



COLA

Finlay Park

User Guide

Welcome to beautiful Finlay Park!

Finlay Park offers a host of amenities, greenspace, nooks, playgrounds, playscapes, and rental spaces for our Columbia community, as well as visitors to the Midlands. Finlay Park is a place for everyone to gather and to celebrate.

A place for music and performing arts. A place to stroll and enjoy nature and the beautiful landscape. A place for your sunrise run or an evening walk with your best friend (yes... Finlay Park is dog friendly).



Rules and Regulations

- Posted Park Hours: 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM.
- For the security of all park visitors, a Clear Bag policy is in effect at all times. Please refer to the back cover of this User's Guide for full details.
- All animals must be on a leash. Animal waste must be picked up immediately and disposed of in waste receptacles. Bags are available at posted locations around the park.
- No smoking or vaping on park premises.
- No firearms or concealable weapons allowed (see Ordinance Sec. 15-16).
- No swimming, wading or fishing in the pond, fountain or grotto.
- No littering.
- Profanity, loud music and disrespectful behavior will not be allowed.
- Vending, selling, soliciting and / or peddling without a permit is prohibited.
- Private Events and activities by Permit only.
- Groups of 25 or over must apply for a permit (see Ordinance Sec. 15-2).
- Fires and fireworks are prohibited.
- No grills, fryers or griddles permitted. Cooking on site by Permit only.
- No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Sales and consumption by Permit only.
- Unauthorized vehicles (including cars, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and mopeds) are prohibited.
- No Skateboarding within Finlay Park. Please utilize the Vista Greenway.
- E-bikes, Electric Scooters, Electric Unicycles (EUC), Onewheels, and other self-propelled ride-on devices are prohibited within the boundaries of Finlay Park. Please utilize the Vista Greenway. Individuals with disabilities are exempt from this restriction.
- No cycling within Finlay Park. Bike racks are located near main entrances on Taylor Street and Assembly Street and throughout the park. Park visitors wishing to use a bike rack inside the park must walk their bikes inside.
- No Urban Camping (see Ordinance Sec. 14-105)

Visitor Safety and Security

The City of Columbia, in conjunction with the Columbia Police Department and the Department of Parks and Recreation, has developed a comprehensive safety and security plan to keep Finlay Park safe, clean and welcoming for all park visitors.

Ranger Station

Finlay Park's renovation includes a brand-new Ranger Station. Situated on Ranger Hill on the ground floor, the Ranger Station is the hub of safety and security for the park. A combination of Park Rangers and CPD officers will patrol the park and occupy the Ranger Station throughout the park's operating hours, monitoring live video camera feeds from across the park.



Columbia Police Department

CPD has a committed rotation of officers during all park operating hours. Coverage is in place seven days a week.

Park Rangers

Finlay Park also has a rotation of Park Rangers during all park operating hours. Coverage is in place seven days a week. In addition to supporting safety and security efforts, our Park Rangers will also be engaging with park visitors, offering educational programming and assisting the park maintenance team in keeping our park beautiful.

Park Fencing

Finlay Park will have an ornamental fence surrounding it to provide an additional layer of safety and security. There will be gates open at main points of entry, including at Laurel, Assembly and Taylor Streets. Direct access from the Vista Greenway is limited, and the gates closest to the Cola Summit Playscape will always remain locked – affording parents of children comfort that their kids won't wander out the gates and directly onto the Greenway.

Security Cameras and Emergency Call Boxes

Finlay Park has more than a dozen cameras placed in and around Finlay Park, providing eyes across the whole park and monitored in the Ranger Station. Additionally, there are cameras along the Vista Greenway, adjacent to the park. Cameras are also monitored at the CPD Real Time Crime Center.

In addition to the security cameras, the park also features emergency call boxes across the park. There are two free-standing call boxes – one in the Cascade Walk accessible path and one adjacent to the Cola Summit Playscape. Two wall-mounted call boxes are located on the Landing and on the Governor's Hill Event Restrooms.

First Aid and AED Locations

First Aid stations are located in the retail window at the Landing and at the Ranger Station. Portable AED units are in the same location as the First Aid stations.

Finlay Park Destinations, Features and Amenities

The Landing

The Landing is the hub of amenities at Finlay Park. It is located on the south side of the Oval, adjacent to the Splash Pad. It is your destination for snacks and cold beverages, equipment and amenity rentals, along with park essentials like sunscreen and insect repellent. The Landing will be open from 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM daily.



The unique architecture of the Landing's structure echoes a lantern with abstract tree columns – a contemporary design that flows seamlessly throughout the park. It features dramatic uplighting which is connected throughout the architectural features in the park. This connectivity allows us to change colors to celebrate and commemorate milestones, holidays, causes and big wins.

Adjacent to the Landing, there are outdoor seating areas with café tables, picnic tables, and string lights above where you can reconnect, socialize or enjoy the sun. Lastly, the Landing features a combination of seven modern unisex and family restrooms – three of which are fully accessible in compliance with ADA standards.



Cola Summit Playscape

The Cola Summit Playscape is more than just a playground for young visitors to have fun and use their imaginations at Finlay Park. Complete with five slides, rope ladders, climbing limbs and more, it is the destination for kids ages 5 to 12. Located on the west side of the park near Gadsden Street and below the Laurel Street parking lot, the Cola Summit Playscape combines modern play spaces and structures while integrating seamlessly with the architecture of the entire park.

For smaller children ages 2-5, we have a unique climbing area that is close to the ground. This area features an abstract Carolina Wren, along with “fallen” tree logs for that big-kid experience.

For kids of all ages with diverse sensory needs, Finlay Park has a sensory-friendly play space featuring interactive panels and musical features – located between the Cola Summit Playscape and the Splash Pad.

The Stage / The Oval Event Lawn

The Stage at Finlay Park will be home to live music each and every Friday from mid-February through mid-November. From R+B to Bluegrass, from Classical to Country, and from Rock and Roll to Jazz (and everything in between), the team at Finlay Park will present a wide variety of live music across many genres with the goal of appealing to our entire community.

The Stage will be the centerpiece for local, regional and national bands. The overwhelming majority of live music at Finlay Park will be free for our community to come and enjoy with friends and family; on limited occasions, there will be concerts and festivals that will require tickets.

The holistic design of the Stage fits seamlessly into the architecture, landscape and hardscape of the park. The stage has abstract tree wood columns supporting its roof, and is flanked by panels fitted with custom lighting which is connected throughout the architectural features in the park. This connectivity throughout the park allows us to change colors to celebrate and commemorate milestones, holidays, causes and big wins.

The Stage opens up to the Oval – a 60,000 square foot lawn which serves as the main viewing area for concerts at Finlay Park. With a capacity of 8,000-10,000 for standing room events, it's the perfect spot to enjoy the show.



The Oval is ringed by a wide hardscape of asphalt and ribbon concrete, providing a nearly 1/5 mile walking loop for park guests that like to get their steps in. Roller skate rentals will be available for those who wish to glide around the oval, but park guests can also bring their own skates or roller blades. The hardscape also provides access to the stage for production load-in and load-out.

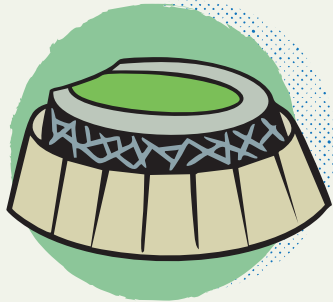
The Stage at Finlay Park is the ideal platform to host community theater, movies in the park and collaborations for performing arts programming with local community partners.

Splash Pad

Located adjacent to the Landing and across from the Cola Summit Playscape, the Splash Pad has been designed with two things in mind: cooling off from the heat and having fun. The Splash Pad has 35 single and multi-head jets designed for maximum cool down for kids of all ages. Featuring gentle sprayers and playful jets shooting from the ground, the Splash Pad is a great destination for all of Columbia and our out-of-town guests to enjoy.

Splash Pad season runs from May 1 – September 30; during the winter months, other activities will be programmed on the Splash Pad so we can ensure it gets activated all year long. The Splash Pad will be open from 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM daily when it is in season.

The Splash Pad is fully-accessible for visitors using wheelchairs – with smooth pathways and ramps connecting all areas of Finlay Park.



The Lantern

The Lantern is a special backdrop for Finlay Park, and will serve as the evening beacon for park visitors throughout the year. Sitting beneath Overlook Plaza and sweeping behind the Fountain's flume, the Lantern is formed by 40 precast panels, assembled like dominoes against the base of the plaza and the grotto.

With a perfect offset, each panel is both up lit and down lit on its outside edge, creating an amazing halo effect. Atop the Lantern is a scrim – laser cut metal panels that continue the theme of an abstract bird nest. The white and rust-colored metal scrim is up lit from the top of the wall panels, adding to the beacon effect.

Overlook Plaza

Overlook Plaza is a venue within Finlay Park, offering a manicured lawn area, immaculate landscaping and a terraced, amphitheater-style seating area. It sits atop the Lantern and offers dramatic views of the Columbia skyline.

Perfect for weddings, renewal of vows, ceremonies, and intimate performances, Overlook Plaza is available for private rental and for public use when not privately rented.

With stunning views of the Finlay Park and downtown, Overlook Plaza is a truly Insta-worthy photo and selfie location!

The Nest

The Nest, a private function space located atop Ranger Hill, is the place for your next intimate gathering. From wedding receptions to holiday parties, and from business meetings to engagement parties, the Nest offers incredible views of Finlay Park and the Columbia skyline.

To book your next memorable event experience at Overlook Plaza and / or the Nest, please email natasha.hall@columbiasc.gov.

Take our scenic cantilever bridge from Overlook Plaza to the Nest! The bridge gives you a sweeping view of the park and Columbia Skyline while taking you behind a 40' waterfall and over the hillside falls and rapids that connect to Ranger Hill, the Nest and beyond.



The Grotto

The Grotto at Finlay Park is a layered stone collection pool with large stones and rocks carefully stacked to form a picturesque shallow. The Grotto is nestled between the Lantern and Ranger Hill, and is centered beneath the flume which flows water from the fountain into the Grotto.

Complete with concrete pathways, weathered steel bridges and seat walls to enjoy the sights and the sounds in a paradise within the park. The Grotto is the perfect place to gather your thoughts in an environment that is a full sensory experience.

From the Grotto, Park visitors can follow the journey of water leaving the fountain, heading over the flume into the Grotto pool before it makes its way under the bridges and into the Pond.

The Grotto is fully-accessible for visitors using wheelchairs – with smooth pathways and ramps connecting all areas of Finlay Park.




COLA

Finlay Park



Restroom



Upper Parking



Emergency Call Box

LANDMARKS

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 The Oval | 5 Overlook Plaza | 9 The Nest | 13 Upper Lawn |
| 2 Stage | 6 The Lantern | 10 Ranger Station | 14 Sculpture Garden |
| 3 The Landing | 7 Falls Bridge | 11 Secret Garden | 15 Food Truck Zone |
| 4 Finlay Fountain | 8 The Grotto | 12 Cascade Walk | 16 Gadsden Green |

ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 17 Disc Golf (Pitch & Putt) | 20 Prisma Fitness Court |
| 18 Splash Pad | 21 Pickleball Courts |
| 19 Cola Summit Playscape | 22 Corner Dog Run |



Pickleball

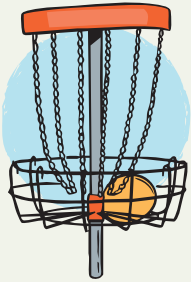
Finlay Park features four Pickleball Courts that may be reserved for a nominal hourly fee. Off-peak rate is \$16 per hour; Peak rate is \$20 per hour.

Courts are available for reservation by visiting <https://parksandrec.columbiasc.gov>.



Roller Skating

Finlay Park has a $\frac{1}{5}$ mile asphalt oval track that surrounds the Oval – our 60,000 ft event lawn. Park visitors may bring their own skates or roller blades to join the fun; skates are available to rent at the Landing retail counter adjacent to the Splash Pad. Rental rates are just \$3 per hour for kids and \$5 per hour for adults.



Pitch and Putt Disc Golf

Finlay Park boasts a 9-hole Pitch and Putt Disc Golf course that starts at the Upper Lawn and flows up and down the seven tiers of the Cascade Walk. Grab your discs and get ready for an afternoon of Up and Down on our course. No tee time required.



Ping Pong

Finlay Park features two competition-sized ping pong tables, available on a free open play basis and are available on a first come, first served basis (subject to reservations). Reservations are not required, however, park visitors that would like to reserve a specific time slot may make reservations for a nominal fee of \$10 per hour per table. Park visitors may bring their own paddles and ping pong balls. Paddles and balls will be available at the Landing retail counter for a nominal rental fee. Paddle users must leave a driver's license or credit card as a collateral deposit.

Tables are available for reservation by visiting <https://parksandrec.columbiasc.gov>.

Sailboat Rentals

A little bit of Central Park has been transported to the pond at Finlay Park, and park visitors will have the opportunity to rent a boat from our remote-controlled sail boat fleet. These model boats will be launched by a member of the Finlay Park team, and you can control the rudder to navigate your course. Sailboats are available to rent at the Landing retail counter adjacent to the Splash Pad. Rental rates are just \$10 per half hour or \$15 per hour. Users must leave a driver's license or credit card as a collateral deposit.



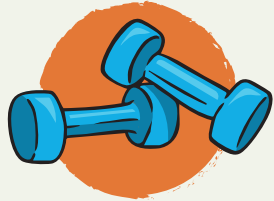
Soccer Goals

Finlay Park has four 3' x 4' Academy training Kwik Goals available for pick-up games and free play at Finlay Park. Organized pick-up games will be posted in the Columbia SC Pick Up Soccer group on Facebook, along with Finlay Park social channels.



Health & Wellness

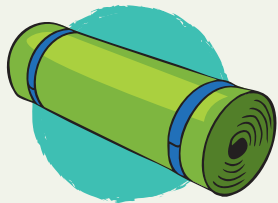
When deciding if any exercise is safe, you need to consider the technique used as well as your individual condition, such as injury history and fitness level. Please consult with your doctor before starting a new exercise program.



Prisma Health Fitness Court

The Fitness Court® is a full body circuit training center comprised of seven movement zones. Each zone offers hundreds of exercises, and trains different parts of the body through functional movement patterns.

Participants can download the free Fitness Court App in the App Store and Google Play to view the library of hundreds of exercises and workouts with easy, medium and hard movements at each of the seven zones. Participants use the Prisma Health Fitness Court® at their own risk. Participants must be 14 years old or older.



Health & Wellness Classes

In partnership with Drew Wellness Center, Finlay Park is pleased to be launching weekly fitness classes in 2026. The classes will run between February 15th and November 15th each year. Weekly yoga will be set for Thursdays, with sunset yoga (5:30pm) in the spring and fall, and sunrise yoga (6:00am) in the summer.

In addition to yoga, Finlay Park will offer a rotation of popular classes, including Zumba®, Tai Chi, and circuit training on the Fitness Court®. There will also be a rotation of weekly classes for our seniors, focusing on chair yoga, chair stretch and chair strength.



Walking, Strolling and Jogging

Finlay Park features more than two miles of paved pathways and sidewalks, making it an ideal place to stretch your legs and get your steps in. Learn more about walking the Strolling Gardens (referenced in the Public Art section) and checking out our amazing public art.

Public Art

Finlay Park was designed with public art in mind. From the grand mural beneath the Secret Garden to the Turtles of Fountain Falls (and everything in between), a leisurely stroll around the park keeps park visitors immersed in nature meeting art.

Strolling Gardens

Stroll through a landscape of native plantings, garden rooms, and art as you weave along runnels and a stream that flows from the pond to a lush rain garden. Take your time and enjoy the gardens in our Adirondack seating areas that are featured in the strolling gardens and throughout the park. There are eight sculptures in the strolling garden:



Human Nature, Fig., No. 2,3
by Art Garcia
Crafted in steel, enamel.



Elaboration IV
by Sam Spiczka
Crafted in Cor-ten steel.



Aluminum Spiral
by Ken Thompson
(Flatlander Sculpture)
Crafted in cast aluminum.



Drop
by John Bannon
Crafted in painted steel, cast urethane.



The Feather
by Kirk Seese
Crafted in steel, MDO composite, epoxy resin and hardware.



Entropy of a Tree
by Anthony Hienx May
Crafted from a tree trunk.



Empty Vessel
by Bob Doster
Crafted in Cor-ten steel.



Monocotyledon: Genesis
by Etienne Jackson
Crafted in steel.

Each sculpture will remain at Finlay Park for two years before a new installation takes each place.

Fountain Falls

There are ten custom painted turtle sculptures featured in the falls area below the fountain. Each turtle has been hand-painted by local artists, with designs ranging from realistic to whimsical, expressing a variety of creative individual designs. Our turtle artists are Alyssa Castelluccio, Ashton Hill, Dylan Fouste, Ija Charles, Julie Watts, Lujain Jallab, Patro Ulmer, Sarah Scruggs, Shannon Purvis Barron, and Victoria Rickards.



The Secret Garden Mural

Nestled into the hillside adjacent to the Ranger Station is the Secret Garden. A former multi-level playground, the Secret Garden is now a perfect, intimate outdoor venue for birthday parties, tea parties, book clubs, and social gatherings. To give the space a real touch of local flair, the City engaged with One Columbia for Arts and Culture to commission a mural.

Artist Maria DeFelice, a muralist from Columbia, has brought her vision to life. In her own words, DeFelice's mural uses "cool tones with bright points of light to evoke the feeling of walking through a forest at dusk while being surrounded by playful fireflies."



The Honorable Kirkman Finlay Statue Restoration

The iconic bronze statue of former Columbia Mayor Finlay was masterfully restored by Maria Kirby-Smith of Certified Palmetto Bug Casting from Camden. Complete with new glasses, his model city grid and a rolled-up set of blueprints, Mayor Finlay returns pondside with a phenomenal view of the fountain.



Getting to Finlay Park

Finlay Park is located between Assembly Street to the east, Gadsden Street to the west, Laurel Street to the north and Taylor Street to the south.



On-Site and Site-Adjacent Parking

On a regular basis, the Laurel Street parking lot will be available for park visitors for general parking. The Arsenal Hill Garage is also available for general parking.

On Special Event days – including Opening Weekend – the Laurel Street parking lot will be closed to the General Public for service access.

Designated ADA parking will be available for all events held at Finlay Park.



Park and Walk

Frequent visitors to the Main Street District and downtown-favorite Soda City Market will find their normal parking plans work great for Finlay Park as well. Parking structures like Taylor Street and Cannon garage are easy to access, and it's just a four-minute walk from the corner of Main and Blanding to Finlay Park. Main walking paths to Finlay Park from Main Street include Taylor Street, Blanding Street and Laurel Street.

The Vista District is also just a stone's throw from Finlay Park. The Vista has ample parking – including the Lincoln Street Parking Deck – and is just a few blocks away from the park.



Catch the COMET

During Opening Weekend (November 15th and 16th), visitors can catch a free ride on the COMET's Soda Cap #4 from the Taylor Street Garage (located on Taylor Street between Assembly Street and Main Street) and Cannon Garage (located between Main Street and Sumter Streets). Roundtrip pick-up/drop off will run every :20 minutes and is presented to you at no charge by the COMET.

Beginning in January 2026, the COMET will be providing service to support future Finlay Park events offered by the City of Columbia with dedicated routing from the Cannon Garage to Finlay Park on Soda Cap #4. Fares will be \$1 each way.

CLEAR BAG POLICY

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department has implemented a clear bag policy aimed at increasing the safety of our citizens & visitors.

APPROVED BAGS/ITEMS



Wristlet
No larger than 4.5" x 6.5"



Small Clutch or Cross-Body Purse
No larger than 4.5" x 6.5"



Laptops & Tablets in Protective (non-clear) Sleeves, Covers or Cases



Clear Tote
No larger than 12" x 6" x 12"



Clear Backpack
No larger 18" x 12" x 6"



One Soft-Sided Cooler
No larger than 14" x 14" x 14"



Plastic Freezer Bag
1 gallon



Camera Bag
Please check in with a Park Ranger upon entry



Diaper Bag or Medical Bag
No larger than 12" x 6" x 12"



Clear Fanny Pack
No larger than 4.5" x 6.5"



Bags noted with a Star do not have to be clear if size requirements are met.



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Outside food and non-alcoholic beverages are allowed in the park. This includes home-made, pre-packaged, restaurant and take out meals.

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PROHIBITED BAGS/ITEMS



Purse



Plastic Bags



Briefcase



Backpack



Tote Bag



Luggage



Trash Bags



Hard-sided, Styrofoam and wheeled coolers



Fanny Pack



Cinch Bag

The City of Columbia reserves the right to remove anyone from the premises who violates any laws, event rules or regulations, or directives from park staff.

ALL BAGS ARE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION