties served. Administrative offices are located in Grand Island with campuses in Columbus, Grand Island, and Hastings and off-campus centers in Holdrege, Kearney, and Lexington. Classes are available through extended learning programs in approximately 80 communities within the college's service area. During the 2009–10 academic year, 25,020 students were enrolled in Central Community College courses.

Certificate, Diploma, and Degree Programs: Central Community College offers 33 career and technical education programs, including more than 700 vocational technical and academic transfer college credit courses. Classes are offered by multiple delivery methods, including traditional lecture/lab class settings. Some of the alternative delivery methods used include:

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

—**On-line Learning:** More than 300 courses are available on line including all coursework needed to complete an associate of arts or associate of science degree for transfer to colleges and universities as well as associate of applied science degrees in accounting, agribusiness, business administration, business technology, health information, management services, information technology, and paralegal.

Adult 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 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 associations, civic groups, governmental agencies, and other organizations within its 25-county service area. College staff provide expertise in their fields of study to develop and coordinate specially-tailored short courses, workshops, and seminars to meet specific training needs.

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

Central Community College
2009–10 Academic Year
(Note: Numbers can be duplicated between award levels)

Program	Degree	Diploma	Certificate
Academic Transfer	118	NA	NA
Agriculture	10	3	2
Associate Degree in Nursing	76	NA	NA
Auto Body Technology	8	12	71
Automotive Technology	6	4	10
Business Administration/Accounting	64	39	77
Business Technology	11	18	43
Commercial Art	4	5	5
Commercial Horticulture	4	3	8
Construction Technology	14	12	35
Criminal Justice	10	NA	NA
Dental Assisting	11	7	NA
Dental Hygiene	15	NA	NA
Diesel Technology	14	13	57
Drafting	20	13	28
Early Childhood Education	30	13	13
Electrical Technology	10	5	4
Electronics Technology	10	4	4
Health Information Management Services	10	15	13
Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration	2	3	22
Hospitality Management & Culinary Arts	5	10	14
Human Services	24	12	1
Industrial Technology	8	9	36
Information Technology	5	13	33
Machine Shop Technology	7	13	30
Media Arts	10	13	30
Medical Assisting	11	1	0
Medical Technology	10	0	0
Paralegal	1	5	0
Parts Sales & Management	5	2	3
Practical Nursing	NA	59	NA
Quality Control	3	0	7
Truck Driving	NA	NA	68
Welding Technology	11	22	62
Total	**547**	**328**	**676**

NA-Not available

Columbus Campus

The Columbus Campus is located three miles north of Columbus, adjacent to a lake and outdoor recreation area. It offers 21 career education programs and academic transfer courses in 26 areas. Two campus residence halls are home to 164 students.

A gymnasium, weight room, and locker rooms are available for fitness programs, physical education classes, intramural sports, and intercollegiate competition in women's softball and volleyball and men's basketball and golf.

The Fine Arts Center theater provides seating for 340 people for a variety of concerts, plays, and other presentations offered each year.

Student writing and art are published in the annual Hilltop Review literary magazine. Students also display artwork to the public during the annual Fine Arts Festival.

The campus offers training for business and industry on a wide range of topics and is home to a nationally recognized Mechatronics Learning Lab, established in 2005, which emphasizes electronics, pneumatics, hydraulics, and robotics. It is maintained through state and national business and government funding.

The campus provides extensive learning opportunities at off-campus locations in a nine-county area, including a learning center in the Cargill Meat Solutions plant in Schuyler, operated through a collaborative agreement between the company and the college.

The Columbus Campus also offers distance learning classes in area high schools through CCC's Early College Program.

For further information on Central Community College, visit **www.cccneb.edu**.

Colleges and Universities

Wayne State College (WSC) located in Wayne, 80 miles northeast of Columbus, serves approximately 3,600 students from throughout Nebraska and Iowa as well as more than 32 other states and 24 foreign countries. At the undergraduate level, WSC offers more than 70 nonteaching majors and minors plus 38 various teaching endorsements in four academic schools including arts and humanities, business and technology, education and counseling, and natural and social sciences. Masters degrees are also available in business, education, and organizational management.

Central Community College - Columbus Campus

Of those undergraduate students declaring a major, approximately 12 percent major in the arts and humanities, 23 percent in education and counseling, 24 percent in business and technology, and 41 percent in natural and social sciences.

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

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

The College Center of South Sioux City, opening in early 2011, is a collaborative effort of Northeast Community College and Wayne State College. Northeast and Wayne State will offer opportunities for students to earn associate, baccalaureate, and master's degrees, a combination of customized training for business and industry, continuing education, licensing programs, and career and technical training. The College Center sits on 57 acres of land along U.S. Highway 77, donated by the Community Development Agency of South Sioux City.

For more information, contact Wayne State College at (800) 228-9972 or **www.wsc.edu**.

Wayne State College

	Undergraduate		Graduate	
Program	**Majors***	**Degrees****	**Majors***	**Degrees****
Applied Human & Sport Physiology	42	4	—	—
Art	45	11	—	—
Business	380	122	82	20
Chemistry	46	21	—	—
Computer Information Systems	77	16	—	—
Computer Science	34	4	—	—
Counselor Education/Counseling	—	—	60	18
Criminal Justice	189	28	—	—
Curriculum & Instruction	—	—	206	102
Early Childhood	25	7	—	—
Early Childhood Education	111	19	—	—
Elementary Education	389	47	—	—
English	79	20	—	—
Exercise Science	83	13	8	2
Family & Consumer Sciences	62	16	—	—
French Education	1	1	—	—
Geography	28	5	—	—
Graphic Design	43	8	—	—
Health & Physical Education	86	11	—	—
History	61	6	—	—
Human Service Counseling	96	25	—	—
Industrial Technology	120	20	—	—
Interdisciplinary Studies	4	1	—	—
Life Sciences	102	40	—	—
Mass Communication	46	9	—	—
Mathematics	37	4	—	—

*Includes first and second majors for fall 2010 (as of 10/15/10)
**Includes degrees awarded December 2009 through August 2010

Wayne State College				
	Undergraduate		Graduate	
Program	**Majors***	**Degrees****	**Majors***	**Degrees****
Middle Level Education	34	3	—	—
Music	70	10	—	—
Natural Sciences	9	1	—	—
Organizational Management	—	—	24	11
Physical Science	6	0	—	—
Political Science	26	9	—	—
Pre-Professional	263	0	—	—
Psychology	69	10	—	—
School Administration	—	—	140	24
Social Sciences	59	10	—	—
Sociology	19	4	—	—
Spanish	27	11	—	—
Special Education	90	6	5	40
Speech Communication	40	18	—	—
Sport Management	107	23	—	
Technology	6	6	—	—
Theatre	9	2	—	—
Undeclared	312	0	—	—
TOTAL	**3,332**	**571**	**525**	**177**

*Includes first and second majors for fall 2010 (as of 10/15/10)
**Includes degrees awarded December 2009 through August 2010

Other Schools

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

Community/College or University	Mileage
Norfolk	46
Northeast Community College	
Fremont	48
Midland University	
York	51
York College	
Seward	51
Concordia University	
Grand Island	63
Central Community College, Grand Island Campus	
College Park	
Milford	64
Southeast Community College, Milford Campus	
Lincoln	75
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	
Nebraska Wesleyan University	
Union College	
Southeast Community College, Lincoln Campus	
Crete	80
Doane College	
Wayne	80
Wayne State College	
Omaha	85
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	

Community/College or University	Mileage
Bellevue	98
Bellevue College	
Kearney	106
University of Nebraska at Kearney	

Churches

Denomination	Number of Churches
Assembly of God	1
Baptist	4
Berean	1
Bible Baptist	1
Catholic	3
Church of Christ	2
Church of God	1
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	1
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Reorganized)	1
Church of the Nazarene	1
Discover Hope	1
Episcopal	1
Everlasting Love Church	1
Evangelical Free	1
First United Methodist	1
Iglesia Emanuel	1
Jehovah's Witnesses	1
Lutheran- LCMC	1
Lutheran-ELCA	1
Lutheran-Missouri Synod	3
Lutheran-Wisconsin Synod	1
New Hope Christian Life	1
Seventh Day Adventist	1
United Church of Christ	1
United Church of Christ-Presbyterian	1
Victory Christian Fellowship	1

Specialized Services

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

Also housed at the Columbus Family Resource Center are 15 human service agencies to include The Arc of Platte County, Apex Therapy Services, Big Pals/Little Pals of Columbus, Boy Scouts of America, Boys and Girls Home of Nebraska, Healthy Families Nebraska, Catholic Charities, Columbus Area United Way, Columbus Collaborative Team, Columbus Community Hospital Sleep Lab, Keep Columbus Beautiful, Behavioral Health Specialists, Nebraska State Patrol, Occupational Health Services, NorthStar Services, and the Platte County Food Pantry.

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

Central Nebraska Community Services (CNCS), a non-profit agency, was created in 1965 as a result of President Johnson's Economic

Opportunity Act. CNCS specializes in bringing resources totaling more than $11.6 million into the 22,985 square miles of the service area. CNCS addresses the needs of 15,000 unduplicated persons in north-central Nebraska through programs and services. Programs offered include (1) Community Economic Development providing economic growth opportunities, job creation, and affordable living environments for families in rural communities; (2) Early Childhood Programs promoting children's physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development while assisting the entire family in efforts to reach economic self-sufficiency; (3) Family Outreach providing assistance during crisis, linkage to resources, advocacy for services, financial counseling, and goal attainment; and (4) Health and Nutrition fostering the health lifestyles of central Nebraskans through health promotion, prevention, and education.

Some services offered include:

- Car Seat Program
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program
- Community Assessment
- Community Housing Development
- Emergency Assistance
- Every Woman Matters
- Head Start/Early Head Start
- HOPE Case Management Immunizations
- Project THRIVES (Transitional Housing for Rural Independence, Viability, and Economic Stability)
- Weatherization Assistance
- WIC (Women, Infants & Children)

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

Mosaic is a nonprofit organization founded in 2003 by the consolidation for Bethphage and Martin Luther Homes, Mosaic serves more than 3,500 people with disabilities through agencies in 15 states and Great Britain. Three programs in northeast Nebraska are located in Columbus, Fremont, and Norfolk serving approximately 100 individuals with disabilities with the mission of a life of possibilities for people with intellectual disabilities. Programs offered by Mosaic include vocational training and employment support, independent living skills, physical therapy, respite care, and community involvement through recreational and volunteer opportunities. Support is provided through day service programs, residential support in group homes, intermittent support in their own homes as needed, or extended family homes.

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

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

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

Health Care

Hospital

Columbus Community Hospital (**www.columbushosp.org**), a not-for-profit hospital, is community-owned. The facility opened its doors in 2002 and is located on 80 acres in the northwest part of Columbus. The 153,000-square-foot hospital is a four-story, prairie-style building with an attached 40,000-square-foot, one-story medical office building housing local and visiting physicians.

The hospital is a 47-bed acute care facility (certified for swing beds), with 4 skilled nursing beds and 14 ambulatory outpatient beds, all private rooms. Columbus Community Hospital is licensed by the Nebraska State Board of Health and is accredited through The Joint Commission. The hospital is also a member of the Nebraska Hospital Association, American Hospital Association, Voluntary Hospital Association, and Heartland Health Alliance.

In October 2010 the hospital began construction on a 30,000 square-foot addition. The building project, to be completed in June 2012, will allow the hospital to expand services in the Emergency Department, increase patient privacy in the registration area, and create a women's imaging center.

The Columbus Cancer Center, located in the medical office building, treats area patients with blood disorders or cancer.

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

Clinics

Columbus has numerous clinics, including Columbus Medical Center, Columbus Family Practice, Family Healthcare of Columbus, Columbus Gynecology and Women's Health, Columbus Children's Healthcare Pediatrics, Columbus General Surgery, Columbus Women's Healthcare, Hematology and Oncology Consultants, Center of Dermatology, Aesthetic Surgical Images, Nebraska Cancer Specialist, Columbus Orthopedic and Sports Medicine, Neurological and Spine Surgery, Columbus Otolaryngology Clinic, Midwest Allergy and Asthma Clinic, Heibel Dermatology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Creighton Cardiology, Creighton Internal Medicine, Creighton Rheumatology, Urology Center, Lincoln Surgical Group, Urgent Care, Nebraska Pulmonary Specialties, Midwest NeuroSurgery, Nebraska Kidney Care, Bryan LGH Heart Institute, Neurological Surgery, Columbus Community Hospital Wound Healing Center, Lincoln Pain Clinic, Faith Regional Infectious Disease, Faith Regional Nephrology Services, Faith Regional Neurology Services, Faith Regional Pulmonary Services, Nebraska Heart Institute, Bose Pain Management, Pediatric Cardiology, UNMC Department of Pediatric Psychology, Columbus Community Hospital Occupational Health Services, Good Neighbor Community Health Center, Columbus Foot Clinic, and Foot Care Center.

Rescue Squad

The Columbus Fire Department has three fully equipped ambulances and one reserve unit. Thirty-six members are registered as Emergency Medical Technicians-Ambulance (EMTAs),

29 are certified as EMT-AD (defibrillator), and 11 members are EMT-P (paramedic) certified.

The Midwest Medical Transport Company, with three ambulances in Columbus, employs 9 paramedics and 12 emergency medical technicians. Columbus also houses the dispatch center and accounts receivable/payable departments for the entire company. With 28 ambulances and 9 wheel chair vans located in 10 communities, Midwest Medical Transport Company serves all of Nebraska.

Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living

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

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

Assisted Living

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

Meridian Gardens Assisted Living Community opened in 2006 with 60 spacious apartments. The facility offers a unique approach to assisted living while being conveniently located near Columbus Community Hospital. Residents enjoy an atmosphere of individualized support with strong value given to preserving independence and dignity. The community features a beautiful courtyard, variety of amenities, numerous daily activities, and upbeat atmosphere to rejuvenate lives. Five styles of apartments are available to accommodate a variety of interests and financial needs. Customized care is available 24-hours a day for those who need assistance. Transportation to local appointments is available. Three nutritious restaurant-style meals are provided each day.

A 21,000-square-foot expansion began in 2010 on an additional 7 assisted living apartments and a memory support community of 16 apartments. Completion is anticipated in 2011.

Prairie Village Retirement Center is a licensed assisted living and senior independent living community sponsored by the Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation. This one-story, residential-style building is made up of 36 assisted living apartments and 32 independent living apartments. Features include a security system, library, chapel, community room, card room, sun rooms, exercise room, activities room, TV/lounge areas, and attached garages. Emergency call systems are monitored by professional staff 24 hours a day. Services offered include home-cooked meals, scheduled transportation, in-house barber/beauty shop, housekeeping/linen service, and a variety of activities. Medication monitoring, whirlpool

Family Resource Center

Columbus Community Hospital

Medical Office Building

GoldenLiving Center Columbus

Morys Haven

Edgewood Vista

baths, and assistance with dressing are available to those in an assisted living apartment. The mission of Prairie Village is to provide services to older adults in a caring, Christian community on a non-profit basis. The services provided are designed to promote independence, dignity, and well-being. Prairie Village has been serving seniors since 1993.

Edgewood Vista - Columbus is a 14-bed memory care assisted living with proven expertise in providing care that positively impacts cognitive functioning and improves quality of life. It offers a comfortable home-like atmosphere and environment offering secured doors and a beautiful, safe courtyard. Personalized care is provided 24 hours a day by caregivers trained in dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Private and semi-private rooms with private bathrooms decorated to individual likings are offered. Furniture is provided, if needed. Next to each resident room is a "Memory Cue Box" to remind residents which room is theirs. Home cooked meals are made in the open kitchen and eaten in a family-style dining room. There is an on-site beauty shop with licensed cosmetologist at the facility weekly. The facility is Medicaid-waiver approved and long-term care is accepted.

Library

The **Columbus Public Library** is housed in a large multi-purpose facility. The collection includes 92,000 volumes, 2,200 DVDs, 1,200 audio books, 600 musical CDs, 159 magazine subscriptions, 100 art prints available for check-out, and a wide assortment of daily newspapers. The library is fully automated, with its catalog accessible via Internet. Columbus Public Library has 21 online databases, as well as downloadable audio books. A public computer lab is available with 25 computers.

Other services include five meeting rooms, an auditorium, two art galleries, walk-in copy service, typewriters, and an interactive tele-video conference center. The library contracts with Platte County to provide a bookmobile service to county schools and other communities in the county. Platte County residents also have walk-in service at the library. The Interlibrary Loan Program provides area library users access to larger collections of materials in Nebraska's cities and universities. The library is an active partner with the Central Community College-Columbus Campus in providing classroom space for adult basic education classes, including GED, literacy training, Family Literacy, and English as a Second Language instruction.

Platte Valley Literacy Association and Central Community College-Columbus Campus provide instruction to Columbus area adults for improved reading, writing, math, living skills, English as a second language, U.S. citizenship, and general education development (GED) preparation. These instructions, conducted at the Columbus Public Library, are provided by classes and/or one-on-one tutoring. A "family literacy" program provides learning experiences for children ages 4 through 5th grade, 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 15,000 volumes and 115 current periodicals with on-line catalog. Other services include access to Internet, on-line databases, interlibrary loan, photocopying, and computer labs. An interlibrary loan program provides students access to larger collections in Nebraska's cites and colleges. The media center has numerous training tapes available for the college's faculty and trainers to use as curriculum resources.

Recreation

Columbus has 14 parks covering approximately 290 acres. Park Department employees are responsible for maintaining all city parks. The average annual operating budget is $665,000.

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

with an approximate capacity of 25. Pawnee Park has modern rest room facilities, a potable water supply, and rose garden in addition to the many sports facilities.

A part of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Pawnee Park's Memory Meadows and Civic Forest are peaceful, wooded areas. For the sports enthusiasts, Pawnee Park offers a lagoon and a one-half acre lake stocked with fish, lighted tennis courts, six 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.

Pawnee Plunge, a 15,645-square-foot water park which opened in 2006, can hold 1,706 visitors and features a zero-depth entry pool with a tot-friendly AquaDek, lily pad walk complete with octopus, lazy river, tube slide, speed slide, curve slide, and unique Splash Bowl. The Plunge also features a sand play area, and food court.

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

Another attraction in Pawnee Park is the Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial. In 2000 high school students of history teacher Gerald Meyer decided to take on a project to honor millions of soldiers, scores of workers, and a Columbus native, Andrew Jackson Higgins, the designer of the Higgins Boat and "the man who won the war," according to President Eisenhower. The Higgins Boat was the barge-like landing craft that carried soldiers from the ships to the beaches prior to and during an invasion. In 2002 Phase II was added to the memorial, which included three life-sized bronze statues, representing the three wars in which the Higgins boats were used—World War II, Korea, and Vietnam—along with five large flagpoles, representing the service branches. A large Freedom Eagle, a 600-pound bronze sculpture soaring 30 feet in the air supported by a zig-zag-shaped pole made from a steel beam from the World Trade Center, was part of the Phase III addition to this memorial. In 2006 a dedication ceremony paid homage to the men and women who died in defense of this nation. Eight granite plaques were unveiled, revealing inscriptions that denote the various conflicts in which the United States has been involved. Engraved bricks, purchased by individuals to honor those who served in the military or family members, form the background for this memorial.

A six-diamond lighted softball complex is located in Gerrard Park along with six lighted tennis courts, a three-diamond lighted baseball complex is located in Centennial Park, and four lighted softball/baseball diamonds and two football fields are located in Bradshaw Park. An outdoor soccer complex with ten fields is located in Wilderness Park.

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

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

Pawnee Park Entrance

Bell Tower and Oregon Trail Statue

Higgins Memorial

Freedom Memorial

Pawnee Plunge Water Park

Aquatic Center

Disc Golf

Playground Equipment in Pawnee Park

Sand Volleyball in Pawnee Park

Recreation facilities in and around Columbus:

Archery	—	Outdoor range at Centennial Park
Boating	—	Lake North (200 acres)
Bowling	—	2 bowling alleys (one 12-lane and one 16-lane)
Campgrounds	—	9 campgrounds with various amenities
Disc Golf	—	9-hole disc golf course in Pawnee Park
Fishing	—	Excellent fishing for crappie, bullhead, blue gill, perch, northern pike, catfish, and bass
Golf Courses	—	4 golf courses, all with grass greens and clubhouses (carts available)—18-hole private at Elks Country Club, 18-hole public at Quail Run, 9-hole public at Van Berg, and 9-hole public at Country Shadows
Hiking Trails	—	City parks have 3 3/4 miles of trail, plus extensive trail system north of Columbus that includes Bob Lake Trail, Two Lakes Trail, and Wilderness Park Trail
Horse Races	—	Pari-mutuel thoroughbred horse races for 23–26 days each year with year-round simulcast racing
Hunting	—	A variety of wildlife, including deer, dove, duck, goose, pheasant, prairie chicken, quail, rabbit, squirrel, coyote, and turkey
Miniature Golf	—	27-hole miniature golf course
Racquetball	—	4 indoor courts at the YMCA and 1 outdoor court at Centennial Park
Sand Volleyball	—	3 courts in Pawnee Park; numerous courts at private establishments
Skating	—	Inline hockey and roller skating
Stock Car Racing	—	3/8-mile dirt track, racing and demolition derbies
Soccer	—	10 fields at Wilderness Park
Swimming	—	Pawnee Plunge Water Park located in Pawnee Park, indoor pool at Aquatic Center, private pool at Elks Country Club
Tennis	—	16 lighted tennis courts; 2 indoor courts at YMCA
Theatres	—	A 6-theatre complex
Trapping	—	A variety of wildlife including beaver, bobcat, coyote, fox, mink, muskrat, possum, and raccoon

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 celebration including activities such as the Coronation Ball, prayer breakfast, talent contests, baby show, ribfest, triathlon, parade, Fun & Food in Frankfort Square, United Way duck race, pet show, and turtle races.

Lawn Chairs on the Square is a Thursday evening event beginning the first week of June and continuing through mid-August in Frankfort Square, downtown Columbus. Visitors

to downtown enjoy a broad variety of rich musical and cultural entertainment, sponsored by members of the Downtown Business Association.

The first Downtown Runaround was held in July 1986. The race is a two-mile walk/run around downtown with the five-mile course going through picturesque Pawnee Park. A Junior Runaround began in 1993 and is held the night before the main race. This event draws approximately 1,000 participants from as many as 22 states.

A Downtown Christmas Stroll, sponsored by the Downtown Business Association, is held one Thursday evening in November. Downtown businesses participate and offer treats and drawings for prizes. Also featured are horse and carriage rides, carolers, marshmallow toasting, holiday musicians, and a display of gingerbread houses. On this same evening, the Festival of Trees opens a display at the Columbus Public Library.

The Columbus Family YMCA provides character development and promotes Christian principles. Facilities include 3 full-size gymnasiums; cardio center with treadmills, step machines, elliptical trainers, and exercise bikes; wellness center with 9 full-Nautilus circuits and cycling room; Hammer Strength machines and free weights; a suspended running track; 3 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 adult and senior citizen fitness classes, youth and adult sports leagues, preschool, day care, and many other youth and adult activities.

Senior Center

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

Speakers share pertinent information regarding nutrition and health topics. Family caregiver support is available through the center. Senior fitness opportunities are offered as individual or group exercise. Scheduled informational, club and social activities, and entertainment include craft and card clubs, movies, programs, volunteer opportunities for individuals and service groups, and meeting rooms for business/retirement groups.

Columbus Senior Center offers transportation to all Columbus residents with the Columbus Area Transit. Each vehicle is equipped with a wheelchair lift. Drivers receive specialized training in assisting elderly and handicapped citizens. The Columbus Senior Center facility is available to the community for rental.

Lakes, Boating, Camping, and Hiking

Among some of the most popular spots for boating, camping, and other outdoor activities are the lakes and parks developed and maintained by Loup Power District in conjunction with its canal system. All are open to the public free of charge.

Containing 265 acres of land and 1,100 acres of water, these parks and recreation areas are open to the public from May 1 to November 1 (weather permitting). More than 150,000 people visit each year. Visitors have an opportunity to water ski, swim, boat, jet ski, sail board, camp, fish, bike, hike, or picnic. Electrical hook-ups for camping are free with a limit of seven days per month (in a 30-day period) in the Loup Park system. More information is available at **www.loup.com/recreation**.

Lake North Park — 14 acres • 4 miles north of U.S. 30 and 18th Avenue junction

One of the premier family-oriented parks in northeast Nebraska, Lake North Park offers camping, boating, skiing, fishing, and swimming as well as picnic areas. Electrical hook-ups and primitive camping are available during the summer. There are also playground areas, potable

Columbus Days

Country Shadows Golf Course

Elks Country Club

Quail Run Golf Course

Van Berg Golf Course

water, picnic tables, and grills. During the fall and spring migrations, Lake North becomes a favorite place for bird watching and viewing beautiful sunsets. In the northeast corner of the park is the trail head for the scenic Two Lakes Trail that runs along the north side of Lake North and Lake Babcock.

Loup Park/Lake Babcock — 31 acres • 4 miles north of U.S. 30 and 18th Avenue junction then 1.5 miles west

Along the north and west shores of Lake Babcock, Loup Park is one of the best known family camping facilities in northeast Nebraska. Loup Park offers camping, picnicking, grilling, trails, and nature walks. Electrical hook-ups and primitive camping are available during the summer. Amenities include playground areas, potable water, picnic tables, and grills. Plant/ wildlife and bird watching during fall and spring migrations make Lake Babcock and Loup Park a pleasant camping and relaxed recreational experience. The scenic Two Lakes Trail runs along the north side of Lake North and Lake Babcock. At the west end of Loup Park is Castner's Crossing Bridge that crosses the Loup Canal and connects the Two Lakes Trail with the Bob Lake and Robert White Trails, which continue along the west and south perimeters of Lake Babcock.

Powerhouse Park — 4.5 acres • 3 miles north of U.S. 30 and 3rd Avenue junction

With an impressive view of the Columbus Powerhouse and the Loup Canal, the Powerhouse Park offers relaxed family fun with playground equipment. Powerhouse Park offers picnicking, grilling, and fishing. A limited number of primitive camping sites are available during the summer. Graveled paths offer an opportunity for short walks around the park.

Tailrace Park — 9.5 acres • 3.5 miles east of 8th Street and 18th Avenue junction, then 1.5 miles south

Located at the confluence of the Loup Canal and the Platte River, Tailrace Park offers excellent fishing and beautiful views of the water flow over the Tailrace weir. Tailrace Park is popular for family fun with children's playground equipment and a picnic area. A limited number of primitive camping sites are available during the summer.

Headworks Park and ATV Trails — 17 acres • 36 miles west of Columbus on Highway 22

Located at the start of the Loup Canal where water is diverted from the Loup River into the Loup Canal, Headworks Park offers a lake for swimming, fishing, and camping in a naturalist area with plant/wildlife in abundance. Electrical hook-ups and primitive camping are available during the summer. Headworks Park offers playground areas, potable water, picnic tables, and grills. Enjoy nature walks along the canal road and bird watching especially during the fall and spring migrations.

The sand dunes at Headworks Park form one of the premier ATV riding areas in Nebraska. The Nebraska Off Highway Vehicle Association (NOHVA) holds spring and fall jamborees each year, drawing more than 1,000 ATV enthusiasts to the Headworks Park.

Trails

Columbus has an extensive system of recreational trails throughout the city and adjoining area. Columbus Area Recreational Trails (CART) was formed in the mid-1990s to provide coordination of funding and maintenance of a master plan for development of these trails. These trails provide a safe setting for the healthy activities of hiking, biking, running, and rollerblading.

Two Lakes Trail — 2.4 miles long • 8-foot wide • concrete

This trail entertains recreational opportunities for bike riders, runners, walkers, rollerbladers, nature enthusiasts, and bird watchers. The scenic trail runs along the north side of two lakes (Lake North and Lake Babcock) and winds through the tree-lined Lake North Park, Loup Park, and a wildlife refuge.

Castner's Crossing — 130-feet long • 10-foot wide • crushed limestone

Castner's Crossing footbridge crosses the Loup Canal and connects Two Lakes Trail and

Bob Lake Trail. A trail head and information kiosk are located at the crossing.

Bob Lake Trail — 1.3 miles long • 9-feet wide • crushed limestone

Great for biking, walking, and jogging, the trail follows the southwest perimeter of Lake Babcock. A trail head is located at the junction of Bob Lake Trail and the Robert White Trail, across from the east entrance of Central Community College.

Robert White Trail — 1.5 miles long • 9-feet wide • crushed limestone

Great for biking, walking, and jogging. The trail follows the southern perimeter of Lake Babcock from the Bob Lake Trail to 18th Avenue. Free parking is available at each end of the trail.

Wilderness Park Trail — 1.5 miles long • 10-foot wide • concrete

All ages can walk, jog, bike, and rollerblade on the trail around the perimeter of the Wilderness Park Soccer Complex. Construction is underway to connect the trail to the Monastery Trail.

Monastery Trail — 1.5 miles long • 10-foot wide • concrete

Upon completion, this trail will run parallel to 18th Avenue and will connect the Wilderness Park Trail with the Robert White Trail.

Pawnee Park Trail — 2.0 miles long • 10-foot wide • concrete

This trail invites all ages to walk, jog, bike, and rollerblade along the winding path through the beautiful Pawnee Park along the Loup River.

Volkswalk — 6.2 miles long

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

Wilkinson Wildlife Management Area, located northwest of Columbus, consists of 957 acres, including 300 acres of restored wetland for attracting migrating waterfowl. Wildlife includes dove, pheasant, rabbit, and waterfowl. Activities include hiking, wildlife viewing, fishing, and hunting. Two small parking areas are available. Open year-round, the area is subject to state regulations.

Camps

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

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

Additional camping spots are available at Ag Park, Hwy. 81 RV Park, and Southgate Campground.

Other Activities

Special emphasis is placed on Little League baseball, basketball, football, and AYSO soccer

Camping at Lake Babcock

Walking Trail

Platte County Museum

Scenes from Camp Luther

Scenes from Camp Pawnee

open to all youngsters in the Columbus area. Thirteen baseball/softball diamonds are in constant use during the summertime by American Legion Baseball and city softball leagues, both men's and women's.

Organizations providing sporting activities include Columbus Baseball League Association, Columbus Mariner's Baseball, American Legion Baseball, Columbus Area Midget Football Organization, Columbus Softball Association, Columbus Youth Softball Association, Columbus Family YMCA, Platte Valley Bass Masters, Campers Club, American Youth Soccer Organization, Archers Club, Columbus Chess Club, Columbus Flying Club, Columbus Rifle and Pistol Club, Columbus Tennis Association, 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-acre site include a grandstand with a seating capacity of more than 3,000, a club room with a capacity of 600, and an exhibit hall where many community functions are held. The arena building (130 feet by 300 feet with a ceiling height of 24 feet) is used for horse shows, livestock sales, and other events. The arena has an office, kitchen, and rest room facilities. The large paved parking area and the grandstand have been used for home, sports, and recreation shows and are available to other groups and organizations. The Platte County Agricultural Society awards scholarships totaling more than $5,000 annually to Platte County resident high school graduates. Scholarships have been awarded continuously since 1958.

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

Cultural Activities

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

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

The **Platte County Historical Museum** offers the opportunity to discover the history of Platte County. Exhibits include the Native American Room, a turn-of-the-century schoolroom, and displays of former businesses. The 1857 Gottschalk log cabin, rooms of Victorian clothing and heirlooms, military displays, and areas devoted to each community in Platte County are also included, along with the Andrew Jackson Higgins room, and displays of many other items.

Columbus Friends of Music is a community concert association which secures national and

international artists for local performances. Five concerts are held annually in the Nantke's Performing Arts Center, located in the Columbus High School, and attended by capacity audiences.

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

HOUSING

New Construction

In 2008–09 there were 134 new homes constructed and it is estimated 74 were built in 2010. The cost of new home construction averaged $140 per square foot during the past three years. Building permits in new construction totaled $16,909,724 in 2008, $13,111,955 in 2009, and $64,170,075 for ten months in 2010.

Building permits issued:

	2008	2009	2010*
Duplexes/ Townhouses	6	7	0
Single Family	74	60	70

*10 months

Housing Market - Columbus and Surrounding Towns (as of 2009)**:**

Number of Homes on the Market	
Single Family	78
Duplexes or Townhouses	6
Apartment Houses	3
Avg. Selling Prices (New and Existing)	
Single Family Home	
2,000–2,500 sq. ft. - 4 bedroom	$300,000
1,800 sq. ft. - 3 bedroom	$220,000
1,000 sq. ft. - 3 bedroom	$125,000
Townhouses	
1,520 sq. ft. - 3 bedroom	$200,000
Condominiums	
900–1,200 sq. ft. - 2 bedroom	$110,000
Number of Single Family Homes for Sale by Price (New and Existing)	
Less than $100,000	28
$100,001–$150,000	14
$150,001–$200,000	14
$200,00+	22
Rentals	
New 2-bedroom home	$800
Apartment - 2 bedroom	$500
Apartment Vacancy Rate	5%

NeighborWorks® Northeast Nebraska is helping meet the housing needs in the Columbus area by providing home buyer education, housing rehabilitation, and real estate development programs. The company, providing these programs since 1995, established an office in Columbus in 2007. Education classes are provided monthly in English and Spanish. More than 50 single-family housing units were rehabilitated and sold in the Columbus area.

In addition to the rehabilitation of houses, NeighborWorks® Northeast Nebraska is the lead developer of a 43-housing unit subdivision in Columbus—Bradshaw Place. This was a special partnership with the City of Columbus, Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District, Columbus Chamber of Commerce, and many other business leaders in the area. Bradshaw Place is a huge asset to the community, and plans are being discussed for Phase II.

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.

Briarwood, an eight-unit, two-story, subsidized family housing unit, contains 7 two-bedroom units and 1 one-bedroom unit.

Christopher Court Apartments is a three-story, 24-unit, tax credit housing facility completed in

2000. Apartments are spacious, small pet-friendly, secured units available in either one-bedroom or two-bedroom units. Each apartment has washer and dryer hookups and the facility has two laundry rooms.

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

Columbian Village, Inc., an income-based, 62-unit housing complex, opened in 1972. The complex consists of 11 one-bedroom units, 43 two-bedroom units, and 8 three-bedroom units.

Four Season Apartments is a 48-unit apartment complex with 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom spacious apartments. Rent is income-based. USDA Rural Development provides rental assistance. Features include a playground and laundry facilities. Handicapped units are also available.

Heritage House is a retirement village for low-income elderly and the disabled. The development is located on an eight-acre village with paved streets, sidewalks, lawn areas, security lighting, and assigned parking spaces for resident drivers and visitors' parking. Monthly rent is based on each individual's actual income and includes heat, electricity, hot water, lawn maintenance, and snow and trash removal. This 84-unit, one-story facility, established by the Columbus Housing Authority in 1971, consists of 23 buildings including 74 one-bedroom, 4 two-bedroom, and 6 handicap-adaptable units, each with private entrances. The facility has a community building including a laundromat and an administrative office building.

Merit Apartments is a 16-unit, 2-story subsidized family housing unit. There are 14 two-bedroom units and 2 one-bedroom units.

Northcreek Apartments is a 22-unit, 2-story subsidized family housing unit with 22 one-bedroom units.

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

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

Westwood 2 & 3 are 2-story subsidized family housing facilities. Each unit has 14 two-bedroom apartments and 2 one-bedroom apartments.

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

Independent Living

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

Financial

Financial institutions serving Columbus include:

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

Town Houses

New Construction

Community Services

Professional

Architects	3	
Attorneys	23	
Auctioneers	6	
Audiologists	5	
Certified Public Accountants	21	
Chiropractors	6	
Dentists	13	
Dermatologists	2	
Engineering Firms	7	
Medical Doctors (at hospital that reside in Columbus)		
—anesthesiologists	4	
—cardiologists	2	
—ear, nose & throat	1	
—emergency medicine	1	
—family practice physicians	9	
—general surgeons	2	
—internal medicine	1	
—obstetricians & gynecologists	3	
—ophthalmologists	1	
—orthopedic surgeons	2	
—pediatricians	3	
—radiologists (with nuclear medicine privileges)	3	
—radiation oncologists	1	
Medical Doctors (on hospital consulting/courtesy staff)		
—allergists	1	
—anesthesiologists	4	
—cardiologists	25	
—chiropractors	1	
—emergency medicine	5	(active staff commute)
—hematologists & oncologists	6	
—hospitalists	11	
—nephrologists	5	
—neurosurgeons	2	
—neurologists	8	
—nuclear medicine	4	
—obstetricians & gynecologists	1	
—orthopedic surgeons	5	
—pathologists	11	
—plastic surgeons	4	
—plastic surgeons/DDS	1	
—pulmonologists	8	
—radiologists	7	
—rheumatologists	2	
—urologists	4	

Medical Personnel (at hospital with privileges)	
—certified registered nurse anesthetists	11
—dentists	1
—nurse practitioners (APRN)	7
—physician assistants	11
—podiatrists	1
Medical Personnel (at hospital without privileges)	
—nurses, registered	139
—pharmacists	5
Optometrists	9
Orthodontists	2
Periodontists	2
Pharmacies	6
Physical Therapists (includes those at hospital)	18
Podiatrists	3
Veterinarians	13

Business and Commercial

Accounting/Bookkeeping Agencies	12	
Agricultural Implement Dealers	4	
Antique Shops	3	
Apparel Stores—children's	2	
—combination	2	
—men's	3	
—women's	7	
Appliance Stores	3	
Auto Repair & Service	22	
Auto Supply Parts	5	
Automobile Dealers (new & used)	22	
Automobile Renting & Leasing	3	
Bakeries	4	
Banquet Facilities, Halls & Auditoriums	10	
Beauty Salons	34	
Bed & Breakfast	1	(3 rooms)
Carpet & Rug Dealers	5	
Caterers	8	
Child Care Services	12	
Contractors—building	24	
—carpentry	31	
—concrete	11	
—electric	11	
—excavating	6	
—flooring	4	
—general	41	
—gravel	5	
—heating & air conditioning	8	
—painting	8	
—plumbing	8	

—remodeling & repairing	15	
—roofing	13	
—well digging	1	
Convenience Stores	11	
Copying & Duplicating Services	4	
Craft Stores	2	
Dance Studios	3	
Department Stores	2	
Discount Stores	4	
Dry Cleaning & Laundries	3	
Drug Stores	6	
Employment Services, Temporary	3	
Farm/Ranch Supplies	6	
Feedlots (commercial & private)	6	
Fertilizers	4	
Floral Shops	5	
Garbage Collectors	4	
Gift Shops	8	
Grocery Stores	5	
Hardware Stores	4	
Health Clubs	6	
Industrial Equipment & Supplies	3	
Insurance Agencies	22	
Interior Decorators & Designers	3	
Jewelry Stores	3	
Landscaping Equipment & Supplies	16	
Laundries (self-service)	2	
Lawn Services	11	
Lumberyards	5	
Machine Shops	14	
Meat Lockers	1	
Motels	11	
Nurseries & Garden Centers	2	
Office Machine Repairs	2	
Office Equipment Services & Supplies	3	
Photography Studios	9	
Preschools	7	
Printers	5	
Real Estate Firms	15	
Restaurants	58	
Shoe Stores	6	
Television & Radio Repair Shops	6	
Theatres	1	(6 screens)
Tool & Die Makers	2	
Travel Agencies & Bureaus	3	
Upholstery Shops	2	
Variety Stores	3	
Welding Shops	8	

Scenes From Lake North

Agriculture & Raw Materials

Agriculture

2007 Statistics	Platte County	State of Nebraska
Number of Farms	882	47,712
Land in Farms (acres)	425,730	45,480,358
Average Size of Farms (acres)	483	953
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold	$413,130,000	$15,506,035,000
Market Value Per Farm	$468,401	$324,992
Total Acres Irrigated	208,388	8,558,559
Percent of Farmland Irrigated	48.9%	18.8%
Five-Year Average Production of Leading Crops (2005–2009)		
Hay Alfalfa (Dry)	50,084 tons	4,008,400 tons
All Wheat*	110,350 bu.	71,900,000 bu.
Corn for Grain	34,073,740 bu.	1,377,890,000 bu.
Soybeans	6,278,680 bu.	233,518,000 bu.
Five-Year Average Livestock Population (2006–2010)		
All Cattle	105,600	6,450,000

* Four-year average

During the past five years, Platte County ranked in the top six Nebraska counties in the production of soybeans and in the top eight counties in the production of corn.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2005–2010
2007 Census of Agriculture

Raw Materials

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

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

Climate

Temperature, Precipitation, and Humidity

AVERAGES							
	Temperature			Precipitation		Humidity*	
Month	Min.	Mean	Max.	Rain (Inches)	Snow (Inches)	Morning	Afternoon
January	11.8	22.1	32.4	0.56	5.4	76	66
February	15.7	26.3	37.0	0.80	5.8	78	66
March	26.3	37.6	49.0	1.45	4.8	79	64
April	38.4	50.6	62.8	2.58	1.2	77	55
May	49.5	61.5	73.4	4.05	0.0	79	56
June	59.5	71.4	83.3	4.40	0.0	81	58
July	64.2	76.5	88.8	3.33	0.0	82	59
August	62.4	74.5	86.5	3.32	0.0	85	61
September	52.7	65.5	78.3	2.81	0.0	82	58
October	40.4	53.2	66.1	1.83	0.6	78	55
November	26.7	38.0	49.3	1.09	2.6	78	62
December	16.2	26.3	36.2	0.74	5.3	78	67
Annual	38.6	50.3	61.9	26.98	25.8	80	61

*Recorded at Norfolk Weather Station

Frost Data

Average date of spring freeze probability	April 29
Average date of fall freeze probability	October 7
Average length of freeze free season probability	160 days
Average number of heating degree days based on 65° Fahrenheit	6,414
Average number of cooling degree days based on 65° Fahrenheit	1,083
Wind speed in miles per hour (annual average)	11
Prevailing wind direction (annual average)	South

Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center, University of Nebraska, 1893–2010, **www.hprcc.unl.edu**