



Tigers in the Wild

There's nothing quite like Columbia summer at twilight. The air thickens with humidity and teems with possibility. We hear the songs of amorous tree frogs, downtown street-corner crooners or touring festival bands belting melodies into the night. We sample s'mores cooked over a campsite fire, gourmet tapas purveyed on a rooftop patio or specialty fare served through a food truck window.

Whether your summer scene is a festival, a patio, a trail or a park, CoMo has you (un)covered. With so much wild life afoot in the open air, you might never want to go inside. **STORIES AND PHOTOS BY MIZZOU STAFF**





Hit the Dance Floor

Columbians know how to throw a party. We host massive, multiday international extravaganzas (Roots N Blues, True/False) and community artsy get-togethers (First Friday, Summerfest). We celebrate harvests and holidays, heritage and pride. And we always have our dancing shoes on. Here's a guide to just a few of the open-air festivals the summer season holds. Mark your calendars!



Pedaler's Jamboree

Every Memorial Day Weekend, more than 2,000 cyclists hit the trail for this bicycle and music festival. Riders depart from downtown Columbia and travel 30 miles on the MKT Trail and Katy Trail to Boonville's Kemper Park, pausing along the way for live music and good food. Non-riders meet at the final destination, where more musical acts take the main stage. Festival-goers camp at Kemper Park or stay at nearby hotels before returning Sunday. Last year, attendees came together for a pancake breakfast and a yoga session before heading back home — or down the trail to Cooper's Landing for more music.

📍 Bicyclists start at Flat Branch Park at 101 S. Fourth St. in Columbia. Non-riders go to Kemper Park at 757 Third St. in Boonville. 🕒 May 28-29 • 💰 \$25 to \$50

☎ 573-234-4642 • 🖱 pedalersjamboree.com

First Fridays

Some Fridays feel like a carnival, and others feel like a nightclub. That's the beauty of the North Village Arts District's monthly art crawl. The vibrant shops and businesses — including a distillery, a yoga studio, a coffee shop, a ballet school, art studios and multiple galleries — open their doors to guests. First Fridayers hear live music, watch art demonstrations and mingle with creative Columbians while sipping wine and nibbling on cheese.

📍 Walnut Street from College Avenue to Ninth Street and north to Rogers Street

🕒 6 to 9 p.m. the first Friday of each month

💰 Free
 📍 northvillageartsdistrict.org



9th Street Summerfest

Celebrate summer with an old-school block party and outdoor concert series. The Blue Note closes down Ninth Street between Broadway and Walnut, and the block fills with fans. Past musical acts have included Edward Sharpe

and the Magnetic Zeros, The Flaming Lips, Snoop Dogg and Willie Nelson. Spring shows by Cole Swindell and Kacey Musgraves kicked off the 2016 series, which continues with Billy Currington May 20 and Here Come the Mummies June 4.

📍 Ninth Street between Broadway and Walnut

🕒 April to September

💰 Free to \$35

📞 573-874-1944

📍 thebluenote.com

Art in the Park

Started in 1959, Art in the Park is the oldest and largest fine arts festival in mid-Missouri. But the art isn't limited to paintings and sketches at this outdoor bazaar. Visitors can find sculpture, glass work, ceramics, scarves, jewelry, photography and even creative topiary. Hosted by the Columbia Art League, the festival also features a kids' art spot, live music and a food court. And if the summer sun gets too hot, art lovers can take a dip in the lake.

📍 Stephens Lake Park, 100 Old 63 North

🕒 June 4-5

💰 Free

📞 573-443-8838

📍 artintheparkcolumbia.org

Boone Dawdle

If by mid-August you are counting down the days to March's True/False Film Fest, strap on your bike helmet and pedal 16 miles along the Katy Trail to Les Bourgeois Vineyards in Rocheport. Trailside surprises are stationed along the way, and at the destination guests are treated to a local-food dinner, live music and an outdoor screening of a documentary.

📍 Bicyclists start at Flat Branch Park at 101 S. Fourth St. in Columbia. Non-riders go to Les Bourgeois Vineyards at 14020 W. Highway Bb in Rocheport.

🕒 Aug. 13

💰 \$65 to \$85

📞 573-442-8783

📍 truefalse.org/dawdle

Harvest Hootenanny

What started as a student project organized under Sustain Mizzou in 2008 has morphed into the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture. At the annual harvest celebration, nearly a thousand people visit the 1.3-acre urban farm to enjoy a Missouri-raised meal, live music, a beer and wine garden, and kids' games. Community members learn about the farm's sustainable local food

systems, edible landscaping and composting.

📍 Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture Urban Farm, 1209 Smith St.

🕒 3 to 8 p.m. Oct. 8

💰 \$10 suggested donation, \$10 biergarten access

📞 573-514-4174

📍 columbiaurbanag.org



Roots N Blues N BBQ

This year's gathering of blues, barbecue and brews marks the 10th anniversary of the festival *American Blues Scene Magazine* called "one of the most prominent festivals in the country." The nearly 30,000 people who attended last year couldn't agree more. The 2016 lineup includes the Avett Brothers, St. Paul and the Broken Bones, Grace Potter, the Blind Boys of Alabama, Jason Isbell, Ben Folds, Blues Traveler ... Need we go on? And don't even get us started on the food trucks.

📍 Stephens Lake Park, 2300 E. Walnut St.

🕒 Sept. 30-Oct. 2

💰 \$45-\$70 for one day; \$99-\$135 for a three-day weekend pass; \$250-\$525 for premium passes, with all the fixin's

📞 573-442-5862

📍 rootsnbluesnbbq.com



Artrageous Weekends

A biannual take on the First Friday gallery crawl concept, Artrageous Weekends occur in October and April and expand the fun deeper into downtown and longer into the weekend. Restaurants and shops become art galleries and music venues. A stroll through an alley becomes a guerilla art encounter. A Saturday afternoon with the kids becomes a family craft workshop. Top off the weekend with a Sunday bluegrass breakfast or jazz brunch. Where: Columbia's Downtown Business District

🕒 Friday through Sunday

💰 Free

✉ artrageousweekends@gmail.com

📍 artrageousweekends.org

Heritage Festival & Craft Show

If you long for the good ol' days when cowboys started fires with flint and cooked from their chuck wagons, see history come alive as Nifong Park is transformed into a 19th-century homestead. Shop for traditional handmade wares, watch historical re-enactments, visit a Lewis and Clark replica campsite, and watch American Indian drumming and dancing.

📍 Nifong Park, 3700 Ponderosa St.

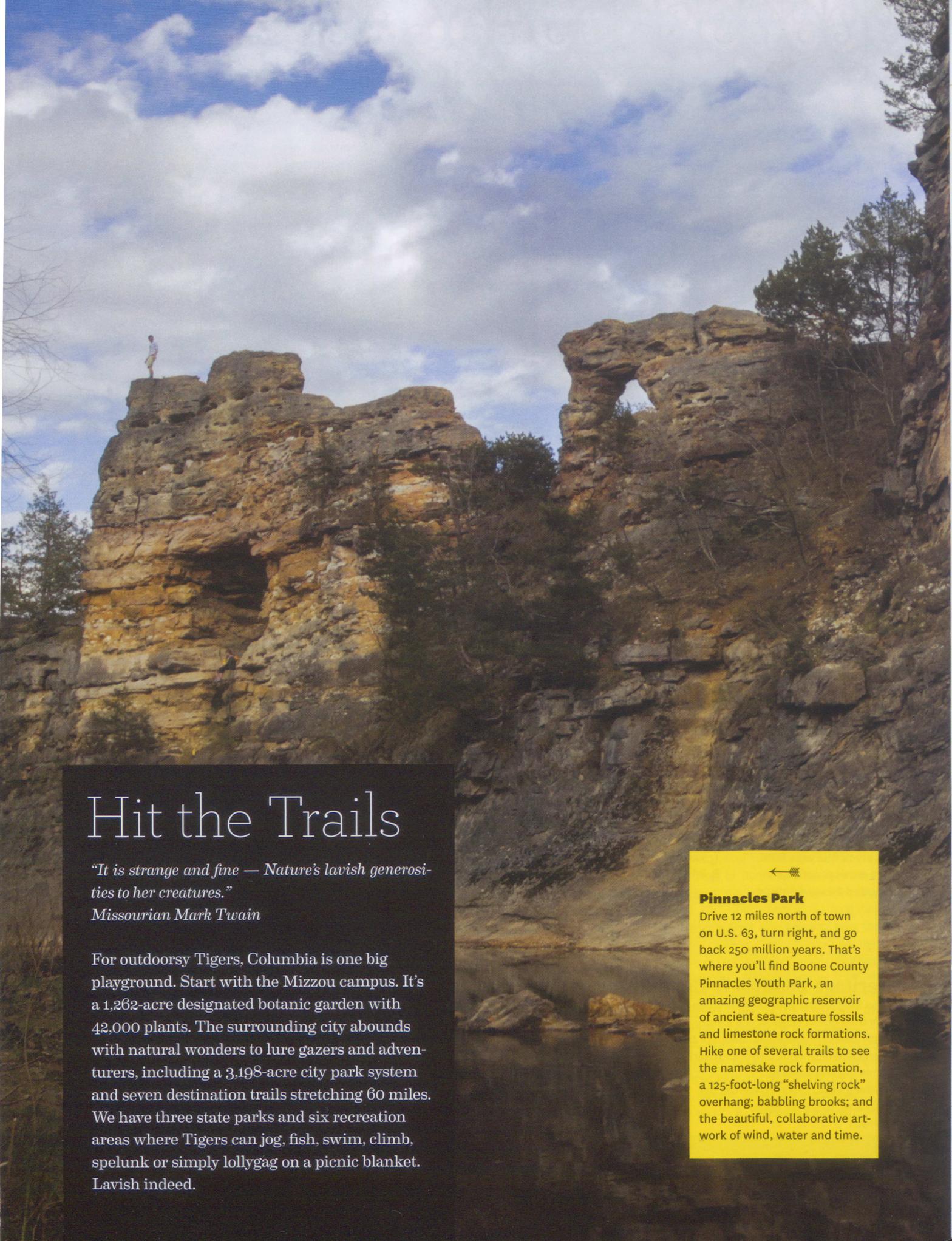
🕒 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 17-18

💰 Free

📞 573-874-7460

📍 gocolumbiamo.com





Hit the Trails

"It is strange and fine — Nature's lavish generousities to her creatures."

Missourian Mark Twain

For outdoorsy Tigers, Columbia is one big playground. Start with the Mizzou campus. It's a 1,262-acre designated botanic garden with 42,000 plants. The surrounding city abounds with natural wonders to lure gazers and adventurers, including a 3,198-acre city park system and seven destination trails stretching 60 miles. We have three state parks and six recreation areas where Tigers can jog, fish, swim, climb, spelunk or simply lollygag on a picnic blanket. Lavish indeed.



Pinnacles Park

Drive 12 miles north of town on U.S. 63, turn right, and go back 250 million years. That's where you'll find Boone County Pinnacles Youth Park, an amazing geographic reservoir of ancient sea-creature fossils and limestone rock formations. Hike one of several trails to see the namesake rock formation, a 125-foot-long "shelving rock" overhang; babbling brooks; and the beautiful, collaborative artwork of wind, water and time.

MKT Nature and Fitness Trail

Motorists have their interstates. But the feeling that the road ahead can take you anywhere is one few running-trail enthusiasts get to experience. Columbians are lucky.

Opened in 1982, the MKT is an 8.9-mile sinew of crushed limestone that joins Columbia runners and cyclists to the rest of the state. Since 2001, the MKT has connected to the 240-mile Katy Trail, which runs from suburban St. Louis to Clinton, Missouri, 75 miles southeast of Kansas City.

But the city parks department is also looking inward; the history of the 60-mile trail system has been one of constant expansion. New in 2016 is the Grindstone Creek Trail, which connects Maguire Boulevard near the Regal Cinema to Waters-Moss Memorial Wildlife Area. Next is the extension of the Hominy Creek Trail past I-70 to Clark Lane. Not content to stop there, the city is pursuing an ambitious master plan that calls for a 30-mile trail loop, half completed, which would encircle the city.



Shelter Gardens

Tucked into the north end of the Shelter Insurance corporate headquarters campus, this 5-acre botanical garden offers an oasis of idyllic scenery. The gardens contain more than 300 varieties of trees and shrubs, and more than 15,000 annual and perennial flowers. Bring your lawn chair on Sunday evenings in June and July for the 40th season of the Shelter Gardens Concert Series. Admission is always free.

Eagle Bluffs

Reachable by car (via Old Plank or Burr Oak roads) or foot or bicycle (via the Katy Trail), this 4,431-acre wetland is home to 10 miles of streambed; 17 shallow pools; 1,100 acres of marshes; tracts of cropland, savanna and glades; stunning autumn colors; and a habitat for migrating and wintering birds as well as permanent wildlife. Amenities include a hiking trail, parking lots, restrooms, a scenic overlook and hunting blinds.

Peace Park

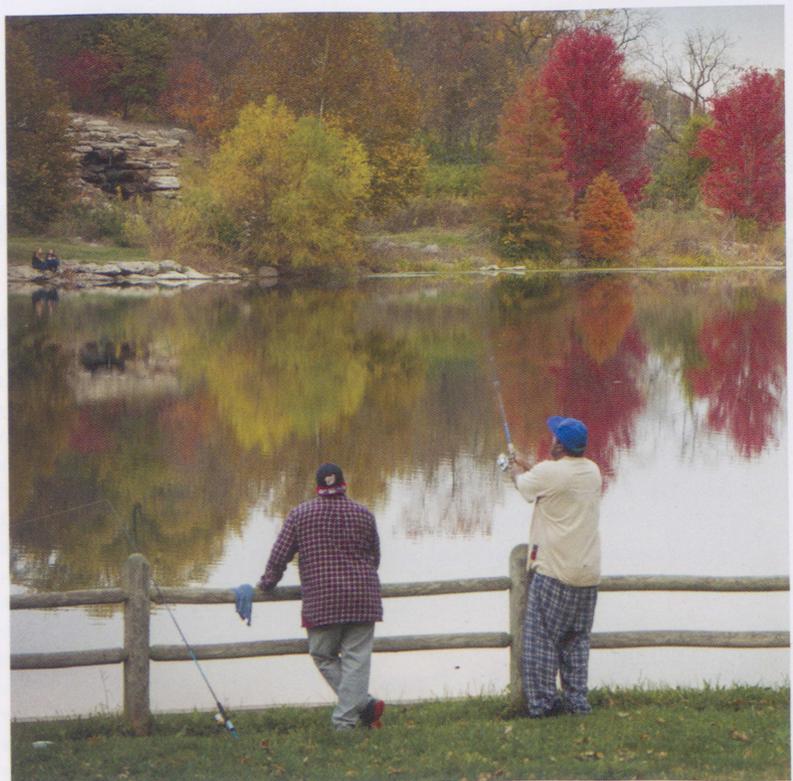
Just a short walk north from the Columns is this peaceful enclave, perfect for study, reflection, painting, preschool streambed exploration, drum practices, peace rallies, festivals, hula hooping, walking, napping, sunbathing, picnicking — almost anything. Take a quick time-out from your day, grab a spot on a bench or on the grass, and enjoy this eclectic urban park.

Mizzou Botanic Garden

All of Mizzou blossoms each spring as the campus-as-botanic-garden bursts to vibrant, colorful life. Established in 1999 under Chancellor Richard Wallace, the garden now has 11 thematic garden selections and seven special garden collections, many of which were created through the generosity of alumni. Maps for self-guided tours are available in the Reynolds Alumni Center. Guided tours are available for groups of six or more; call 573-882-1830.

Stephens Lake Park

Purchased by the City of Columbia from Stephens College in 2001 for \$7 million, Stephens Lake Park is a 127-acre public refuge just east of downtown. This urban gem is replete with a splash park, playgrounds, picnic pavilions, a waterfall, an amphitheater and, of course, a lake, in which you can swim, kayak and fish. One of 67 city parks, Stephens Lake Park is a mainstay among the city's outdoor venues, playing host to the raucous Roots N Blues N BBQ Festival, Columbia Art League's Art in the Park and the Stephens Lake Amphitheater Concert Series.





Hit the Decks

Whether you seek a cosmopolitan al fresco dining experience with live blues or a cold-brew coffee with street-corner busker sounds, Columbia eateries have your outdoor-chilling needs covered. Given the sheer number and variety of the city's rooftop decks, flower-filled patios and makeshift sidewalk cafés open in warm weather, you might run out of reasons to turn on the oven this summer.



Flat Branch Pub & Brewing 115 S. Fifth St.

Established in 1994, this micro-brewery's patio is one of CoMo's most popular outdoor-dining locations, with a collective canopy of umbrellas creating a comfortably shady spot even on the hottest Missouri summer days. The pub occupies a brick warehouse that once housed a Hudson car dealership, inspiration for the beer name "Oil Change Stout." Lush outdoor plantings and ivy enliven the hardscape, while the 12 house-brewed beers on tap enliven the patrons.



The Roof at the Broadway Hotel

1111 E. Broadway

At seven stories above downtown Columbia's east end, The Roof offers a spectacular view of the city's bustling main drag. The two-year-old venue boasts stylish fire pits on chilly evenings, huge high-definition TVs for keeping an eye on the Tigers, tasty small-plate fare and flatbreads, and sleek, modern décor. Comfortable lounge seating encourages happy-hour chats — often with fellow-alumni hotel guests. On Friday and Saturday nights the rooftop patio and adjacent indoor bar fill with revelers, and the night air fills with DJ-spun dance tunes or the swinging riffs of a live jazz ensemble.

North Village Arts District

Located in the northeast section of downtown Columbia, this trendy neighborhood offers multiple outdoor spots to nosh and imbibe. Ernie's Café and Steakhouse (1005 E. Walnut) has been a CoMo breakfast favorite for more than 75 years, and right

around the corner Café Berlin (220 N. 10th St.) provides "fresh rad creative dining."

Fretboard Coffee (1013 E Walnut St.) and Dogmaster Distillery (210 St. James St.) offer house-roasted java and handcrafted spirits, respectively — and each features a storefront garage door that's open when the weather's nice.

Ninth Street Sidewalks

Ninth Street between Walnut Street and University Avenue

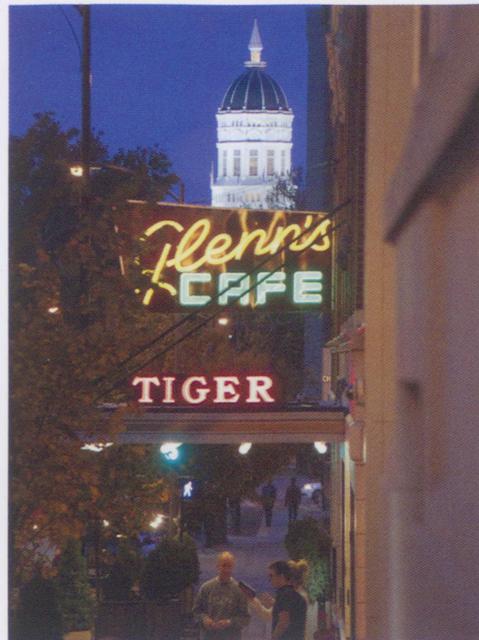
When the weather warms up, Ninth Street businesses find a little extra space on their sidewalks for tables and chairs. Sip coffee and nibble on snacks outside Kaldi's, Lakota, Coffee Zone or Starbucks. Try Mexican food from La Siesta or Mexican fusion from 44 Canteen. Sample Middle Eastern fare in front of International Café. Eat healthy soups and salads by Ingredient or Main Squeeze, or try rice and noodle dishes at Thai Express or Noodles & Co. After your meal, stop by Sparky's for dessert, or hit Top 10 Wines, 9th Street Public House or International Tap House for a night cap.



Shakespeare's Pizza

220 S. Eighth St * 3304 W. Broadway * 3911 Peachtree Drive

The iconic pizza parlor added locations to CoMo's west side in 2003 and south side 2012. When owners announced on April Fools Day 2015 that the downtown restaurant at the corner of Elm and Ninth would temporarily relocate while the original building was razed and rebuilt, many locals thought it was a joke. After all, these are the same folks who concocted the "Found: Cat" spot in the Ad Sheet. The new "old" structure will reopen in August 2016 in the ground floor of a seven-story apartment building. Meanwhile, the downtown Shakespeare's has settled into its temporary home one block west at Eighth and Elm. All three Shakespeare's locations feature cozy outdoor seating.



Glenn's Café

29 S. Eighth St.

In the shadow of the Tiger Hotel, the metropolitan view from the sidewalk seating at Glenn's Café might make you forget you're in a college town. Since about 1939, the New Orleans-style restaurant has moved around — from a Highway 40 (now Business Loop) gas station; to the northwest corner of Ninth and Cherry (now Kaldi's Coffee) to the Hotel Frederick in downtown Boonville, Missouri. In March 2015, the owners turned a pair of curbside parking spaces into the perfect place to enjoy the restaurant's Cajun cuisine during lunch hour or Sunday brunch. In May 2015, the Tiger Hotel added to its west side The Industry, an outdoor patio and live-music venue for the after-dark crowd.