

Olentangy Park Chronology by Alex Campbell

1893-1937

1810	Mill and dam built by David Beers, near Dodridge St. Saw mill added at a later date. Piatt family bought the mill at some later date.
1893	Robert M. Turner opens the Villa a picnic grounds and restaurant. It includes boating and swimming in the Olentangy River.
1896	Columbus Railway & Light Co. purchased the property.
6/12/1896	Olentangy Park opened by the CR&L Co.
1899	Olentangy Park sold to Joseph W. and Will J. Dusenbury. Olentangy Park Theater 80' X 140' added. The theater seats 2248.
6/13/1902	Fire destroyed the mills
1903	The park had a zoo with buffalo, dromedaries, elk, deer, lions, leopards, bear, wild hogs, wildcats, foxes, fowls and a large variety of wild animal specimens plus a taxidermist collection of birds.
1905	Japanese Garden and Tea House installed.
1907	Streetcar entrance enlarged to two tracks. Olentangy Park transitions from a nature park to an amusement park. Ye Olde Mill (a tunnel of love), the Laughing Gallery (a fun House), the Castle Mystic, and an Arcade.
1909	A new steel dance pavilion was added. The Circle Ride, Shoot-the-Chutes, Loop-the-Loop, Figure Eight, the Whirlwind and the Red Devil (roller coasters), and a Ferris Wheel. About the same time the Love's Voyage and Temple of Mirth were also added.
1913	The boat house with its three bowling alleys was damage by the 1913 flood. The building was remodeled as the Olentangy Canoe Club.
Late teens	Large swimming pool constructed possible on the sight of the Japanese garden.
1923	Dusenbury brothers lose the park when it is taken over by a receiver. Leo and Elmer Haenlein buy the park. Reorganized as the Olentangy Amusement Co.
1929	Max Stearn leased the park from the Haenlein brothers under the name Parkview Amusement Company.
after 1929	Park attraction changes – Figure 8, whirlwind, Shoot-the -Chutes and theatre (?? Is this the big theatre or another building??) disappear replaced by Joy Mill (a fun House), miniature train ride, the Bug, the Whip, Dodgems, and Airplane Instructor. The Olde Mill, Red Devil, two carousels, the dance hall, and zoo remain until the end. Water bicycles use the Shoot-the -Chutes pond.

	<p>Other new attractions after 1929 – Bird Cage, Monkey House, Skee-Ball, miniature golf and shuffleboard courts.</p> <p>A new outdoor dance pavilion supplemented the indoor dance floor and a new outdoor theatre built on the edge of a ravine overlooking the Olentangy River.</p>
3/ 30/1934	Boathouse destroyed by fire. It hadn't been used since 1930.
1937	L.L. Leveque Co. purchased Olentangy Park
4/ 1/1938	Park closed for good.
1939	Olentangy Village construction started
5/ 1938	City Council annexed Olentangy Park site to Columbus.
1980	The 1940 bowling alley destroyed by fire.