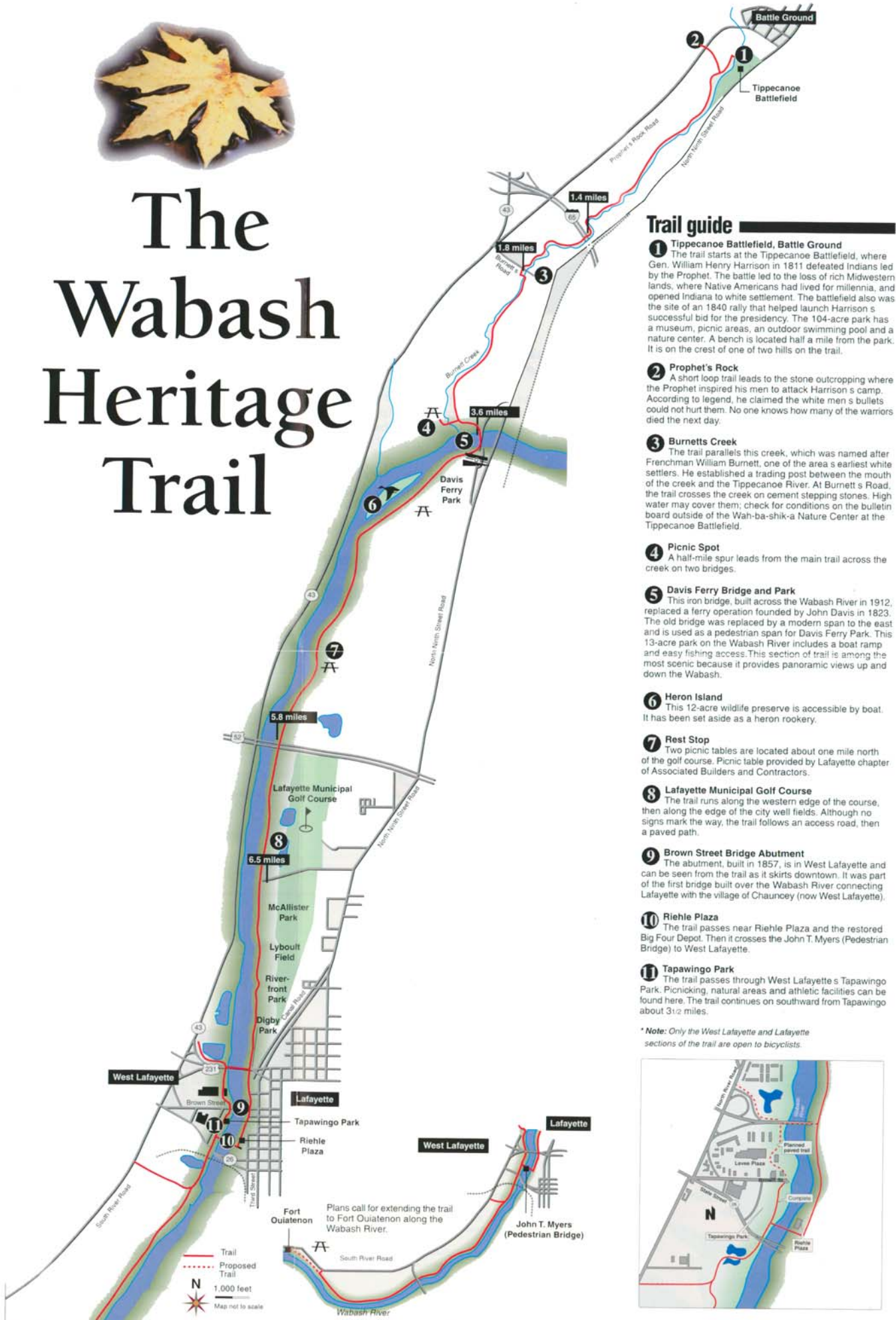




The Wabash Heritage Trail



Trail guide

1 Tippecanoe Battlefield, Battle Ground

The trail starts at the Tippecanoe Battlefield, where Gen. William Henry Harrison in 1811 defeated Indians led by the Prophet. The battle led to the loss of rich Midwestern lands, where Native Americans had lived for millennia, and opened Indiana to white settlement. The battlefield also was the site of an 1840 rally that helped launch Harrison's successful bid for the presidency. The 104-acre park has a museum, picnic areas, an outdoor swimming pool and a nature center. A bench is located half a mile from the park. It is on the crest of one of two hills on the trail.

2 Prophet's Rock

A short loop trail leads to the stone outcropping where the Prophet inspired his men to attack Harrison's camp. According to legend, he claimed the white men's bullets could not hurt them. No one knows how many of the warriors died the next day.

3 Burnetts Creek

The trail parallels this creek, which was named after Frenchman William Burnett, one of the area's earliest white settlers. He established a trading post between the mouth of the creek and the Tippecanoe River. At Burnett's Road, the trail crosses the creek on cement stepping stones. High water may cover them; check for conditions on the bulletin board outside of the Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center at the Tippecanoe Battlefield.

4 Picnic Spot

A half-mile spur leads from the main trail across the creek on two bridges.

5 Davis Ferry Bridge and Park

This iron bridge, built across the Wabash River in 1912, replaced a ferry operation founded by John Davis in 1823. The old bridge was replaced by a modern span to the east and is used as a pedestrian span for Davis Ferry Park. This 13-acre park on the Wabash River includes a boat ramp and easy fishing access. This section of trail is among the most scenic because it provides panoramic views up and down the Wabash.

6 Heron Island

This 12-acre wildlife preserve is accessible by boat. It has been set aside as a heron rookery.

7 Rest Stop

Two picnic tables are located about one mile north of the golf course. Picnic table provided by Lafayette chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors.

8 Lafayette Municipal Golf Course

The trail runs along the western edge of the course, then along the edge of the city well fields. Although no signs mark the way, the trail follows an access road, then a paved path.

9 Brown Street Bridge Abutment

The abutment, built in 1857, is in West Lafayette and can be seen from the trail as it skirts downtown. It was part of the first bridge built over the Wabash River connecting Lafayette with the village of Chauncey (now West Lafayette).

10 Riehle Plaza

The trail passes near Riehle Plaza and the restored Big Four Depot. Then it crosses the John T. Myers (Pedestrian Bridge) to West Lafayette.

11 Tapawingo Park

The trail passes through West Lafayette's Tapawingo Park. Picnicking, natural areas and athletic facilities can be found here. The trail continues on southward from Tapawingo about 3 1/2 miles.

** Note: Only the West Lafayette and Lafayette sections of the trail are open to bicyclists.*

