

Columbian Park Tour



This event was graciously sponsored by



Tour Stops:

1. Map Pickup
2. Rush Pavilion
3. Memorial Island
4. Loeb Stadium
5. Columbian Park Zoo
6. Columbian Park Pools (former location)

Excerpt from "Columbian Park: A Social Center" by Anna Johnson.

From 200 Years of Tippecanoe County: A Community Tells its Stories

The sweltering summer sun does not discourage children from descending upon Columbian Park in Lafayette. For many families, visiting the park is a decades-old tradition. No summer is complete without a cannonball into the pool or a visit to the petting zoo. Columbian Park has shaped the social life of Tippecanoe County since 1850.

The park began with just 15 acres on the outskirts of town, but by 1889 it had grown to 39. In 1892, after the Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the park was renamed Columbian Park. Ever since, it has hosted church meetings, field trips, picnics, and concerts by the Lafayette Citizens Band.

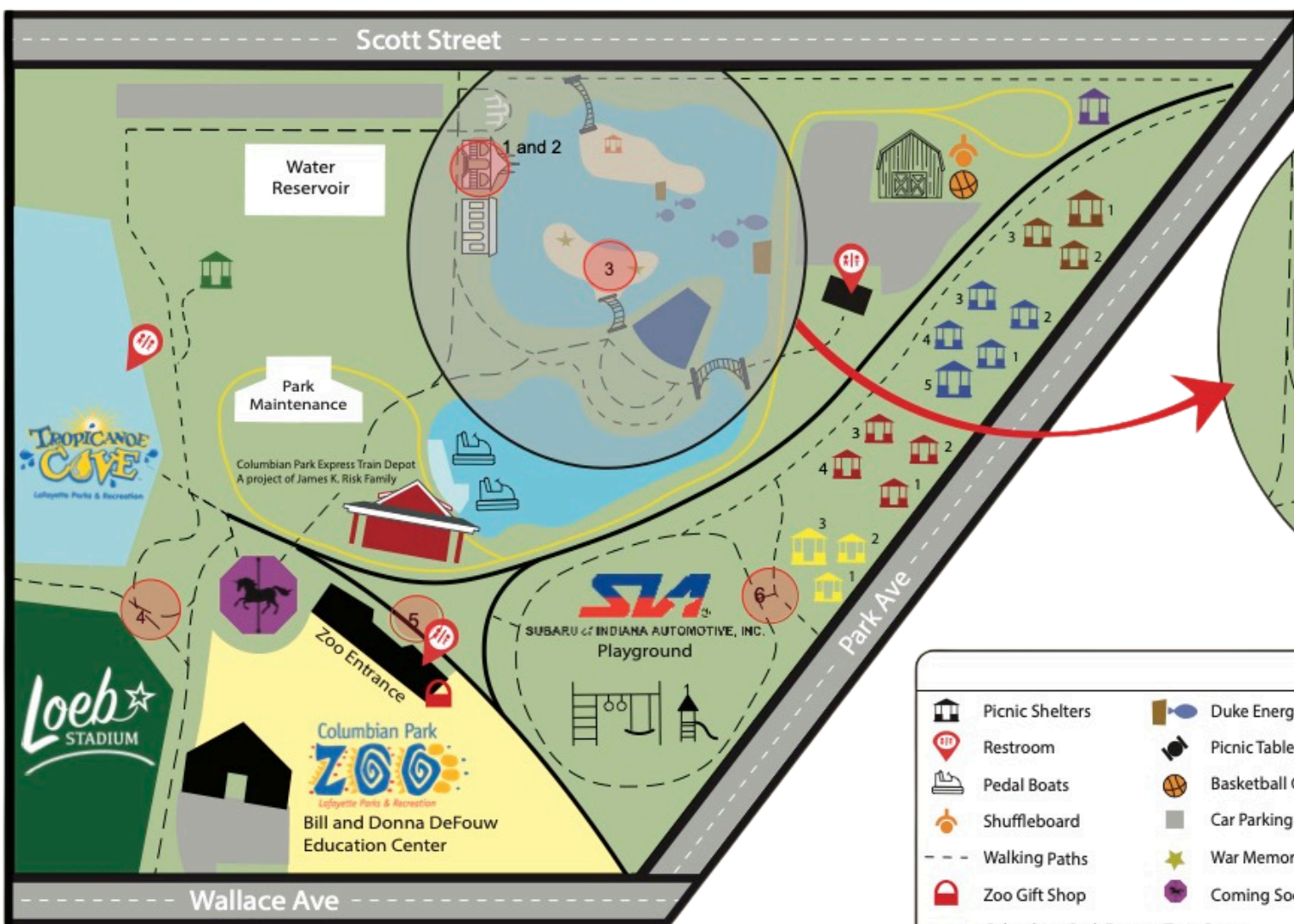
As Lafayette grew, the park added more attractions. A rectangular pool opened in the 1920s, and a circular pool was completed in 1939 as a Works Progress Administration project. The pool created jobs during the Great Depression and was dug mostly by hand. Today, it's the Tropicane Cove water park.

The zoo was founded in 1908. In 1928, an animal house was built and the zoo welcomed an elephant named Linco, funded by \$2000 raised by local schools. It has housed animals from prairie dogs to lions and zebras. Although smaller now, the zoo still welcomes visitors to the petting zoo and monkey enclosure.

Columbian Park is one of Tippecanoe County's longest standing recreation centers. A historic slide near the playground hill stands as a reminder of the park's legacy and its lasting place in the community.



Welcome to Columbian Park!



	Picnic Shelters		Duke Energy Fishing Pier
	Restroom		Picnic Table Seating
	Pedal Boats		Basketball Court
	Shuffleboard		Car Parking
	Walking Paths		War Memorials
	Zoo Gift Shop		Coming Soon: Carousel
	Columbian Park Express Train Route		

Share your stories with us!



Do you have memories of Columbian Park you'd like to share with TCHA? We would love to add your photos and memories to our collection! Visit the QR code to see details on our collections and donations policy. Email us today at curator@tippecanoehistory.org to start the process!