



Columbian Park

Visit the newly renovated zoo, slide down the Banana Peel tube or float around on Cattail Crik at Tropicanoe Cove Aquatic Center, see a baseball game at Loeb Stadium, enjoy a concert on Memorial Island, take a train ride around the park, and discover why Columbian Park has been a community favorite for over 100 years.

The park has continued to grow and change since it was Erasmus Weaver's cow pasture in 1872 when he sold it to the city. The lagoon was created in the 1870s, more land was added in the 1890s, and it officially was named Columbian Park in 1893 to honor the 400th anniversary of Columbus discovering America. Loeb Stadium was added in 1940 and continues to host baseball games and other events throughout the year, including the annual Colt World Series tournament each August. Memorial Island was added in the 1940s after World War II and provides free summer concerts on its stage. The park train with its mile or track was added about the same time. Tropicanoe Cove and an age-appropriate playground helped the park usher in the 21st century. Rush Pavilion, Jenks Rest, and picnic shelter may be rented for meetings, classes, receptions, and parties.

Columbian Park Zoo

Celebrating its 100th birthday in 2008, the newly renovated zoo welcomes visitors to come and visit its 120 animals in their new facilities. This is the second oldest zoo in Indiana and has provided generations of visitors with treasured memories since the opening in 1908. A formal Master Plan was adopted for the zoo in the late 1990s and after several years of being closed for major renovation, it reopened to enthusiastic crowds in June of 2007. Through public and private partnerships, the Zoo has created a new administrative building, gift shop, restrooms, and perimeter fence. A Family Farm, new entryway and plaza with an interactive fountain area, a Bald Eagle exhibit, a Butterfly Sculpture Garden, new entrance canopy and Prairie Dog Town have also been completed. Development continues with four additional projects to be completed in 2008. These improvements include a river otter exhibit, a seasonal butterfly exhibit, a North American/ Australia Holding Building, and an owl exhibit. Future improvements as directed by the Master Plan include a discovery center, and naturalized exhibits for new species for the collection. A carousel amusement ride will also be included. The Columbian Park Zoo will continue to create treasured memories for generations to come.

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