

# Carousel Locations

- 1** C. Fred Johnson Park
- 2** G.W. Johnson Park
- 3** Highland Park
- 4** Recreation Park
- 5** Ross Park
- 6** West Endicott Park



## Our Carousels Now

Greater Binghamton has the only carousel collection of this kind in the world. Of the fewer than 150 antique carousels remaining in the United States and Canada, six are in Greater Binghamton, New York. Because of the uniqueness of these carousels and the incomparable circumstances of their survival and existence, all six are placed on the New York State Historic Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

Several of our carousels have undergone painstaking restoration projects. The costly refurbishing of these priceless machines further attests to the commitment of our community to preserve these cultural legacies for future generations to enjoy.

For further information on our carousels and our "Ride the Circuit Program," please go to [www.visitbinghamton.org](http://www.visitbinghamton.org) or [www.gobroomecounty.com](http://www.gobroomecounty.com). You may also stop by the Binghamton Visitor Center at Roberson Museum to learn more about our carousels and our community history. Our carousels are featured in the "Heritage Areas of New York State" promotional publication as a powerful example of a local legacy providing economic opportunities for the region. The report can be viewed on the County's website at [www.gobroomecounty.com](http://www.gobroomecounty.com).

*Carousel hours of operation are subject to change. Please check individual carousel listing for regular hours of operation. Carousels may not operate in inclement weather, so please call ahead to confirm carousel is running.*



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**CAROUSELS**

*...the Greater place to play!*

# Our Carousels Then

Between 1919 and 1934, George F. Johnson (1857-1948), shoe manufacturer and great benefactor, donated six beautiful carousels to our local parks. Johnson's commitment to recreation was always more than just good business. He felt carousels contributed to a happy life and would help youngsters grow into strong and useful citizens. Because of his own poor childhood, "George F." believed carousels should be enjoyed by everyone and insisted that the municipalities never charge money for a magic ride.

Now, into their tenth decade, these magnificent machines still spin from Memorial Day to Labor Day at no charge or for an admission of "one piece of litter." In a day when nothing is free, we boast the world's greatest entertainment bargain!

Our carousels (we've always called them merry-go-rounds), were all manufactured by the Allan Herschell Companies of North Tonawanda, New York, in the "country fair" style. You can still hear the sounds of the original Wurlitzer Band Organs on the Recreation and Ross Park carousels. And, if you are lucky enough to ride on all six merry-go-rounds, you will be delighted by monkey chariots, horses with hidden lions in the saddle blankets, a pig, and even a dog. Not to worry, every carousel animal in Greater Binghamton is a "jumper!" You can "Ride the Carousel Circuit" by collecting a card at each carousel, and when you have all six you'll receive a special button. What is even more remarkable is that of 150 wood-carved carousels remaining in the United States and Canada, six are right here in Greater Binghamton, New York!



## C. Fred Johnson Park

98 C.F.J. Boulevard, Johnson City, NY 13790 **1**

Installed in 1923, this carousel is the largest of the six in the area, featuring 72 figures, 4-abreast. This carousel is considered the most elaborate group of carvings in our collection. Original scenic panels and beveled mirrors remain. Park also includes tennis courts, ball fields, volleyball court, a playground and a small water spray park for children. Park open 9:00am -8:00pm from Memorial Day until Labor Day. Fully renovated carousel open Memorial Day weekend through mid-June, Mon.-Fri. 4pm-8pm; Sat. & Sun. 12 noon - 8:00pm and from mid-June through Labor Day, daily 12 noon - 8:00pm. Holiday Lights on the Carousel held Weekends between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Call the Johnson City parks office at **797-3031** (6:30am-2:30pm weekdays) for more details.



## George W. Johnson Park

201 Oak Hill Avenue, Endicott, NY 13760 **2**

Installed in 1934 and historically restored in 1994, this carousel has 36 horses, 3-abreast and 2 chariots in its original carousel pavilion. A glass enclosure was added in 1999. Situated in the heart of Endicott's "Northside" and "Little Italy" neighborhoods, the George W. Johnson Park features swimming pools, bathhouse, picnic shelter, ball fields and playground.

Park is open 7:00 am - 8:30 pm. Carousel is open daily Memorial Day through Labor Day, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm and 6:00pm - 8:00pm. **(607) 757-0856**

## Highland Park

801 Hooper Road, Endwell, NY 13760 **3**

Installed in 1925, this carousel is the only one of the area's carousels that has been relocated. Originally located at the old En-Joie Park in Endicott, the carousel features 36 animals, 3-abreast; including a pig and a dog. Highland Park facilities include a swimming pool and wading pool, picnic area, playground, tennis courts, ball fields, volleyball, all in a wooded setting. Park is open 9:00 am - dusk. Carousel is open Noon - 7:45 pm; weekends only Memorial Day through mid-June, then open daily through Labor Day. **(607) 786-2970**

## Recreation Park

(CLOSED THRU AUGUST 2011)

58-78 Beethoven Street, Binghamton, NY 13905 **4**

Installed in 1925, this carousel includes 60 jumping horses, 4-abreast; chariots; and the original 2-roll frame Wurlitzer Military Band Organ with bells. The horses and the original carousel house cupola have been restored. Situated in the historic George F. Johnson Recreation Park, facilities include a reflective pond, statue of George F. Johnson, Rod Serling Memorial Plaque, band shell concerts, pools and bathhouse, tennis courts, playground, and ball fields.

Park is open dawn - 9 pm. Carousel is open Memorial Day Weekend through mid-June, Mon.-Fri. 3 pm - 7:45 pm, Sat & Sun 12 noon - 7:45 pm, and from mid-June through Labor Day, daily 12 noon - 7:45 pm. **(607) 722-9166 or (607) 772-7017**

## Ross Park

60 Morgan Road, Binghamton, NY 13903 **5**

Installed in 1920, this carousel features 60 jumping horses, 4-abreast; 2 chariots (one with monkeys) and an original 51-key Wurlitzer Military Band Organ. A restoration project is being planned. Park also features 5th oldest zoo in the United States, the Discovery Center of the Southern Tier (a hands-on children's museum), a playground, and a sheltered picnic area, all in a wooded setting. Binghamton Zoo at Ross Park is open daily 10 am - 5:00 pm. Park is open dawn to dusk. Carousel is open daily Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm. **(607) 772-7017**

## West Endicott Park

501 Maple Street at Page Avenue, Endicott, N.Y. **6**

Installed in 1929, this carousel features 36 animals, 3 - abreast, including a pig and a dog. The West Endicott Park is adjacent to Endicott-Johnson factories, consistent with Johnson's commitment to providing recreational facilities for his employees and their families. Park has a kiddie pool, tennis courts, playground and a covered picnic shelter.



Park is open 9:00 am - dusk. Carousel is open Noon - 7:45 pm; weekends only Memorial Day through mid-June, then open daily through Labor Day. **(607) 786-2970**