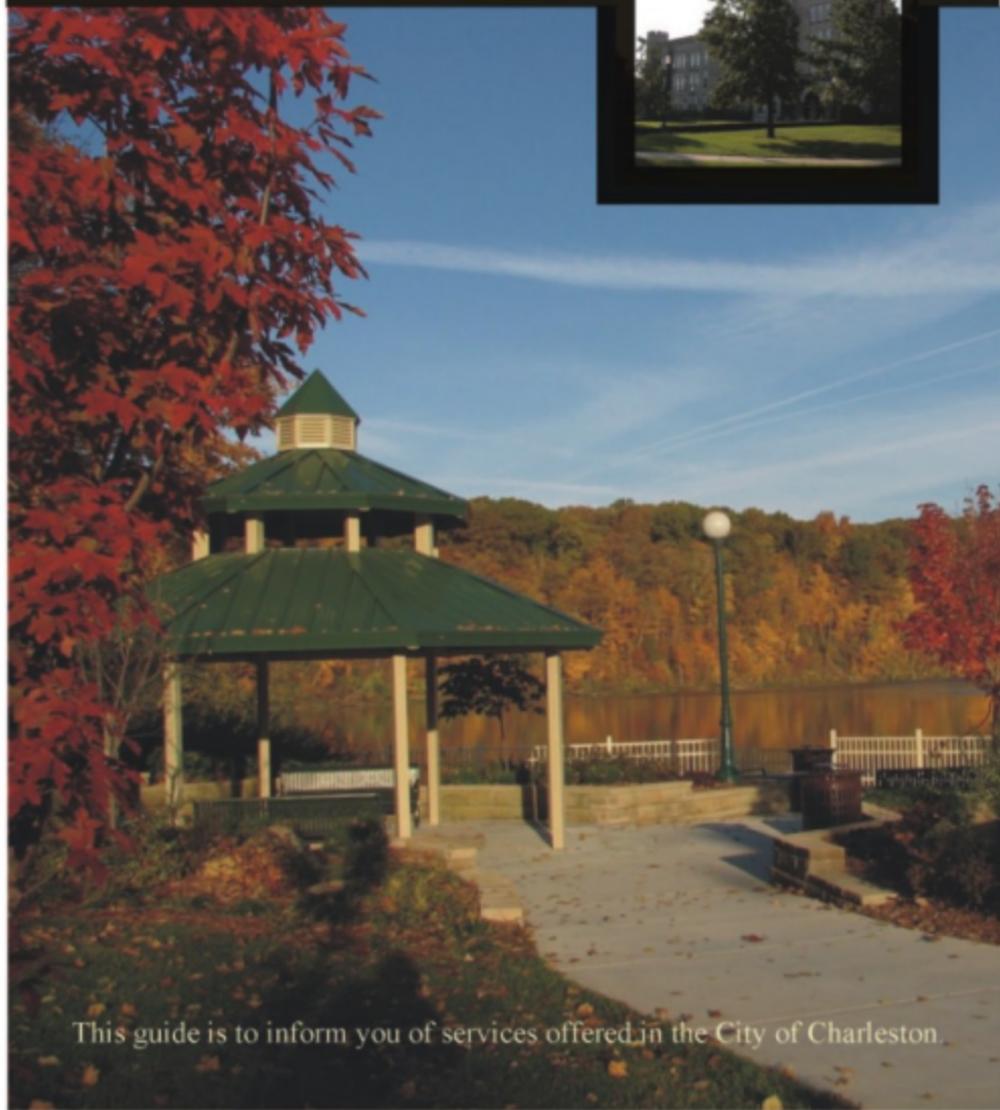


# CHARLESTON

HOME OF EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

## *New Residents' Guide*



This guide is to inform you of services offered in the City of Charleston.



# Welcome

*Current Courthouse built in 1898*

Charleston, Illinois is a progressive city of over 21,000 persons located in east-central Illinois. Rich in the history of Abraham Lincoln, the city features a balance of industrial, agricultural, educational and cultural opportunity.

Located on Highway 16, just 10 miles east of Interstate 57, Charleston is the county seat for Coles County and is the center of government and commerce for the predominantly rural and agricultural region surrounding Coles County. With a projected population of 87,600 within a 30 minute drive time radius of Charleston, a capable and willing workforce is readily available for business and industrial firms located here. Charleston is a city where the work ethic remains strong and the spirit of community support is high.

Eastern Illinois University, located in Charleston, is the largest employer with a staff of approximately 2,036 and an enrollment of 11,630 students (2010 fall enrollment). Eastern Illinois University was the college of Dallas Cowboys quarterback, Tony Romo and the New Orleans Saints coach, Sean Payton.

Highway 16 is the primary retail corridor in Charleston with a peak average daily traffic (ADT) of 26,000 vehicles per day. Our Industrial Area is located along Illinois Route 130 and Eastern Illinois Railroad on the north side of town.

With its close proximity to large metropolitan areas, access to recreational sites, business and employment opportunities, Charleston provides its citizens with a full range of living experiences that are generally found in much larger communities.

Today, Charleston is a thriving business community providing more than 500 businesses and a wide variety of services in the downtown square shopping district and Lincoln Avenue commercial areas. The city's industrial complex is home to several national and international manufacturing firms. The Coles Business Park and East Side Commercial Area offer various opportunities for retail, service and industrial businesses. Surrounded by family farms and rich soils, Charleston's economy is bolstered by agriculture. The county's more than 900 farms produce 15.3 million bushels of corn and 4.6 million bushels of soybeans each year.

*City of Charleston*

# History

*Coles County Courthouse 1835-1898*



Charleston, city, seat (1830) of Coles County, east-central Illinois, U.S. lies near the Embarrass River, about 45 miles (70 km) south of Champaign. First settled by Benjamin Parker (1826), it was named for Charles Morton, its first postmaster. In September 1858 Charleston was the scene of the fourth debate between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, attended by some 12,000 people. Coles County Fairgrounds, the site of the debate, houses a Lincoln-Douglas museum.

Charleston's economy is based on educational services and health care, and it has some manufacturing and agriculture (corn and soybeans). It is the home of Eastern Illinois University (founded in 1895 as a state normal school). The Tarble Arts Center, with a fine collection of Illinois folk art, is located on the university's campus.

Lake Charleston is just southeast of the city. Fox Ridge State Park and Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site (reconstructed on the site where Lincoln's father's house originally stood) are to the south.

Inc. village, 1835; city, 1865

Pop. (1990) 20,398; (2000) 21,039; (2010) 21,838



Charleston. (2011). In *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Retrieved from <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/107476/Charleston>



# Demographics

*One of Charleston's Historic Homes*

**County:** Coles

**Population:** 21,838 (2010)

**Number of Households:** 7,672

**Area:** 9.3 Square Miles

**Median Household Income:** \$44,312 (2000)

**Median Home Value:** \$80,100 (2000)

**Housing:** Owner Occupied 3,508; Renter Occupied 4,164

**Police Officers:** 32

**Fire Fighters:** 31

**Businesses:** 550

**Employed Population:** 10,249

**Recreation:** 18 Parks; 1 Aquatic Center; 20 Athletic Fields

**Health Care:** 1 Hospital closer than 10 miles

**Schools:** Community Unit School District #1

Charleston Christian Academy

Cornerstone Christian Academy

Eastern Illinois University

Lake Land Community College (Mattoon)

Unless otherwise noted, the statistics were collected in 1999 as part of the 2000 census.

*City of Charleston*





# Commissions & Committees

*City Seal*

## **City Council**

The City Council is the duly elected legislative and policy-making body of the City of Charleston. The fundamental job of the City Council is to make policy decisions for the City based on relevant and accurate information received from the full-time City Manager and his staff.

## **Boards and Commissions**

- Board of Zoning and Appeals (BZAP) - (7 members, 5-year terms)
- Building Code Board of Appeals - (3 members)
- Charleston Tree Commission - (11 members - and 3 advisory members)
- Coles County Airport Authority Board - (1 City-Appointed Member)
- Corridor Review Committee - (7 members, 4-year terms)
- Electrical Commission - (7 members, 5-year terms)
- External Relations Committee - (4 members)
- Firemen's Pension Board of Trustees - (5 members)
- Fire and Police Board - (3 members, 3 year terms)
- Historic Preservation Committee (7 Members, staggered terms)
- Carnegie Public Library Board of Trustees- (9 members, 3 year terms)
- Local Emergency Planner Commission (LEPC)
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - (5 members, 5 year terms)
- Police Pension Board - (5 members)
- Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District Joint Review Board - (7 members)
- Tourism Advisory Board - (10 members)

If you are interested in serving on a City board or committee please write a letter of interest to: Charleston City Manager, 520 Jackson Avenue, Charleston, IL 61920 or call (217) 345-5650 or email [citymanager@co.coles.il.us](mailto:citymanager@co.coles.il.us)

*City of Charleston*

# Building Permits



## **Building Permits**

The purpose of the Building Permit regulations is to ensure that all structures within Charleston comply with the provisions of the City's building codes, and various codes and regulations of County, State, or Federal agencies.

A Building Permit is required in order to construct or modify a structure, including electrical and plumbing work. In the case of normal property maintenance that does not alter the structure, a Building Permit is not required.

Inspections are required as part of the building permit and construction process.

For information on how to obtain a Building Permit or inspections, contact Building Code Permits and Inspections at (217) 345-5650, or visit the City of Charleston web site.





# Ordinances

## **Animal Related Ordinances**

### **Animal Licensing**

A license must be obtained for all domestic animals. Also, domestic animals over the age of six months must wear a collar with a license tag attached.

### **Leash Law - Running at large prohibited**

No domestic animal, whether licensed or unlicensed, muzzled or unmuzzled, shall be allowed to run at large. If any such domestic animal is found running at large in violation of this section, it shall be taken up and impounded by the animal control warden, and shall not be released except upon approval of said warden and payment of the appropriate fees. (Ord. 69-O-21, 8-6-1969; amd. 1991 Code; Ord. 94-O-42, 9-6-1994)

### **Excrement Removal Required**

Every owner or person having possession and/or control of any dog or any other animal shall be required to immediately remove and appropriately dispose of any and all animal defecation that has been placed upon private property or public property within the city by the animal under said person's ownership, custody and/or possession, except for private property owned or under the control of the individual owning or in possession of the animal. (Ord. 99-O-1, 1-5-1999)

## **Other Ordinances**

### **Alcohol Sales**

The sale of alcoholic beverages within the corporate city limits of Charleston is limited to the following hours for all license holders:

6:00 A.M. until 1:00 A.M.  
11:00 A.M. until 12:00 midnight

Monday - Saturday  
Sunday



### ***Curfew***

Anyone under the age of seventeen may not be present at any public assembly, building, place, street, or highway during the following times unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

12:01 A.M. - 6:00 A.M. on Saturday;  
12:01 A.M. - 6:00 A.M. on Sunday; and  
11:00 P.M. - 6:00 A.M. Sunday - Friday

### ***Off Street Parking***

The parking of motor vehicles is limited to gravel, asphalt, and concrete surfaces only. Parking in grass is prohibited.

### ***Raffle License***

No person shall conduct raffles or chances without first having obtained a license therefore pursuant to this chapter. Licensees must be organizations, and must be organizations which have been in existence continuously for a period of not less than five (5) years immediately prior to making application for a license under this chapter. (Ord. 86-O-17, 4-1-1986)

### ***Snow Removal Routes***

After a snowfall accumulation of over two inches, no vehicle can be parked on marked snow routes for a period of twelve hours, unless the Street Superintendent or in his absence, the chief of police, determines that snow removal efforts on said streets have been completed.

### ***Weeds and Grass***

Weeds or grass over eight inches in height must be cut unless the land is zoned by the City for agricultural purposes.



# Utilities

## **Water**

Charleston Water Department  
520 Jackson Avenue, Charleston  
(217) 345-8430

## **Phone/Internet/Cable**

Mediacom  
4290 Blue Stem Road, Charleston  
(217) 345-7071

Consolidated Communications  
121 South 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Mattoon  
(217) 235-3311

## **Electric**

Ameren Illinois  
(800) 232-2477

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative  
104 Dewitt Avenue East, Mattoon  
(217) 235-0341

## **Gas**

Ameren Illinois  
(800) 789-2477

## **Electronic Recycling**

Computer Components  
County Office Products  
110 N 5th Street, Charleston  
(217) 345-4944

## **Propane Delivery**

Ferrellgas  
1540 Persimmon Road, Charleston  
(217) 345-3848

Eastern Illinois Propane Gas  
607 West State Street, Charleston  
(217) 345-3993

## **Trash/Recycling**

Veolia Environmental Services  
6111 West State Street, Charleston  
(217) 345-7404

Morgan Disposal Services  
500 North Division Street, Charleston  
(217) 348-8381

Coles County Sanitation and Recycling  
665 W Lincoln Avenue #9, Charleston  
(217) 345-7101

## **Other Community Offices**

U.S. Post Office  
320 6th Street, Charleston  
(217) 348-1112

Charleston Carnegie Public Library  
712 6th Street, Charleston  
(217) 345-4913

## **Hospital**

Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center  
1000 Health Center Drive, Mattoon  
(217) 348-2525

# Community Schools

*Carl Sandburg's Playground*



**CHARLESTON**  
Community Unit School District

## **CUSD #1 Central Office**

410 W Polk Ave  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217-639-1000

### **Ashmore**

Grades K - 4  
313 S Ohio St.  
Ashmore, IL 61912  
217-349-3000

### **Carl Sandburg**

Grades 1 - 3  
1924 Reynolds Dr.  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217-639-4000

### **Middle School**

Grades 7 & 8  
920 Smith Dr  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217-639-6000

### **Mark Twain**

Grade K  
1021 13th St.  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217-639-8000

### **Jefferson**

Grades 4 - 6  
801 Jefferson St  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217-639-7000

### **High School**

Grades 9 - 12  
1615 Lincoln Ave  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217-639-5000

## **Private Schools**

### **Charleston Christian Academy**

2605 University Dr  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217-345-4479

### **Cornerstone Christian Academy**

661 Castle Dr  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217-345-4283

## **Colleges & Universities**

### **Eastern Illinois University**

600 Lincoln Ave.  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217-581-5000

### **Lake Land Community College**

5001 Lakeland Blvd  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
217-234-5253

[www.charlestonillinois.org](http://www.charlestonillinois.org)

# Parks & Recreation



Rotary Community Aquatic Center

## City Parks

**Kiwanis Park** - Division & Jackson Streets

**North Park** - Division & Vine Streets

**Woods Park** - North 11th Street

**VFW Way Park** - 20th Street, behind the VFW Lodge

**Lakeview Park** - East on McKinley Street

**Heritage Woods Park** - South 9th Street & Woodlawn Drive

**Sister City Park** - South Rt 130

**Reasor Park** - South University Drive

**Lafferty Nature Center** - South Douglas Drive

**Lake Charleston** - South Rt 130

**Woodyard Conservation Area** - South Rt 130

## Ball Fields

**Ne-Co Fields** - 301 North "E" Street

**Baker Fields** - Walnut & 1st Streets

**Seaton Fields** - Division & Vine Streets

**Jefferson Field** - Railroad Ave & 9th Streets

**Carl Sandburg Field** - 1924 Reynolds Drive

**Lanman Field** - Vine & 1st Streets

## Swimming Pool

**Rotary Community Aquatic Center** - 950 17th Street

## Township Park District

**Morton Park** - Division & Lincoln Streets

**Beavers Fields** - Pierce & 2nd Streets

**Jr. Football League Field** - 320 N "E" Street

City of Charleston

345-6897

*Kiwanis Park Amphitheater*



### **What We Offer...**

The Charleston Parks & Recreation Department offers programs and activities to all members of the community. We have a wide variety of services ranging from Preschool to Adult, dogs classes, concerts, Child Care & trips throughout the year.

### **Where to find us...**

**Family Fun Guides** - These guides come out 3 times a year; April, September & December. Every child in grades Kindergarten thru Sixth (in Charleston Public Schools) will receive a book at school. Other guides will be available at our office and throughout the community at local businesses.

**Online** - Visit [www.charlestonillinois.org](http://www.charlestonillinois.org) and click on Parks & Recreation. Then click on the Register Online button to visit our registration site. It contains a complete listing of our programs and allows you to register online.

**At Our Office** - Visit us at 520 Jackson Ave, 2nd Floor to discuss programs, register, volunteer or just check out what we offer.

**Facebook** - Join our page on Facebook at Charleston Parks and Recreation Department. We post activity information, cancellations, and upcoming events on this site.



[www.charlestonillinois.org](http://www.charlestonillinois.org)

# Points of Interest



*Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site*

## **Historic Sites**

### **Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site**

South 4<sup>th</sup> Street/ 400 South Lincoln Highway Road  
(217) 345-1845

Lincoln Log Cabin Historic Site was the 1840s home of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, father and stepmother of Abraham Lincoln. The site includes a working, living historic farm developed around a two-room cabin.

### **Moore Home State Historic Site**

South 4<sup>th</sup> Street/ South Lincoln Highway Road  
(217) 345-1845

Located just one mile north of Lincoln Log Cabin, the Moore Home is the 1860's home of Abraham Lincoln's stepsister, Matilda Hall Moore and the location of President-elect Lincoln's last visit with his Coles County family on January 31, 1861.

### **Lincoln Douglas Debate Museum**

Coles County Fairgrounds, 416 West Madison Avenue  
(217) 348-0430

Tour the only museum in Illinois retracing the senatorial debates of 1858 between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas. The museum offers exhibits and interactive displays that tell the debates' story through film, audio selections, artifacts and photos.

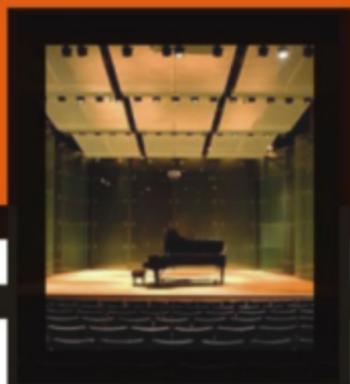
## **Outdoor**

### **Rotary Community Aquatic Center**

920 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
(217) 345-3233

Featuring an Olympic size pool, a zero-entry pool with large splash toys, a 121-foot waterslide, diving boards, large umbrellas, deck chairs and concessions, there is fun in the sun for everyone!

*Doudna Fine Arts Center, Recital Hall*



**Lake Charleston**

1 mile south of Charleston on IL Highway 130  
(217) 345-6897

Covering 440 acres, Lake Charleston has a fishing pier, gazebo, dock, boating and pavilions. No wake: entire reservoir.

**Fox Ridge State Park**

18175 State Park Road, 8 miles south of Charleston on IL Highway 130  
(217) 345-6416

With miles of scenic hiking trails, playgrounds, picnic shelters, fishing, hunting and camping, Fox Ridge State Park is the perfect place to get back to nature.

**Doudna Fine Arts Center**

7<sup>th</sup> Street and Hayes Street, EIU Campus  
(217) 581-2917

Eastern Illinois University's Doudna Fine Arts Center, designed by world-acclaimed architect Antoine Predock, is Charleston's newest architectural landmark. With the 300-seat Black Box studio theatre and the 600-seat Dvorak Concert Hall, the Doudna Fine Arts Center hosts an array of theatrical and musical productions.

**Fine Arts**

**Charleston Alley Theatre**

718 Monroe Avenue  
(217) 345-CATS (2287)

Located in the Historic Courthouse Square, this is local theatre at its best offering an intimate setting and a wonderful mix of old and new drama.

**Tarble Arts Center**

9<sup>th</sup> street at Cleveland Avenue, EIU Campus  
(217) 581-ARTS (2787)

Open year round, this arts haven houses art exhibitions, a gift shop, special events, performing arts and education programs. Free admission to the galleries and events; admission fee for performances and classes.



# Welcome to Charleston

## *Calendar of Events*

February	Mid-Winter Classic - 5K, 10K, 15K Race
April	EIU Celebration: A Festival of the Arts
May	Annual Garden Ramble
July	Red, White & Blue Days
July	Coles County Fair
September	Charleston Challenge Duathlon
November	Charleston Challenge 40 Mile Relay
December	Christmas in the Heart of Charleston

*A complete Calendar of Events available on our web site!*  
[www.charlestontourism.org](http://www.charlestontourism.org)



1230 Division Street  
Charleston, IL 61920  
(217) 345-5555



10 Lincoln Avenue  
Charleston, IL 61920  
(217) 348-8000



1515 University Drive  
Charleston, IL  
(217) 273-2610