

MEDIA ADVISORY * MEDIA ADVISORY *** MEDIA ADVISORY**
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Columbus Recreation and Parks Department Hosts Mobile Produce
Markets for Local Families in Need This Spring**

- WHAT:** Columbus Recreation and Parks Department's Food Office will give away thousands of pounds of produce to local people and families in need throughout April.
- WHERE:** Varying locations based on date – please see below
- WHEN:** All Mobile Produce Markets begin at 3 p.m. and will take place at the following Columbus Recreation and Parks Department community centers; distribution begins at 3 p.m. and will run while supplies last:
- April 14 – Dodge (667 Sullivant Ave) and Holton (303 N Eureka Ave)
 - April 15 – Beatty (247 N Ohio Ave) and Adams (854 Alton Ave)
 - April 21 – Tuttle (240 W Oakland Ave) and Linden (1254 Briarwood Ave)
 - April 28 – Feddersen (3911 Dresden St) and Howard (2505 N. Cassady Ave.)
- CONTACT:** Kerry Francis – 740-504-5892; Sarah Irvin Clark – 614-296-4057
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Columbus Recreation and Parks' Food Office offers weekly Mobile Produce Markets to Columbus area residents at various community centers throughout the city. The markets are set up as a drive-thru and staffed by volunteers who load approximately one week's worth of produce directly into the vehicles of those who attend. Through a partnership with the Mid-Ohio Food Collective, the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department supplies millions of pounds of food to Franklin County residents and people throughout central and eastern Ohio. Together, they are meeting the food needs of food insecure Franklin County residents.

To learn more about the Mobile Produce Markets and Columbus Recreation and Parks efforts to fight food insecurity, visit <https://columbusrecparks.com/resources/food-office/>.

For more information about volunteering to distribute food at a Mobile Produce Market and to sign up, please visit, <https://crpd.volunteerhub.com/volunteer>.

Some numbers about food insecurity in Central Ohio

- Last summer, more than 245,000 meals were served in the Columbus area to individuals between the ages of 1-18
- Nearly one in five Ohioans were food insecure in 2020, according to the [Feeding America foodbank network](#).
- Columbus and Franklin County household food insecurity remains a pervasive problem at the city and county levels. The percentage of Franklin County residents living in food insecure households is still significantly higher than state and national levels.
 - [As of February 2022](#), the food insecurity rate in Franklin County is 17.4% higher than the national average, leaving 164,950 people without consistent access to readily available food.
 - The child food insecurity rate is 19.9% higher than the national average, leaving 52,860 children without access to enough food.