

Columbus Relocation Guide

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT COLUMBUS'S MOST POPULAR SUBURBS

2026 EDITION | UPDATED POPULATION, SCHOOL RATINGS & COMMUNITY PROFILES

ENGEL&VÖLKERS
REAL ESTATE ADVISORS
WINTER GROUP

WELCOME TO

Columbus, Ohio



Considering a move to Columbus? I'm so glad you're here.

As a lifelong Ohio resident, I genuinely believe that Columbus and its surrounding suburbs are some of the best-kept secrets in the United States. After spending most of my adult life in the city, my family and I decided in 2022 to settle in the beautiful suburb of New Albany. It may have been one of the best decisions we ever made.

Since then, we have explored the region from end to end and truly love everything Ohio has to offer. When we moved, there was not much information available about what life here is really like. That is why I created this guide, along with the supplemental videos on my Instagram and YouTube.

Because the truth is, you are not just buying a new home, you are buying a new life. You want to make the right decision for you and your family. Whether you are looking to settle in the heart of Columbus or for a slower pace in one of the suburbs, I would be honored to help you find a home.

Brad Winter
Columbus, Ohio Real Estate Advisor
and Relocation Specialist

WELCOME TO

Cap City°

Known as “Cap City,” Columbus has been ranked as one of the top places to live for good reason. Whether you love the outdoors, want four distinct seasons, or want a clean, safe, and friendly place to make lasting memories, Columbus has everything you are looking for.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Explore boundless outdoor adventures with fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, biking, boating, kayaking, and more. Columbus offers activities for every season and every explorer.



SAFE, FRIENDLY, CLEAN

Central Ohio is celebrated for safe neighborhoods, a welcoming community spirit, and pristine surroundings, making it ideal for families seeking a clean and harmonious place to live.



ECONOMY

Columbus boasts a dynamic, thriving economy marked by strong technology, healthcare, and education sectors, alongside robust growth in real estate and major new investment in semiconductors and data centers.



AFFORDABILITY

Columbus combines a cost of living that is more affordable than many major U.S. cities with a high quality of life, making it an attractive option for families and individuals alike.



4 SEASONS

Columbus delights with four distinct seasons, each with its own unique charm, from vibrant spring blossoms and warm summer adventures to colorful autumn leaves and serene winter landscapes.



YOUR NEW LIFE AWAITS YOU

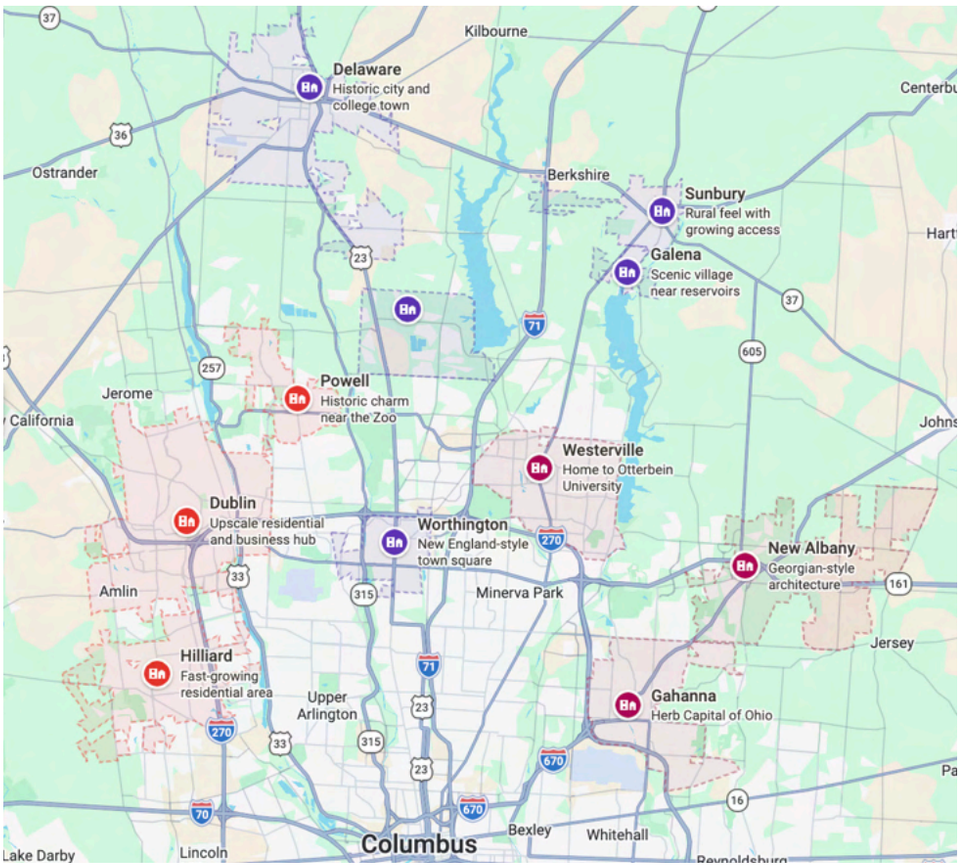
As you go through this guide, you will discover the essentials of relocating to Central Ohio, from finding your perfect suburb to settling into your new community.

GET TO KNOW

The Suburbs

It is no secret that the suburbs around Columbus are where charm meets convenience. These neighborhoods provide a peaceful retreat without distancing you from the energetic pulse of the city. Here you will find spacious homes, vibrant parks, and closely knit communities with a true sense of belonging.

With Columbus's rich cultural scene, diverse entertainment, and thriving job market just a short drive away, living in the suburbs does not mean being removed from the buzz of the city. It offers the best of both worlds, the tranquility of suburban life during the day and the city's vibrant atmosphere at night. For many, it is this balance that makes the suburbs of Columbus not just a place to live, but a place to truly thrive.

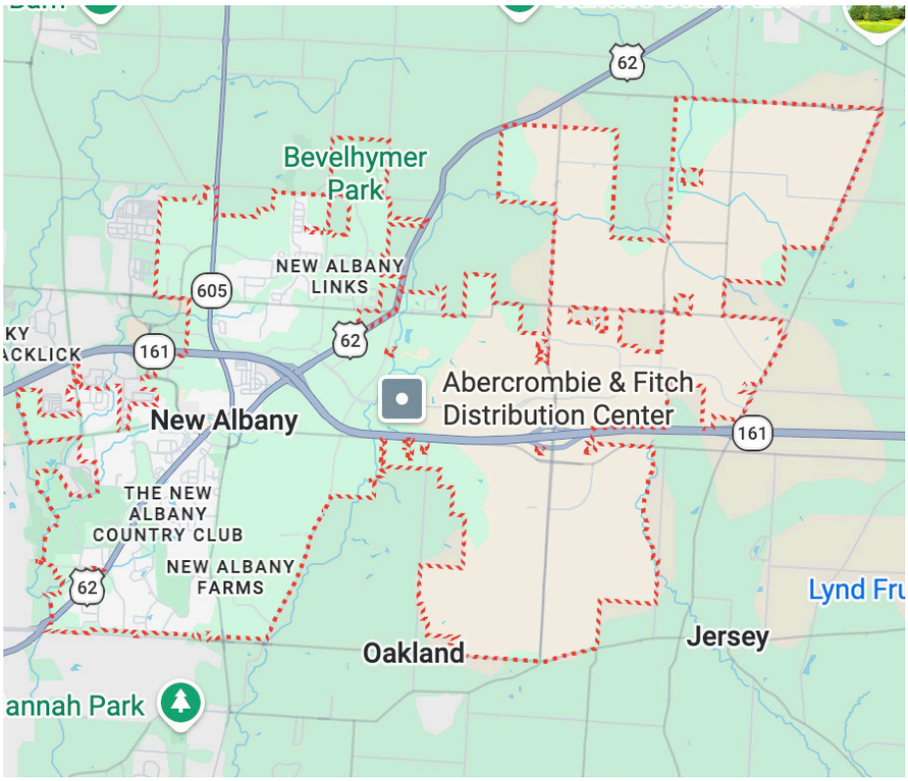


COMMUNITIES IN THIS GUIDE

- New Albany: N.E. Suburb
- Dublin: N.W. Suburb
- Columbus: The City
- Hilliard: W. Suburb
- Powell: N. Suburb
- Worthington: N. Suburb
- Westerville: N.E. Suburb
- Gahanna: E. Suburb
- Galena: Far N. Village
- Lewis Cente: N. Suburb (new)
- Sunbury: Far N. village (new)
- Delaware: N College Town (new)

A GUIDE TO

New Albany, OH



POPULATION
11,500

MEDIAN PRICE
$762,500

MEDIAN AGE
39

MEDIAN INCOME
$200,000+

PUBLIC SCHOOLS
A+

COMMUTE TO COLUMBUS
22 min

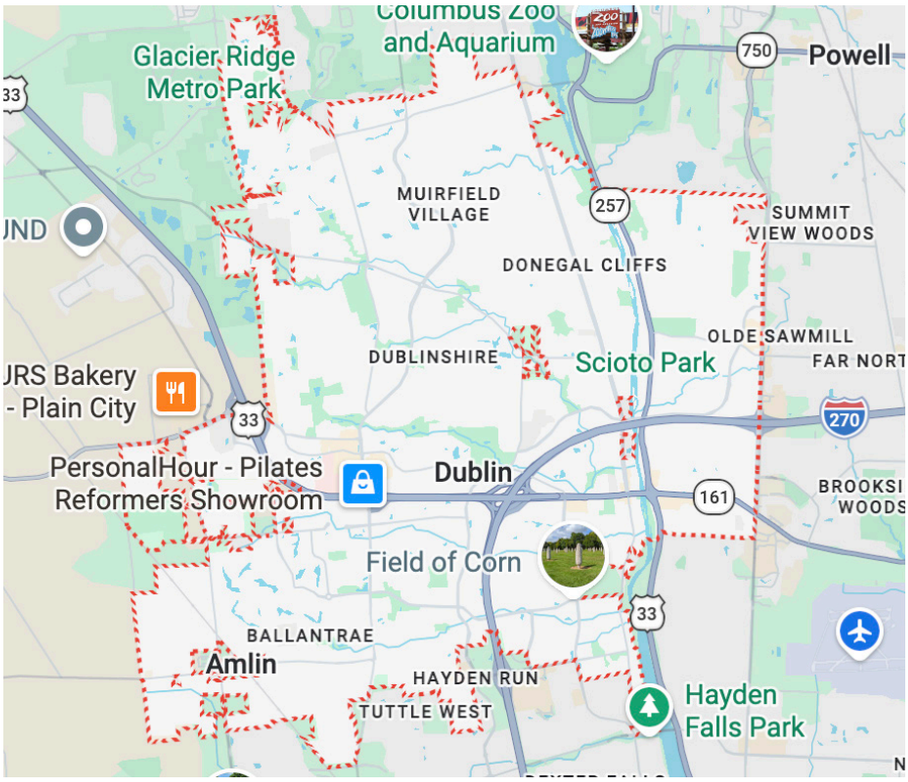
SCHOOL DISTRICT: NEW ALBANY-PLAIN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

New Albany is an upscale, master-planned community just northeast of Columbus, known for its Georgian-style architecture, cohesive design, and miles of leisure trails. The city pairs small-town charm with a strong focus on community, education, and wellness, anchored by the New Albany Country Club and a busy calendar of cultural events, art installations, and festivals.

New Albany has also become one of central Ohio's most important economic engines. The New Albany International Business Park is home to major employers, and the area is now a national hub for data center and technology investment, including a multibillion-dollar Intel semiconductor project nearby that is reshaping the regional job market.

A GUIDE TO

Dublin, OH



POPULATION
49,000

MEDIAN PRICE
$655,000

MEDIAN AGE
43

MEDIAN INCOME
$160,000

PUBLIC SCHOOLS
A+

COMMUTE TO COLUMBUS
22 min

SCHOOL DISTRICT: DUBLIN CITY SCHOOLS

Dublin is a thriving city northwest of Columbus, consistently ranked among the best places to live in Ohio for its top-rated schools, abundant green spaces, and high quality of life. The city is known for well-planned neighborhoods, the scenic Scioto River, and a strong corporate base that includes numerous headquarters and technology firms.

Dublin's Bridge Park district has become a destination for modern urban living, with restaurants, bars, rooftop venues, and entertainment along the river. The annual Dublin Irish Festival is one of the largest celebrations of Irish culture in the country.

With upscale shopping, diverse dining, and an extensive trail network, Dublin blends suburban comfort with city-style amenities, making it an appealing choice for families, professionals, and retirees alike

A GUIDE TO

Columbus, OH



POPULATION
915,000

MEDIAN PRICE
$275,000

MEDIAN AGE
34

MEDIAN INCOME
$70,000

PUBLIC SCHOOLS
C+

COMMUTE TO COLUMBUS
5-10 min

SCHOOL DISTRICT: COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS

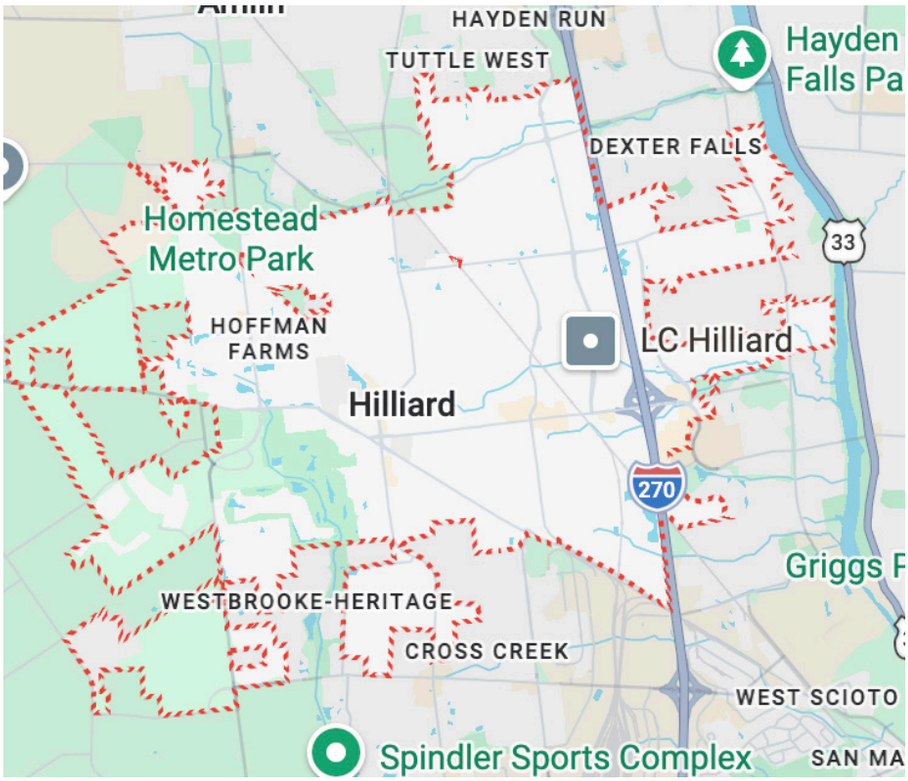
Columbus is the capital and largest city in Ohio, and one of the fastest-growing major cities in the Midwest. Known for its diverse economy, strong job market, and lively culture, the city offers something for everyone.

Sports are a big part of life here, with the MLS Columbus Crew at Lower.com Field, the NHL Columbus Blue Jackets at Nationwide Arena, and the Triple-A Columbus Clippers at Huntington Park. Cultural districts like the Short North Arts District and German Village draw visitors for their dining, galleries, and shopping, while the Scioto Mile and numerous parks provide beautiful green space downtown.

With an affordable cost of living relative to other large cities and a welcoming Midwest feel, Columbus appeals to young professionals, families, and retirees alike.

A GUIDE TO

Hillard, OH



POPULATION
38,000

MEDIAN PRICE
$415,000

MEDIAN AGE
37

MEDIAN INCOME
$110,000

PUBLIC SCHOOLS
A-

COMMUTE TO COLUMBUS
18-20 min

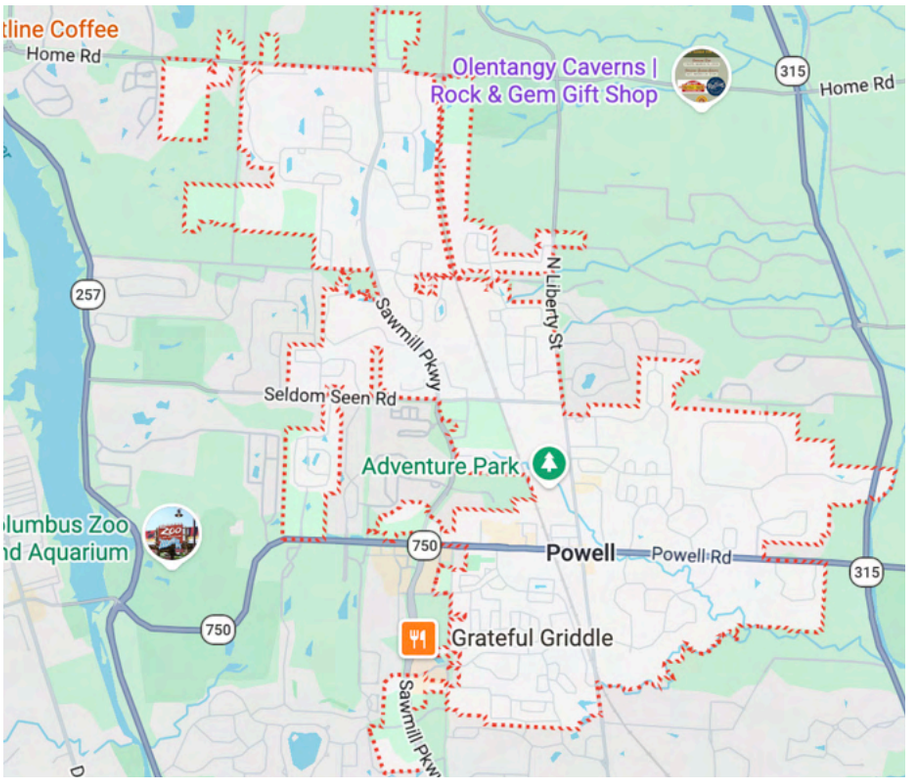
SCHOOL DISTRICT: HILLIARD CITY SCHOOLS

Hilliard is a family-friendly suburb just west of Columbus, known for its highly rated schools, well-maintained parks, and strong sense of community. The Old Hilliard district offers a charming mix of local dining, shopping, and entertainment, blending modern convenience with small-town character.

Community events such as the Franklin County Fair and seasonal festivals give residents plenty to do throughout the year. Many residents commute into Columbus for work in technology, finance, and healthcare, making Hilliard a convenient and affordable home base with easy access to the city.

A GUIDE TO

Powell, OH



POPULATION
14,800

MEDIAN PRICE
$580,000

MEDIAN AGE
43

MEDIAN INCOME
$195,000

PUBLIC SCHOOLS
A+

COMMUTE TO COLUMBUS
20-30 min

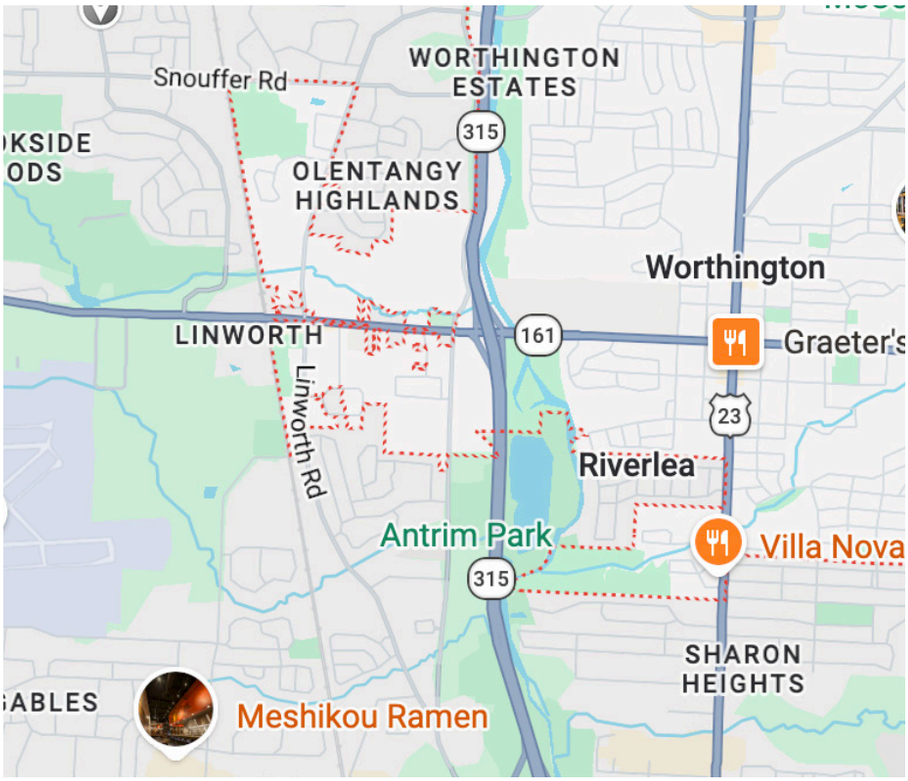
SCHOOL DISTRICT: OLENTANGY LOCAL SCHOOLS

Powell is a picturesque and affluent community just north of Columbus in Delaware County, prized for its top-rated Olentangy schools, safe neighborhoods, and family-friendly atmosphere. The historic downtown features charming shops, restaurants, and community events.

Nearby attractions like the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and the Olentangy Indian Caverns add to the appeal. Residents enjoy spacious homes, well-kept parks, and a strong, community-oriented lifestyle. Powell consistently ranks among the most desirable and safest places to live in the region.

A GUIDE TO

Worthington, OH



POPULATION
14,500

MEDIAN PRICE
$503,852

MEDIAN AGE
42

MEDIAN INCOME
$110,000

PUBLIC SCHOOLS
A

COMMUTE TO COLUMBUS
10-15 min

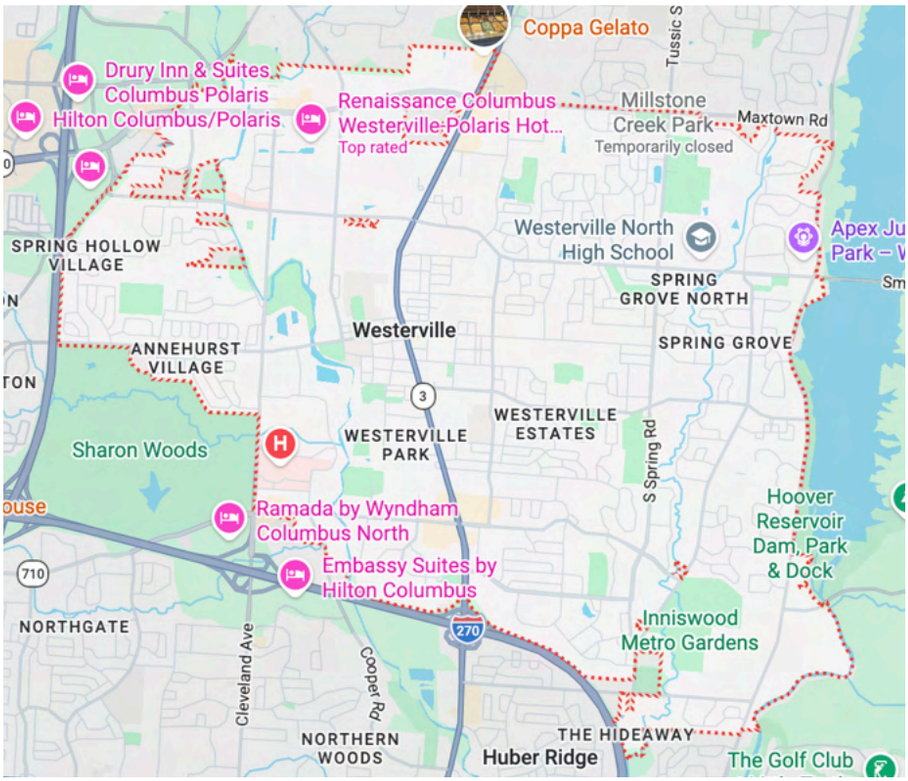
SCHOOL DISTRICT: WORTHINGTON CITY SCHOOLS

Worthington is a historic and charming suburb just north of Columbus, founded in 1803 and known for its well-preserved architecture and walkable downtown, Old Worthington. The district offers local shops, restaurants, and popular community events like the Worthington Farmers Market and seasonal festivals.

Worthington is also recognized for its top-rated schools, safe neighborhoods, and extensive park system, including nearby Highbanks Metro Park. With a rich cultural heritage and easy access to Columbus, Worthington appeals to families, professionals, and retirees seeking a comfortable suburban lifestyle.

A GUIDE TO

Westerville, OH



POPULATION
38,000

MEDIAN PRICE
$415,000

MEDIAN AGE
40

MEDIAN INCOME
$105,000

PUBLIC SCHOOLS
A

COMMUTE TO COLUMBUS
20-25 min

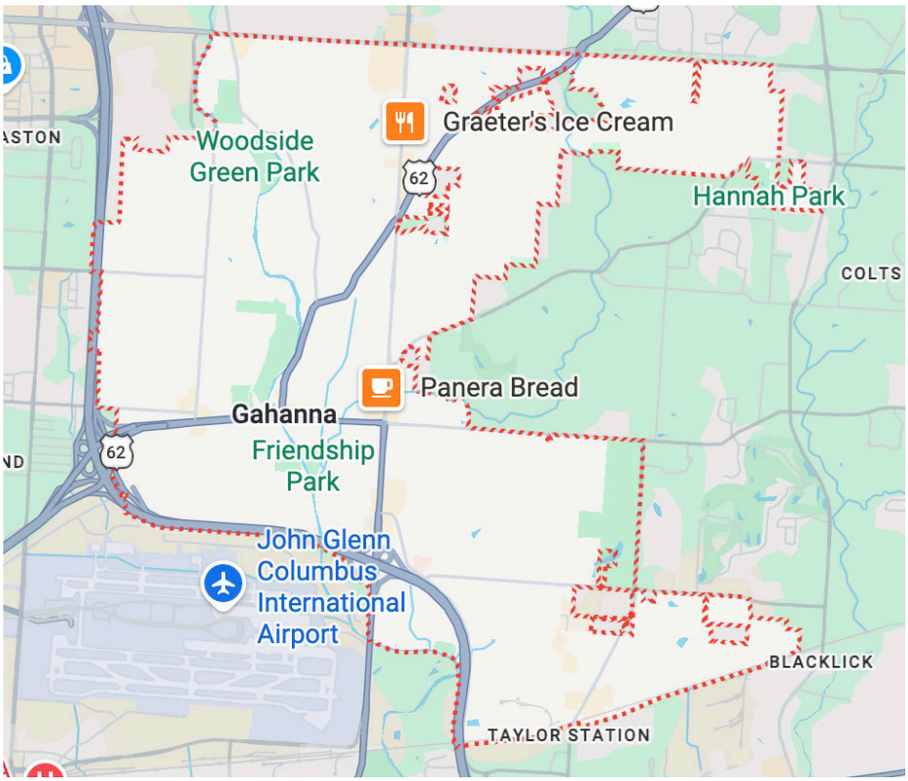
SCHOOL DISTRICT: WESTERVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

Westerville is a vibrant community northeast of Columbus, known for its rich history, strong schools, and family-friendly atmosphere. Home to Otterbein University, the city has an intellectual and cultural energy, and the historic Uptown Westerville district hosts charming shops, restaurants, and frequent events such as the Fourth Friday festivals and the Westerville Music and Arts Festival.

The city's parks system is extensive, with dozens of parks and miles of trails for walking, biking, and enjoying nature. With its blend of historic character, modern amenities, and active community life, Westerville is a popular choice for families and professionals.

A GUIDE TO

Gahanna, OH



POPULATION
35,000

MEDIAN PRICE
$442,575

MEDIAN AGE
39

MEDIAN INCOME
$95,000

PUBLIC SCHOOLS
A-

COMMUTE TO COLUMBUS
13 min

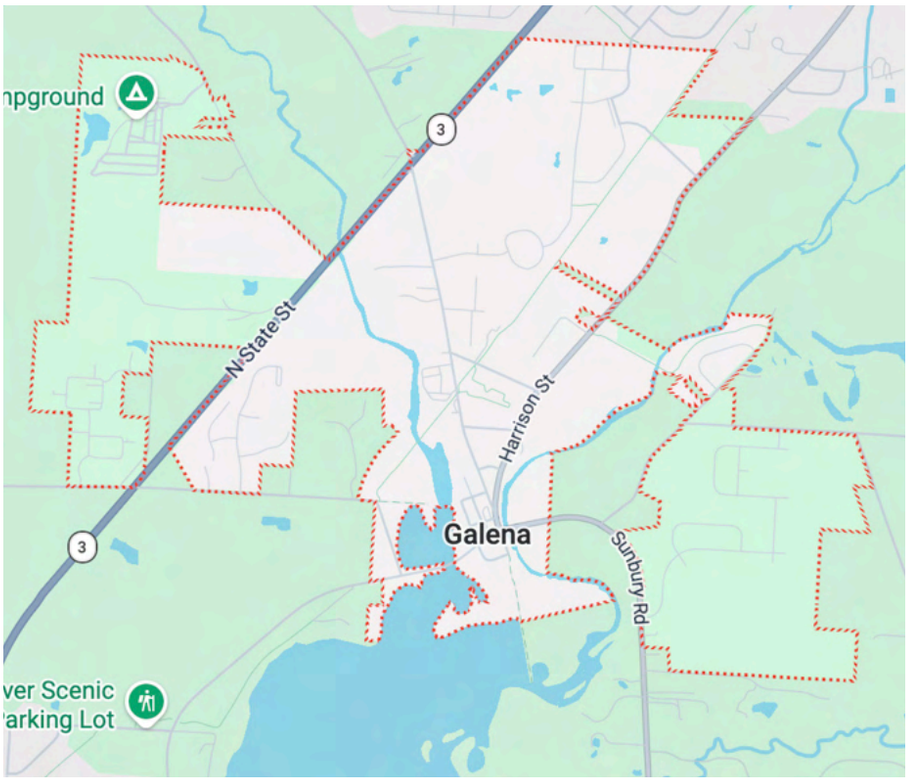
SCHOOL DISTRICT: GAHANNA-JEFFERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Gahanna is a thriving suburb just east of Columbus, known for its family-friendly atmosphere, strong schools, and well-maintained parks. A highlight is the extensive park system, including Creekside Park, with walking trails and scenic views along Big Walnut Creek plus the dining and shops of the Creekside District.

The city hosts popular events like the Creekside Blues and Jazz Festival. Its proximity to John Glenn Columbus International Airport and major highways makes Gahanna especially convenient for commuting and travel, while still offering the charm and amenities of a suburban community.

A GUIDE TO

Galena, OH



POPULATION
1,100

MEDIAN PRICE
$625,000

MEDIAN AGE
44

MEDIAN INCOME
$130,000

PUBLIC SCHOOLS
B+

COMMUTE TO COLUMBUS
30 min

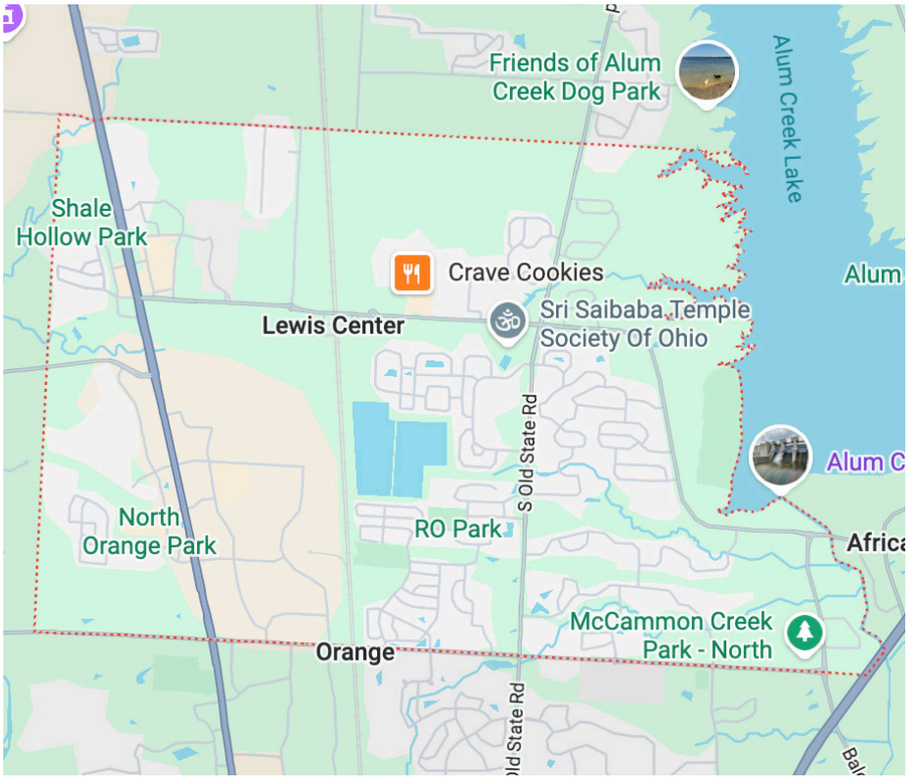
SCHOOL DISTRICT: BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

Galena is a small but fast-growing village in Delaware County, just north of Columbus, offering a peaceful rural-suburban lifestyle close to big-city amenities. The village is known for its beautiful natural surroundings, including the scenic Hoover Reservoir, which offers boating, fishing, and hiking, as well as a charming historic downtown.

Galena is part of the well-regarded Big Walnut School District, adding to its appeal for families. With spacious homes, quiet neighborhoods, and a close-knit community feel, Galena is ideal for those seeking a slower pace of life with modern conveniences nearby.

A GUIDE TO

Lewis Center, OH



POPULATION
30,400

MEDIAN PRICE
$555,500

MEDIAN AGE
36

MEDIAN INCOME
$130,000

PUBLIC SCHOOLS
A+

COMMUTE TO COLUMBUS
25-30 min

SCHOOL DISTRICT: OLENTANGY LOCAL SCHOOLS

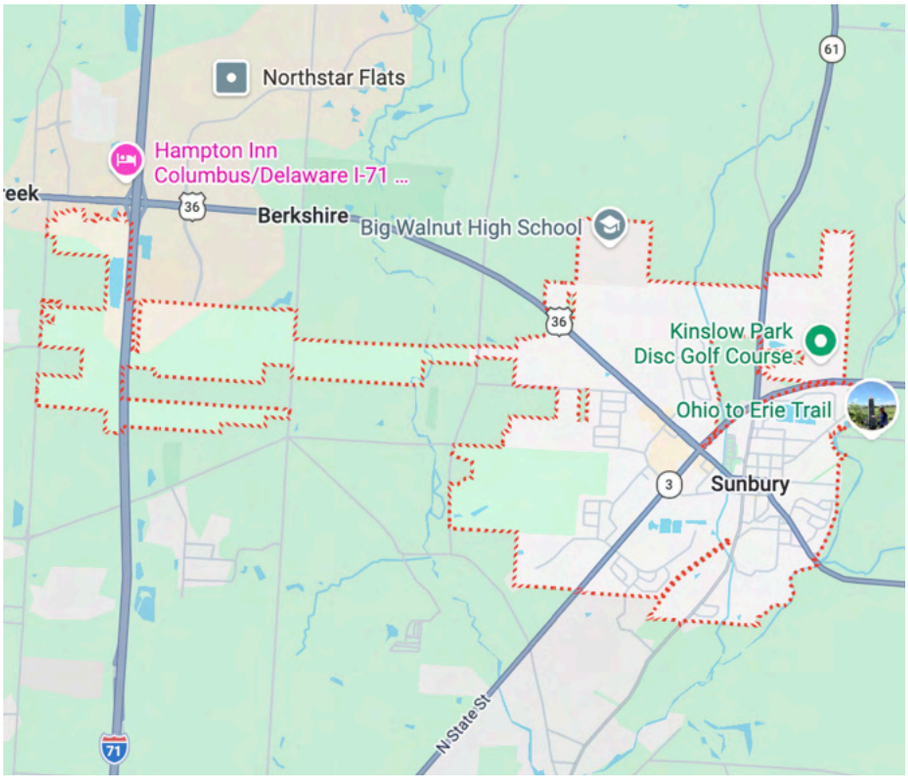
Lewis Center is a fast-growing community in Delaware County, located on the east side of the Olentangy River and just north of the Polaris hub. It is served by the Olentangy Local School District, one of the highest-performing districts in Ohio, which makes it especially popular with families.

Lewis Center combines suburban convenience with abundant recreation, sitting near Alum Creek State Park, Highbanks Metro Park, and Shale Hollow Park. The nearby Polaris area offers some of central Ohio's best shopping and dining, anchored by Polaris Fashion Place along with a large concentration of restaurants, entertainment, and major employers.

With newer homes, strong schools, and easy access to I-71, Lewis Center is a favorite for professionals and growing families.

A GUIDE TO

Sunbury, OH



POPULATION
8,800

MEDIAN PRICE
$548,900

MEDIAN AGE
33

MEDIAN INCOME
$104,000

PUBLIC SCHOOLS
B+

COMMUTE TO COLUMBUS
30-35 min

SCHOOL DISTRICT: BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

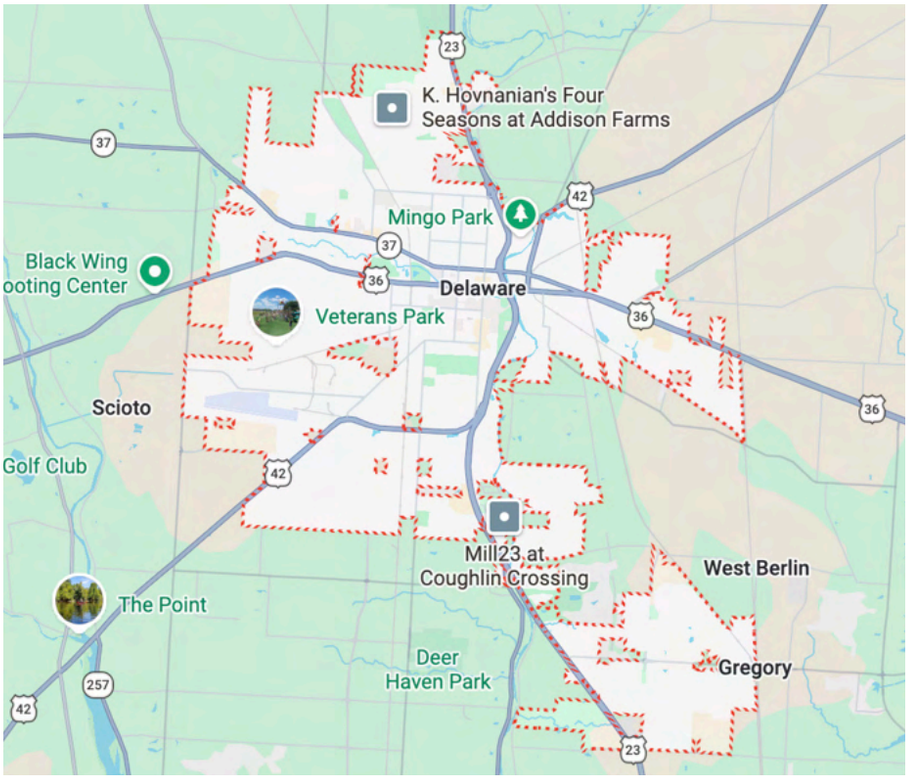
Sunbury is one of central Ohio's fastest-growing communities, set in southern Delaware County around a picturesque historic town square. The village offers a blend of small-town character and new construction, with quick access to Route 36/37, I-71, and the shopping and dining of the Polaris and Tanger Outlet areas.

Sunbury is served by the Big Walnut Local School District and sits near Hoover Reservoir and Alum Creek for boating, fishing, and outdoor recreation. Continued regional growth, including the major Intel project to the south near New Albany, is fueling strong interest in the area.

With value, space, and a strong sense of community, Sunbury is an appealing option for families and commuters looking just beyond the inner-ring suburbs.

A GUIDE TO

Delaware, OH



POPULATION
45,200

MEDIAN PRICE
$453,00

MEDIAN AGE
34

MEDIAN INCOME
$80,000

PUBLIC SCHOOLS
B

COMMUTE TO COLUMBUS
30-35 min

SCHOOL DISTRICT: DELAWARE CITY SCHOOLS, BUCKEYE VALLEY , OLENTANGY LOCAL SCHOOLS

Delaware is a historic college town and the county seat of Delaware County, located about 30 minutes north of Columbus. Home to Ohio Wesleyan University and the birthplace of President Rutherford B. Hayes, the city features a thriving, walkable downtown along Sandusky Street filled with local shops, restaurants, coffeehouses, and outdoor patios.

Delaware is known for the Little Brown Jug, an internationally famous harness race held each September at the Delaware County Fairgrounds, along with the Delaware Arts Festival and other seasonal events. Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy nearby Delaware State Park and Alum Creek State Park.

With its preserved 19th-century architecture, hometown pace, and strong proximity to Columbus, Delaware offers a more affordable and characterful alternative to the area's pricier suburbs.

The Process

OF RELOCATING

1

Connect With a Relocation Specialist

Schedule a 30-minute “Move Me to Columbus” call with me where we dive into what you are looking for, alongside insights into the communities, to refine your home search effectively.

2

Partner With A Local Mortgage Expert

I will introduce you to Lauren Walton who is our local mortgage expert who will guide you through essential details like financing options and local tax obligations.

3

Begin Your Personalized Home Search

You will be equipped with a tailored online home search tool that starts presenting options in your preferred areas that align with your budget.

4

Plan A Relocation Visit

We finally meet face to face. Allocate three to four days for a thorough exploration where we visit potential homes and you discover local neighborhoods and amenities.

5

Focus Your Choices & Make An Offer

Once you pinpoint your ideal location and find homes that catch your eye, we evaluate current market trends and begin the offer process to secure your new home.

6

Finalize Your Home Purchase

Once a deal is in place, we collaborate closely to ensure you are fully prepared for your move. Ohio’s welcoming community is eager to greet you.

We've Been There

AND NOW WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

My wife and I are both Columbus transplants. We moved here as young adults and love everything about our incredible city and the surrounding suburbs. We moved to New Albany in 2022 in search of more space, a great school system, and a better quality of life, and we want to help you do the same.

Relocating can feel intimidating and overwhelming if you do not know where to start. This chapter of your life should feel exciting and empowering, and we offer you the resources to make it happen.



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COLUMBUS'S BEST SUBURBS GUIDE

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