Columbus, Ohio, was selected by the state’s legislature as the site for Ohio’s capital in 1812 because of its central location within the state and access to transportation routes. The Ohio History Center Museum contains a variety of historical exhibits and Ohio Village, which is opened during the summer and is a recreated 1860s Ohio town. Columbus is home to the following art museums: Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio Craft Museum, Cultural Arts Center, Riffe Gallery, and Jubilee Museum. In addition to interactive exhibits, the Center of Science and Industry has a giant movie screen and a planetarium. Exhibits and videos at the Supreme Court of Ohio Visitor Education Center explain the role of courts and important cases and issues. Central Ohio Fire Museum & Learning Center is located in a restored 1908 fire station.

The city also has 4 long-term acute care hospitals, a physical rehabilitation hospital, 2 psychiatric hospitals, and a substance abuse facility.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Columbus has 230 parks with amenities that include 29 community centers, 5 indoor athletic complexes, the Columbus Aquatics Center, 6 golf courses, 7 outdoor pools, 3 public docks, 4 off-leash dog parks, and Dodge Skate Park. The ArenaBlitz Sports Complex has 8 regulation ball diamonds. Berlinda Sports Complex features multiple softball and football fields and a playground.

The Promenade connects Battelle Riverfront Park with the John W. Galbreath Bicentennial Park. The Promenade features a stone colonnade with swings, gardens, Huntington Plaza fountains, water canals, and table seating. Bicentennial Park’s American Electric Power Foundation Fountain offers an evening show choreographed to music and daytime hours to interact with the fountain. Battelle Riverfront Park is home to many monuments and memorials and features multipurpose trails and river access for small, hand-powered watercraft.

Other attractions include the Franklin Park Conservatory; Topiary Garden Park, which is a recreation of Gorges Seurat’s famous painting created from shaped plants; and English Park’s Kwanzaa Playground, which is designed in the shape of a human representing a first ancestor. The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium is home to more than 11,000 animals. The Ohio State University Chadwick Arboretum’s labyrinth is modeled after a famous 800-year-old French labyrinth.

Professional sports teams in Columbus include the Columbus Blue Jackets (ice hockey), Columbus Crew (soccer), and Columbus Clippers (baseball).