

The Hunt for History

Can you figure out where these six locations are in Fox Island? Take this sheet with you as you hike through the park, and use the clues to uncover park history. If you have a smart phone take pictures at each location to prove you found it!



This round building used to be the old nature center, and held all of the administrative offices, the naturalists' offices, and a few exhibits.



This swamp forest is here because the peat in the soil caught on fire, and burned for over a year. After the peat burned away, the water table became high enough for a seasonal wetland, that allows for periodic tree growth. This area has gotten progressively deeper due to the Asian carp berm built at Eagle Marsh. It is called a swamp forest due to the trees growing here, unlike in a marsh. Can you find this swamp forest at Fox Island?



This hill began as a wind-blown sand dune, like the dunes at the state park near Chicago. Now, the trees and plants have grown over the sand, but if you dig at the path with your toe, you'll find sand. As you walk up this hill, look to right and you will see a pit where tank traps were once dug to test military tanks. Fox Island was once used to train our Indiana National Guard.



A concrete slab and a few concrete paths leading to the old target throwing machines are all that's left of the Winchester Gun and Beagle Club. The Fox Island Alliance just restored this area into a prairie in 2019. Please include the Fox Island Alliance in your yearly donations!



This used to be the front gatehouse shed, where the gatehouse attendants welcomed guests to the park, and collected park fees. It was replaced by the current gatehouse in 1997 but still may be found in the park. It has since been painted brown and an Eastern phoebe nest is often built over its door. Can you locate this shed in the park?