Navigating the Museum

There are two main ways to tour the museum: a walking tour and a trolley tour. The walking tour is the most popular choice, as it allows visitors to explore the exhibits at their own pace. The trolley tour is a guided tour that takes visitors through the museum's collection of antique logging equipment.

Support the Museum

The Collier Memorial State Park is financially supported by the Friends of Collier Park & Logging Museum, a nonprofit group that staffs the gift shop and helps maintain the museum's facilities. For more information or to get involved, visit the Friends of Collier Park & Logging Museum's website.

Park History

Collier Memorial State Park is named for the Collier family of Klamath Falls. Brothers Alfred and Andrew Collier donated the initial 146 acres of park land to the state in 1945, as a memorial to their parents. Over the next 40 years, the state slowly acquired more land around the park, increasing the park's footprint to its current 536 acres. Today, the park is managed by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and serves more than 350,000 visitors per year.

The Collier Logging Museum, occupying about 146 acres of the park, was conceived by the Collier brothers from the beginning. The Collier family's business ventures had left them with a large collection of antique logging equipment, so in 1947 they donated the first machines that would eventually be part of one of the largest logging equipment collections in the country.

Collier Logging Museum's reputation as a haven for logging equipment grew over the next 70 years, and the donations rolled in. Alfred Collier continued to source new pieces for the museum until his death in 1988. The museum features equipment spanning 80 years of logging history.

Walking Tour

Collier Memorial State Park
46000 Hwy 97 N
Chiloquin, OR 97624
Park: 541-783-2471
Info: 800-551-6949

oregonstateparks.org
Cut, Move, Mill Trail

The Cut, Move, Mill Trail is named for the basic process of logging: felling trees, transporting the logs out of the forest and finally milling them into usable lumber. Follow the trail to experience the techniques and equipment the logging crews employed during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Cut: Bringing trees to the ground was no easy task. Before the advent of gas-powered chainsaws, loggers used axes and long cross-cut saws to muscle the trees down to the forest floor. Visit the first covered area to see a collection of hand tools used by commercial logging operations dating back to the late 1800’s.

Move: Logs, once on the ground, presented a new problem: transporting their bulk to the nearest mill. In mid to late 1800s, use of “high wheels” was common. Logs were suspended beneath the huge wheels and dragged through the forest by teams of oxen or horses. By the 1920s, steam or internal combustion tractors had replaced the horses and the high wheels had evolved into heavy-duty arches that could carry more log weight. Chain-drive vehicles like the museum’s Mack truck eventually took over log-hauling duty after the 1920s.

Mill: Milling machines were complex machinery that cut the logs into viable lumber pieces. Jagged-toothed band-saw blades were used for larger cuts while circular saw blades sawed the logs into smaller cuts. The park’s historic band-saw mill operated from 1930 until 1980.

Logging Evolution Trail

The Logging Evolution Trail follows the evolution of logging machine technology in southern Oregon from the 1860s to modern day. Start your journey at the Cookhouse and follow the trail in either direction to explore three eras of logging history: horse and oxen, steam engines and internal combustion engines.

Horse and Oxen (1860 – 1900): Teams of horses and oxen were the go-to work animals during the 19th century, and logging crews used them for log-hauling duties in the early days of the industry. High wheels—large pairs of wheels that suspended logs beneath them—and wagons were loaded and pulled by the animals to the local mill.

Steam (1890 – 1920): Steam engines, despite their invention decades earlier, didn’t make their way to Klamath Basin logging operations until the early 1890s. Steam engines could pull much heavier log loads than horses or oxen, but their extra hauling capacity came at a cost: the engines were heavy, cumbersome machines that required constant maintenance and skilled operators. Collier’s three operable steam tractors reside under the covered area east of the cookhouse.

Internal Combustion (1920 – today) Internal combustion engines became popular with logging operations in the early 1920s. They were smaller and easier to maneuver than their steam-powered ancestors, and could pull even heavier loads over longer distances. Caterpillar Inc. was an early pioneer of internal combustion tractors and today the company is a prominent construction equipment manufacturer.

Collier museum owns and maintains several Caterpillar tractors, and a few of them are still in operation thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers.