



LIVING IN **COLUMBIA**

A guide to Columbia Association
and Columbia Villages
for realtors and prospective residents



Columbia Association's (CA's) role in the community is defined by several state and federal laws. Under Maryland Corporations law, CA is a private, non-stock corporation. Under the federal tax code, CA is a 501(c)(4) non-profit community services corporation. According to the Maryland Homeowners Association Act (enacted in 1984), CA is a homeowners association (HOA) because it has the "authority to enforce the provisions of a declaration."

But CA is significantly larger and responsible for far more operations than any other HOA in Maryland, with about 100,000 residents and 37,000 annual charge payers — the average HOA has 131 units.

CA is not a Planned Unit Development (commonly called a PUD). **CA is a community-controlled, private, non-profit service corporation created to provide services, amenities and**

facilities for the benefit of Columbia and parts of neighboring Clarksville, Ellicott City, Elkridge and Jessup.

There are no common areas associated with CA that are owned in common by all residents. CA's open space areas, facilities and community buildings are all wholly owned by CA.

CA also has a mix of commercial and residential properties, as well as the ability to issue bonds to fund operations — the only HOA in the state with that ability.

In addition, CA maintains more than **3,500 acres of open space** and **94 miles of pathways** for the community. CA also owns and operates **35 facilities** with various community functions.

Buying a home on Columbia Association-assessed property

Interested home buyers and sellers can purchase a packet of legal/resale documents that includes CA and village documents from their village community association center. The cost of these documents varies by village, and must be purchased from the village where the home is located. Documents from townhouse developments or condominiums are also required, but must be purchased directly from the townhouse or condominium association.

Village Community Associations are in charge of enforcing covenants, which can include architectural guidelines as well as rules on remodeling, exterior home changes and landscaping. For more information on this process, see the local village community association for properties within its boundary.

Using CA's facilities:

Residents who live on CA-assessed property pay reduced pay-as-you-go admission and program fees with a free **Columbia Card**. Simply visit the Customer and Membership Service Center and show your driver's license or imprinted personal check to verify your residency.

But Membership plans allow much greater access to all that CA has to offer. CA offers 12 different types of memberships, from single facility memberships to the deluxe Package Plan Plus membership.

The most popular family membership is **Package Plan**, which gives you access to 23 outdoor pools, all three fitness facilities and tennis clubs, both golf clubs (cart and greens fees not included), Columbia Ice Rink, Columbia SportsPark/SkatePark (fees for mini golf and batting cages not included) and Columbia Swim Center with SplashDown (admission fees not included). Membership also gives you access to the Member Advantage Service; which provides discounts to stores, restaurants, tickets and guest passes.

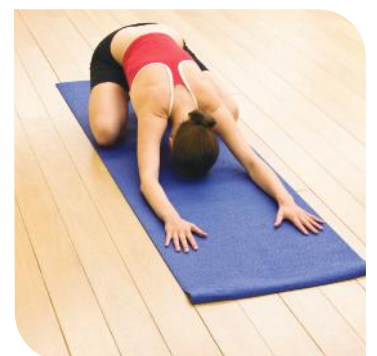
Package Plan Plus (PPP) is an all-access pass to CA, including all of the great benefits of Package Plan, as well as a Member Assistance Program, health and fitness profile, specialized weight and cardiovascular equipment, SplashDown Indoor Water Slide, fitness classes like Group Power, Studio Cycling, Yoga, Tai Chi, BodyPump™, BodyVive™, BodyStep™, Deep Water Fitness and specialized exercise classes like Basic Training, Boot Camp and Total Conditioning.

PPP members also receive a discount on KidSpace (supervised child care), guest passes, and the IHRSA Passport, which allows use of more than 3,000 quality clubs when you travel worldwide and access to the Elite SportsClub Network (which includes reciprocal use of 11 of the best clubs in the Baltimore area including LifeBridge Health & Fitness, The Maryland Athletic Club and Wellness Center and all nine Athletic Clubs).

+ Contact the Customer and Member Service Center at 410-730-1801 or visit ColumbiaAssociation.org/Membership.

If you need help navigating...

Columbia Association: Pathways
(available on Android and iOS)
puts all of CA's pathways and facilities right at your fingertips.



CA's facilities include:

- Three full-service fitness facilities: Columbia Athletic Club, Columbia Gym and Supreme Sports Club
- Three tennis clubs: Owen Brown Tennis Club and Bubble, Racquet Club at Hobbit's Glen and Wilde Lake Tennis Club
- Four indoor swimming pools and a hot water therapy pool; 23 outdoor swimming pools including two Mini WaterParks
- Columbia Archives
- Columbia Art Center
- Columbia DogPark
- Columbia Ice Rink
- Columbia SportsPark and SkatePark
- Fairway Hills Golf Club
- Haven on the Lake, a Mind Body wellness retreat in partnership with The Still Point Spa
- Hobbit's Glen Golf Club
- Volunteer Center Serving Howard County
- Youth and Teen Center at The Barn



CA Headquarters 410-715-3000
CA Customer & Member Service Center 410-730-1801
Aquatics Office 410-312-6332
Columbia Art Center 410-730-0075
Columbia Association Camps 410-715-3165
Columbia Athletic Club 410-730-6744
Columbia Gym 410-531-0800
Columbia Horse Center 301-776-5850
Columbia Ice Rink 410-730-0322
Columbia SportsPark/SkatePark 410-715-3054
Columbia Swim Center 410-730-7000
Columbia Teen Center 410-992-3726
Fairway Hills Golf Club 410-730-1112
Haven on the Lake 410-715-3020
Hobbit's Glen Golf Club 410-730-5980
Inclement Weather Hotline 410-715-3154
Indoor Tennis, Columbia Athletic Club 410-720-0149
Owen Brown Tennis Bubble 410-381-7255
The Racquet Club at Hobbit's Glen 410-715-3080
School Age Services 410-715-3165
Supreme Sports Club 410-381-5355
Wilde Lake Tennis Club 410-730-3767



Who handles what?

Columbia Village Community Associations

Each of Columbia's nine villages and Town Center has a community association; an independent, incorporated, nonprofit civic association that elects its own board of directors and a Columbia Council representative. They are tasked with:

- Enforcing covenants
- Providing resources and referral services for residents
- Advocating for residents at the village, Columbia and county level
- Facilitating information sessions and community meetings
- Managing, maintaining and renting out CA's village buildings and neighborhood centers
- Hosting individual village events and partnering with all villages for Columbia-wide special events
- Offering programming, including classes, camps and lectures
- Creating village master plans
- Working with village merchants
- Communicating to residents via newsletters, websites and social media
- Encouraging neighbor-to-neighbor connectivity via block parties, beautification grants and block captains
- Act as a liaison with Howard County Government

+ [Learn more at ColumbiaAssociation.org/Villages](http://ColumbiaAssociation.org/Villages).

Columbia Association

CA is one of the largest employers in Howard County. CA's role in the community can be summed up by its Mission Statement, which is "**Working every day in hundreds of ways to make Columbia an even better place to live, work, and play.**" CA accomplishes this by:

- Maintaining fitness facilities, golf clubs, tennis and basketball courts, swimming pools and a Mind Body wellness retreat
- Operating the Columbia Ice Rink, Columbia Horse Center (via lease) and Columbia SportsPark and SkatePark
- Operating the Columbia Art Center, Youth and Teen Center at the Barn, Columbia Archives and Volunteer Center Serving Howard County
- Providing Before and After School Care to Howard County students in 20 different schools
- Organizing free concerts and events at the Downtown Columbia Lakefront and throughout Columbia
- Providing summer camps
- Maintaining approximately 3,600 acres of open space and 94 miles of pathways
- Developing plans to improve the connectivity of the pathway system in Columbia
- Developing plans to protect and restore Columbia's watershed
- Working with Howard County Government, the Downtown Columbia Partnership and other entities to meet the needs of Columbia residents

+ [Learn more at ColumbiaAssociation.org/AboutUs](http://ColumbiaAssociation.org/AboutUs).



Howard County Government

While Columbia Association and Howard County Government partner on a number of initiatives, the following county agencies provide services to Columbia residents. Please contact them directly for information you need related to their oversight.

- **Howard County Public School System**
- **Howard County Library System**
- **Howard County Water Department**
- **Howard County Public Works (Road maintenance, snow removal, trash and recycling services and watershed management/restoration)**
- **Howard County Recreation and Parks**
- **Howard County Planning and Zoning (Inspections, licenses, permits and historic preservation)**
- **Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services**
- **Maintaining street trees**

+ [Learn more at co.ho.md.us](http://co.ho.md.us).