

Schmeeckle Reserve

Museum Community Input
Feedback Follow-Up



Tonight's Plan

1. Reflect on Schmeeckle's community feedback
2. Get inspired by what others are doing
3. Think about organization and next steps

Community Feedback

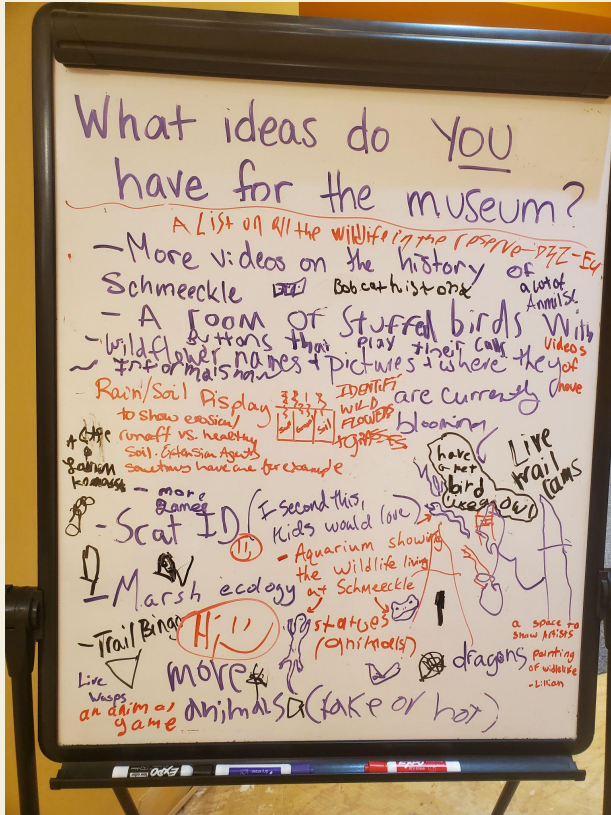
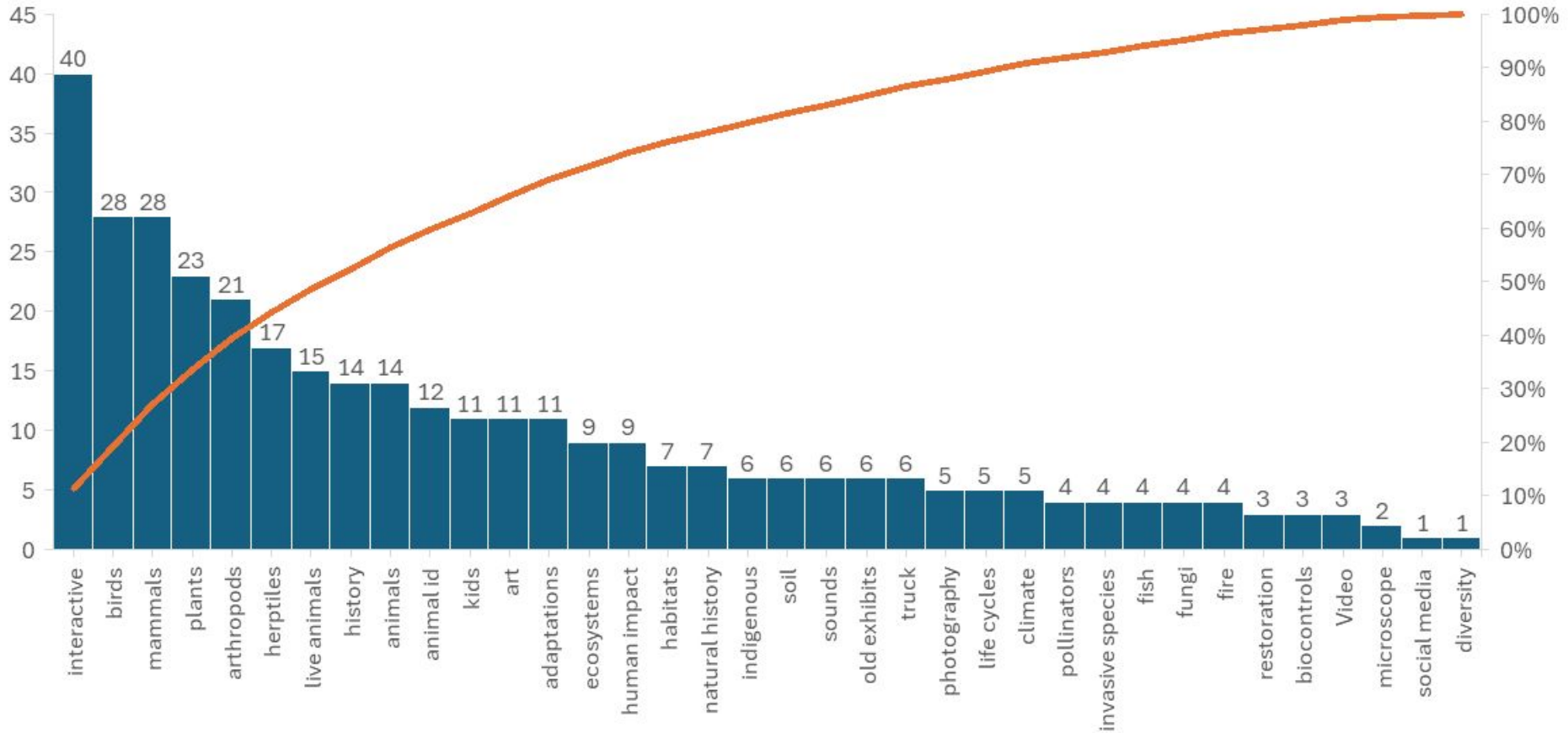
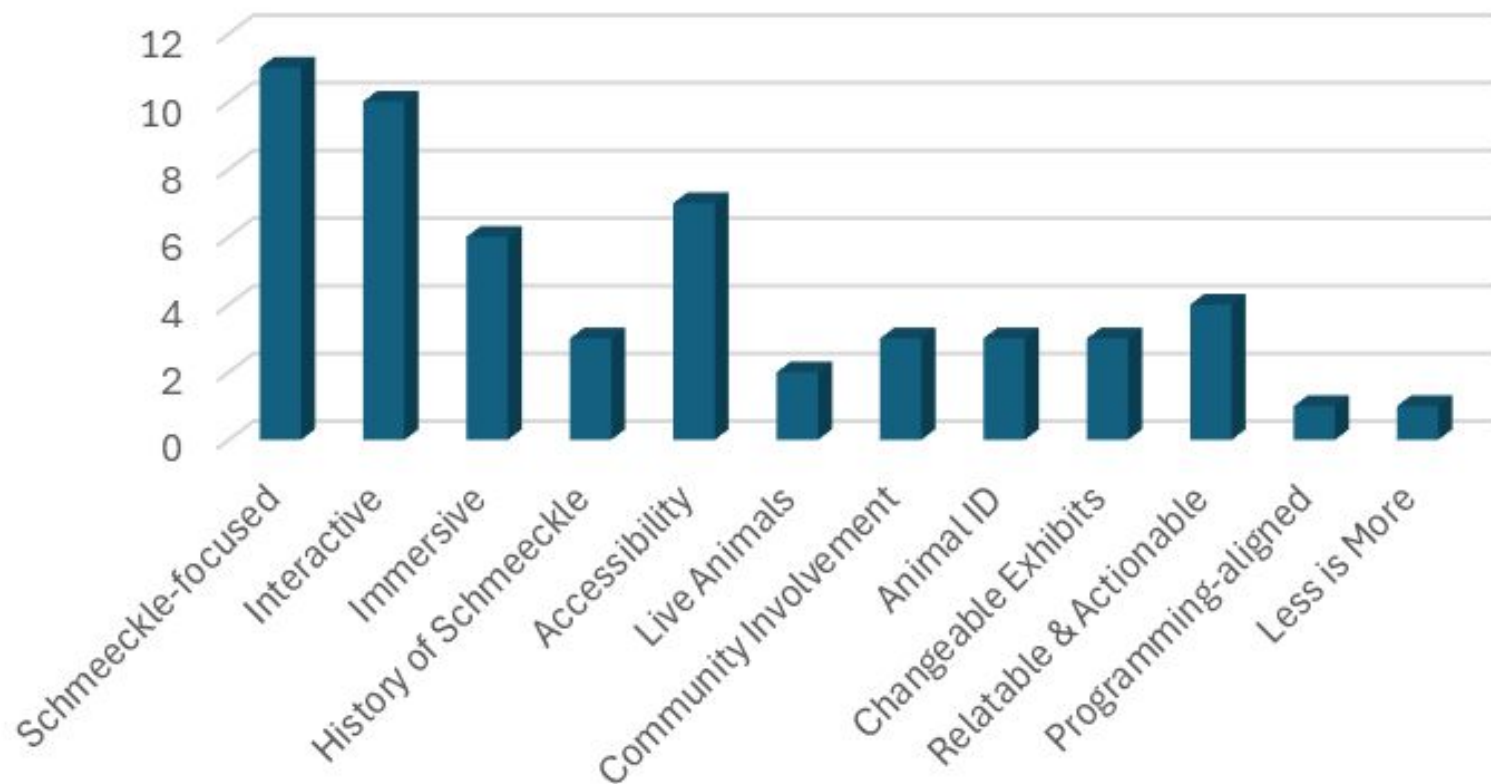


Exhibit Space Ideas



Community Input Sessions - "Big Takeaways"



To sum it all up...

Community members hope that Schmeeckle Reserve's new exhibit space will be filled with opportunities for interaction and immersion, feature the flora, fauna, and history of the Reserve itself, and be accessible for all visitors.

Exhibits should connect visitors to what's happening at Schmeeckle, providing opportunities to learn more about restoration efforts and how people can do their part. Some areas of the exhibits should be changeable, and community partnerships should be emphasized.

Animal ambassadors are a memorable and educational aspect of the visitor center. They should be a key piece of the exhibit space.

Inspiration From Others

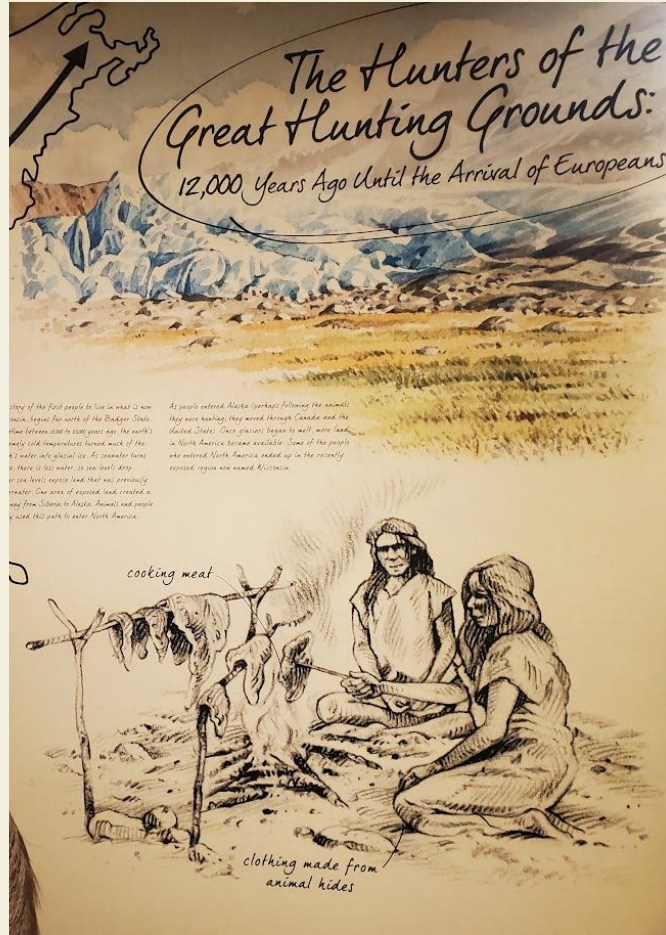
- Graduate level research project
- Specifically investigating how staff plan for participation in nature center exhibit spaces, and the benefits and challenges of doing so
- Visited 13 nature centers around Wisconsin in August and September last year
- Interviews with staff
- Photos of exhibits and engagements
- Openness and collaboration between centers!



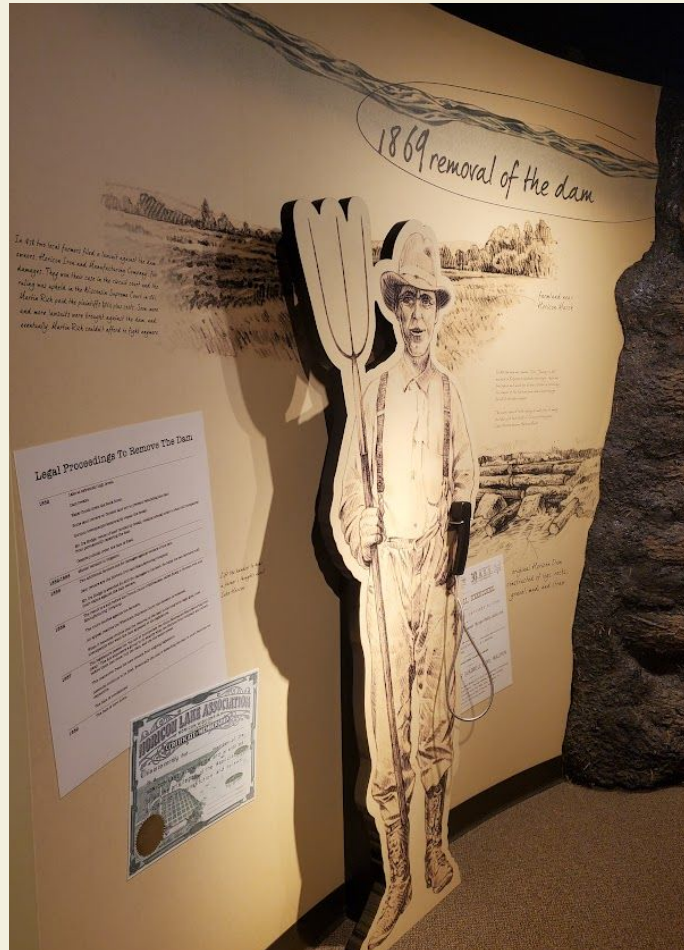
Schmeeckle-focused/History of Schmeeckle



Schmeckle-focused/History of Schmeckle



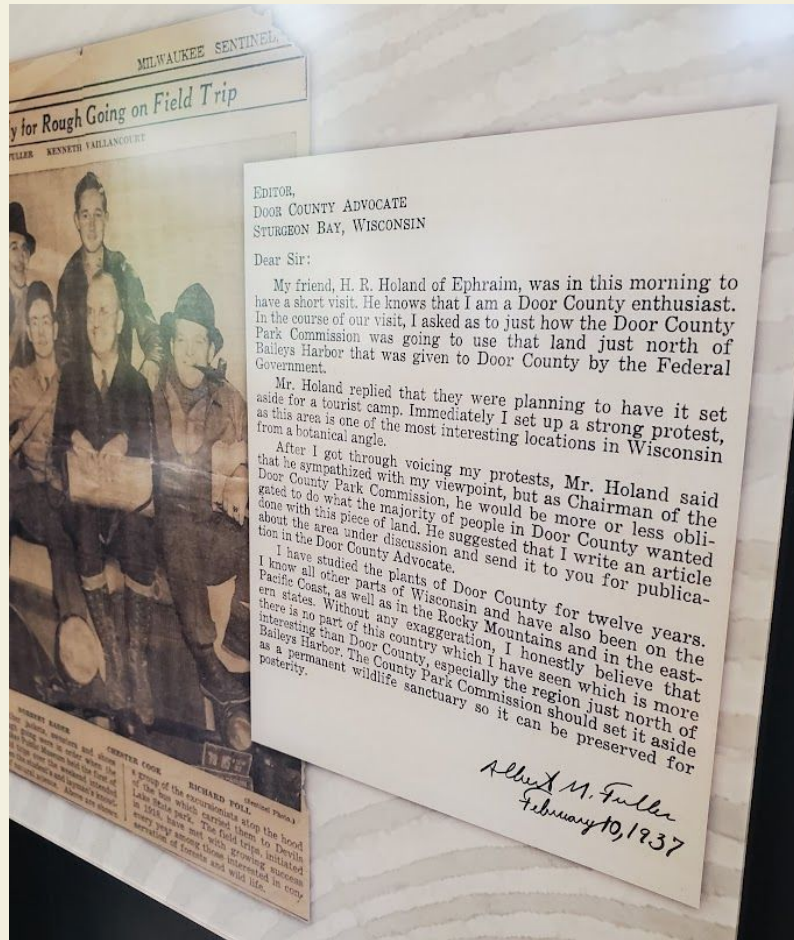
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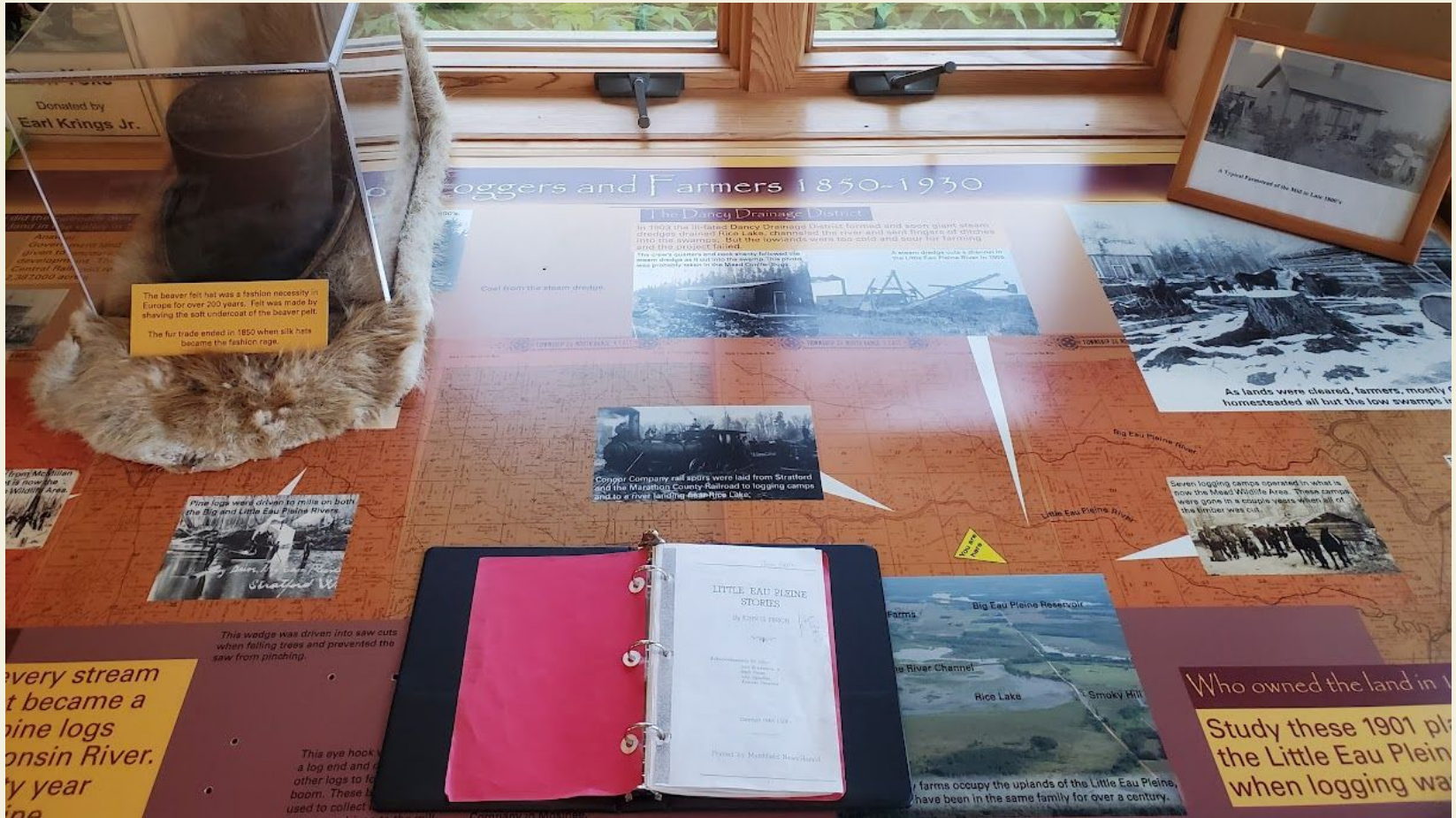
Schmeckle-focused/History of Schmeckle



Schmeckle-focused/History of Schmeckle



Schmeckle-focused/History of Schmeckle



Schmeckle-focused/History of Schmeckle

Top Row, Left Card:
Image: A porch with columns.
Text: "My dad bought it for \$50 and a sack of milkweed we take peas from a guy in 1939. It was 3 1/2 acres - a lot of it was wetlands and meadows, a forest clearing, an old dairy and an orchard."
Caption: Press button to hear more from Kathleen Brooks, daughter of a woodworker who built the porch.

Top Row, Middle Card:
Image: A boat on a river.
Text: "Being out on the river, it wasn't just for food, we loved it. We didn't care. It was just to be there. And if you didn't know everything on the river by name, you knew them by boat."
Caption: Press button to hear more from Jack Moore, lifelong Schmeckle resident.

Top Row, Right Card:
Image: A large riverboat.
Text: "I have a great respect for the riverboat for the tradition. It's something that makes peoples' lives better. I think the river is very poetic, beautiful and magnificent. There is no bad day on the river."
Caption: Press button to hear more from Captain Eric Dykman, Pilot of the Julia Belle Swain riverboat.

Bottom Row, Left Card:
Image: A riverbank with logs.
Text: "In the spring, there would be logs backed up in the Black River from La Crosse up as far as Whiteville. You can imagine what a sight that must have been."
Caption: Press button to hear more from Steve Koenig, Schmeckle resident.

Bottom Row, Middle Card:
Image: People fishing.
Text: "The kids would go in the coveys, and with net toes and wal-fes around and we'd find some and my dad would open them up, and bring so when he'd find a little pearl inside."
Caption: Press button to hear more from Steve Zarwell, Schmeckle resident.

Bottom Row, Right Card:
Image: A riverbank with people.
Text: "I couldn't have designed a better childhood. We were free to do and pursue anything we wanted. We caught a lot of fish in the summertime and were able to ramble through the hills and the islands and had a fantastic time. We have river water running through our veins instead of blood."
Caption: Press button to hear more from Ric and Betty Zarwell, life-long residents of the Launching Area.

Schmeckle-focused/History of Schmeckle

1906

In the 1920s, erosion, high, fast and shallow and the...

1906 as a... The LMP is... S. Geological... and the state... mental...

ing... of...
...er... by...
...ed... and...
...s... with...
...s... and...
...ould not be...
... good...
... the program.

and dams were... in 1906, the broad... featured a... with multiple... by depression, ... levees, islands, ...
... occupied by... and... major... (C&M) and... the present-day... (L). There was... plain dominated... entertained with... fishes.

1954

The construction of the lock and dam system dramatically changed the river. The historic floodplain on the upper end of pool 8 was inundated and the lower reaches and lake-like. The old high points of land became islands in the river. These islands protected aquatic plant beds, and the result was a bonanza of food and cover for fish and wildlife.

After 1954, the quality of habitat began to decline. Future restoration projects would not begin until the mid-1990s as the needed year for desired results.

1994

Over time, islands eroded and aquatic vegetation declined, creating an open water environment with little wildlife value. While some vegetation beds remained and provided feeding areas for migrating waterfowl, they were smaller and more scattered.

Habitat conditions for fish were very poor because of these changes. The protected, vegetated shallows, which provide cover and food for many bass, water and riverine fish, were diminished.

Planning for habitat restoration began in 1997 under the direction of the U.S. Army Corps Engineers and in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin, and numerous non-governmental organizations and private citizens.

Horseshoe, Grouse, and Crassy Islands were built as part of the first phase of the Pool 8 Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP). They were constructed with dredged material from various sources within the floodplain and planted with rich structural and vegetation to prevent erosion.

Map + -2 N-12

Schmeckle-focused/History of Schmeckle



Schmeeckle-focused/History of Schmeeckle



Schmeckle-focused/History of Schmeckle

Yesterday
For centuries, Nature "managed" the vast landscape of Necedah without human interference.

Ancient Wetlands & Yellow Waters
Did you know you're standing in the middle of a huge, ancient swamp?

About 11,000 years ago, retreating glaciers left low-lying ground that became a vast wetland: the Great Swamp of Central Wisconsin. Through the centuries, Native American groups established scattered villages in the "land of yellow waters" (the Yellow River) that they called "Necedah."

Changes through the Ages
For centuries, most of this region lay relatively undisturbed, home to hundreds of species of wildlife, including millions of migrating birds.

In the early 1800s, European settlers arrived and tried to farm Wisconsin's Great Swamp. They planted potatoes, raised prairie, planted crops and raised cattle. They built dwellings, where west the prairie healthy and open for migration. But the weakened settlers, farms, herds, and homes. Soon thousands of acres of swampland disappeared and many acres of wetland were lost.

A Refuge for Wildlife
In 1939, President Franklin Roosevelt set aside 43,656 acres - including much abandoned farmland - as Necedah National Wildlife Refuge.

Young waterfowl for the Cactus Conservation Corps (CCC) re-enters the burned-out land, planted trees, and retained thousands of acres of wetlands in the once vibrant Great Swamp. Today, visitors from around the world explore and enjoy the beauty, wildlife, and wild adventures of Necedah National Wildlife Refuge.

Today
Refuge staff use many different tools and techniques to maintain this unique natural environment within the other "natural" landscapes of 21st-century America.

Can You MANAGE IT?

It's Your Turn!

Use the buttons below to select a different scenario for the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge. The scenarios are based on the current conditions of the refuge and the impact of human activities. The scenarios are designed to help you understand the impact of human activities on the refuge and the importance of managing the refuge for the future.

A **B** **C**



Schmeckle-focused/History of Schmeckle



Schmeckle-focused/History of Schmeckle



Schmeckle-focused/History of Schmeckle

The map displays several key areas: KINDERGARTEN WOODS, BASSWOODS, OAK SAVANNA, PLAY SPACE, LITTLE WETLAND, PRAIRIE, NATURE CENTER, MAPLE FIELD, POND, TOAD ALLEY, PINE HOLLOW, and C. FIELD. A north arrow is located in the top left corner.

MAP ELEMENTS
What are Map Elements?
Map elements are symbols that represent features on a map. They are used to identify and describe the features on a map. Map elements are symbols that represent features on a map. They are used to identify and describe the features on a map.

YOUR CHALLENGE
Put together the puzzle that creates the legend.
Place the puzzle pieces on the map and the scale.
Count and place the puzzle pieces on the map and the scale.

LEGEND
Road Trail Shack Bone Box Dock Bridge

PHENOLOGY
What is Phenology?
Phenology is the study of the seasonal cycle of natural events. It is the study of the seasonal cycle of natural events. It is the study of the seasonal cycle of natural events.

YOUR CHALLENGE
Collect data on time and place. Use it to create a phenology chart.
Animals are out and about. Observe where they are when.

Schmeeckle-focused/History of Schmeeckle



Schmeeckle-focused/History of Schmeeckle



Schmeckle-focused/History of Schmeckle




Relatable & Actionable



Relatable & Actionable

Grab a Wetland Scavenger Hunt!

Search for the birds nesting in the wetland!












Please return scavenger hunts when finished


Enjoy a hike outside looking for real nesting birds.

HECKRODT WETLAND RESERVE

WETLAND NESTING BIRDS

SCAVENGER HUNT

		
GOOCHER: nest in a ditch	GOOSE: nest next to pond	WREN: nest out on roof
		
MALLARD: nest in a ditch	RING-NECKED: nest in a field	WOODCOCK: nest in a meadow
		
ROBIN: nest on a rock	BLUE JAY: nest in a tree	CROWS: nest in a tree cavity




Hooded Merganser
Lophodytes cucullatus

Description: One has a white, fan-shaped crest, and the other has a black crest. The male has a black crest and the female has a white crest. The male has a black crest and the female has a white crest. The male has a black crest and the female has a white crest.

Habitat: swamps, ponds, rivers

Diet: small fish, frogs, aquatic insects

Call: raspy grating and whistles




Red-breasted Merganser
Mergus serrator

Description: The male has a black to gray crest, while the female has a gray crest with a black and white crest. The female has a black crest and the male has a white crest. The female has a black crest and the male has a white crest.

Habitat: swamps, ponds, meadows, wetlands

Diet: fish, frogs, aquatic insects

Call: usually silent, a hoarse croak




Least Tern
Sterna antillarum

Description: A small tern with white body, gray wings and tail and a black cap. The tail is forked and the bill is yellow with a black tip.

Habitat: sandbars in large rivers, sand and pebble beaches, landfills

Diet: small fish, marine life, large insects

Call: a sharp repeated kit or sharp klick



Common Snipe
Gallinago gallinago

Description: A common shorebird on bog wetlands for its long slender bill. The body color is brown and white with stripes covering the back and head. The tail is rusty or orange in color.

Habitat: marshes, ponds, bogs, wet meadows, flooded fields

Diet: insects, worms, mollusks, crustaceans

Call: a rasping scap

REPTILES FISH MAMMALS

Relatable & Actionable



Relatable & Actionable



Relatable & Actionable



Relatable & Actionable

SUMMER SIGHTINGS

PLEASE WRITE YOUR SIGHTINGS FROM YOUR VISIT! ANYONE CAN DO IT!
IF YOU NEED HELP IDENTIFYING PLEASE ASK!
♡ HORICON STAFF ☺

07/08 - Osprey (scope)
07/09 - Trumpeter Swan
Pelican, Blue Heron
Egret
07/11 - Least Bittern (Boardwalk) &
Canada Geese, Wood Duck
w/ immatures
07/12 - common gallinule (13)
07/12 - Pelicans
Great Blue Herons
07/12 - Baby muskrat!
7/14 Black Terns
7/15 River Otter - Strook's Ditch
7/16 Marsh Wren trail to 1st island
Sora
Green Heron
7/20 Egret, 9 turtles
7/24 White Pelican
Turtles
Chipmunk
Red Wing Blackbirds
Song Sparrow
7/27 White Pelican
Painted Turtles
Red-winged Blackbird
8/2 Bald eagle
green heron
3 turtles and 2 whooping cranes

Sandy Whooping Crane! (Auto Tour) 7/20
8/2 - Great Horned Owl (perched in broad daylight,
blue Jays squawking at it)
8/3 - Great Horned Owl feather
• Pelican
• Muskrat

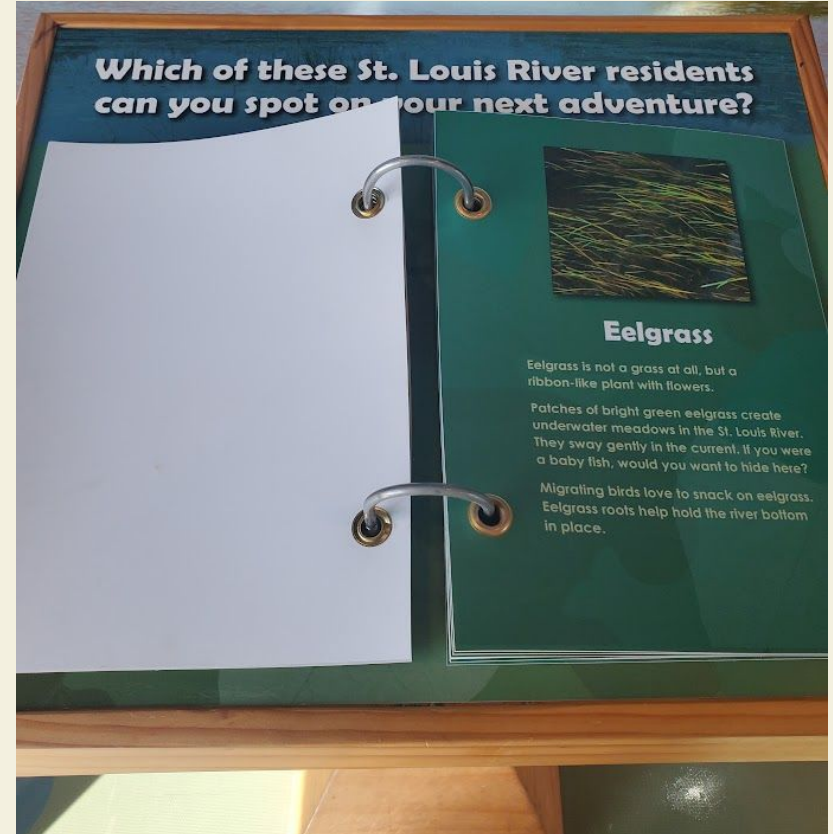
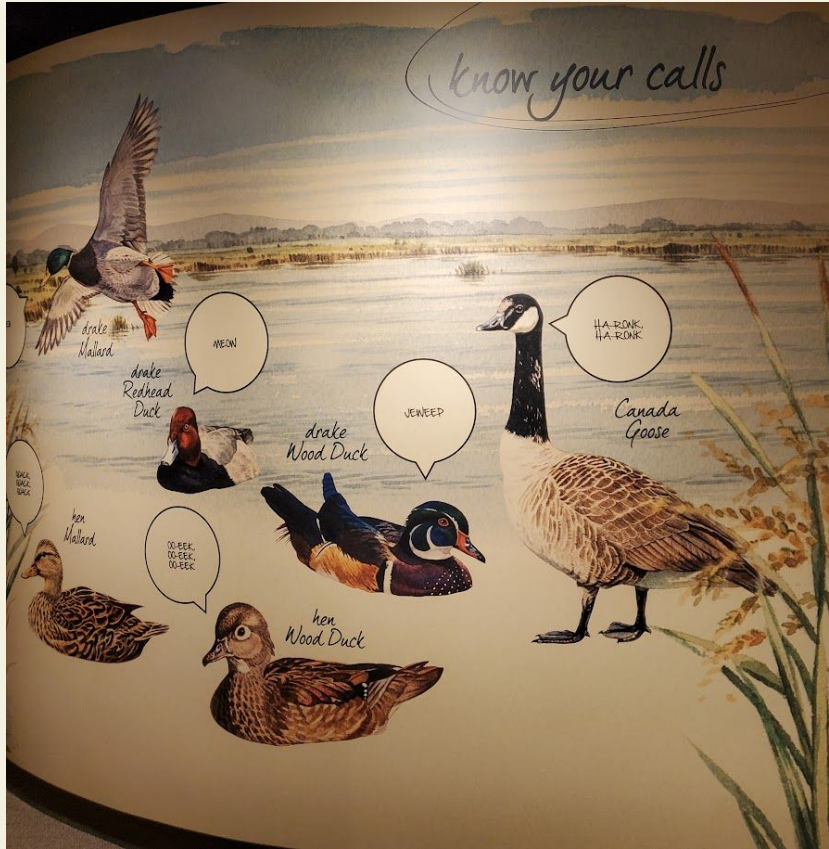
8/3 Two Otters
8/2 1 otter
8/8 pelican, turtles,
wood ducks
8/8 green heron - auto tour
8/8 Sandhill cranes - highway 28
8/11 Egret - window/scope
8/11 frog, turtles
8/11 American White Pelican,
Dove - crested cormorant

8/17 Yellow-headed blackbird
thru 49
8/18 Black-billed cuckoo
(ed center)
8/19 a FAT Pigeon
a bug
8/19 Blackswallow tail
eastern tailed-blue
8/23 Leopard Frog?
8/23 Leopard frogs
Painted turtles
Sandhill cranes
Great egrets
8/28 Dead Muskrat(?)
8/28 - Swans; Bald eagle
8/30 American Koot
8/31 - green heron! (and a Hodag?)

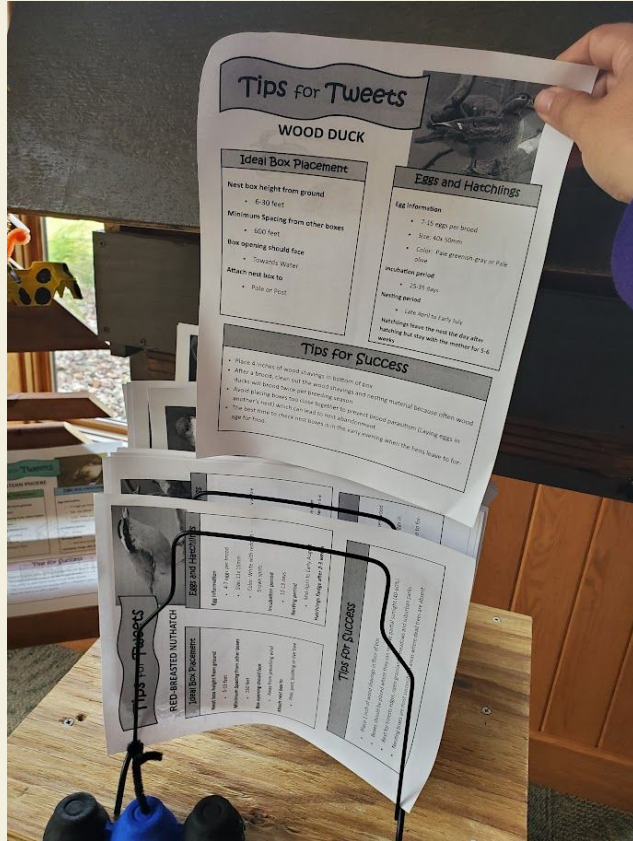
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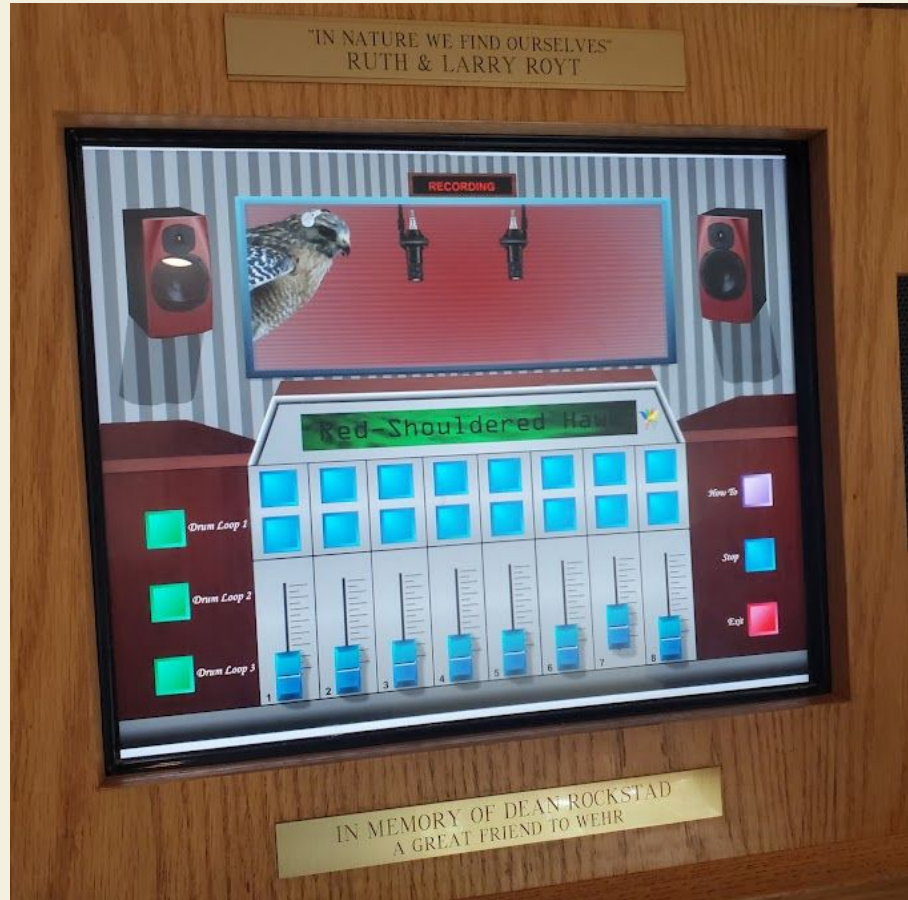
Relatable & Actionable



Relatable & Actionable



Interactive & Accessible



Interactive & Accessible

more than a bag of bones

Paleo-hunters used all the parts of a slain mammoth.
Test your knowledge by choosing true or false below.

	TRUE	FALSE
1 Mammoth bones and tusks were used for weapons.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2 Dried mammoth poop may have been used as a fire starter.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3 Mammoth skins may have been used for dwellings and tents.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4 Mammoth tusks were carved and used as art or jewelry.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5 Mammoth wool was used for clothing and blankets.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6 Mammoths were used as an early form of transportation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Interactive & Accessible



Interactive & Accessible



Interactive & Accessible



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Interactive & Accessible



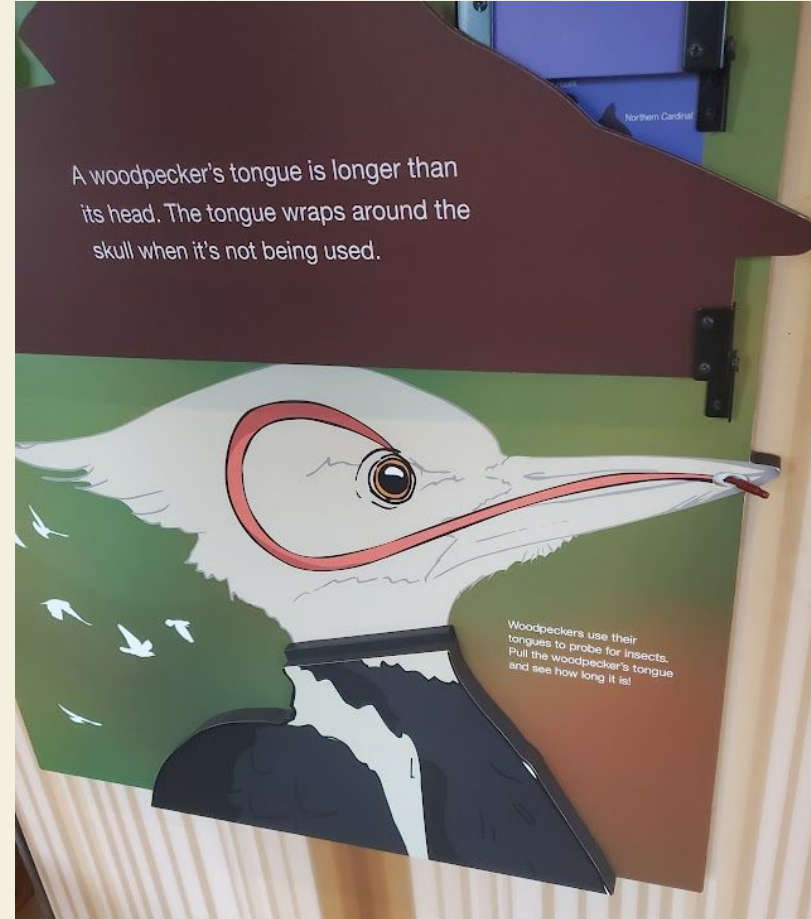
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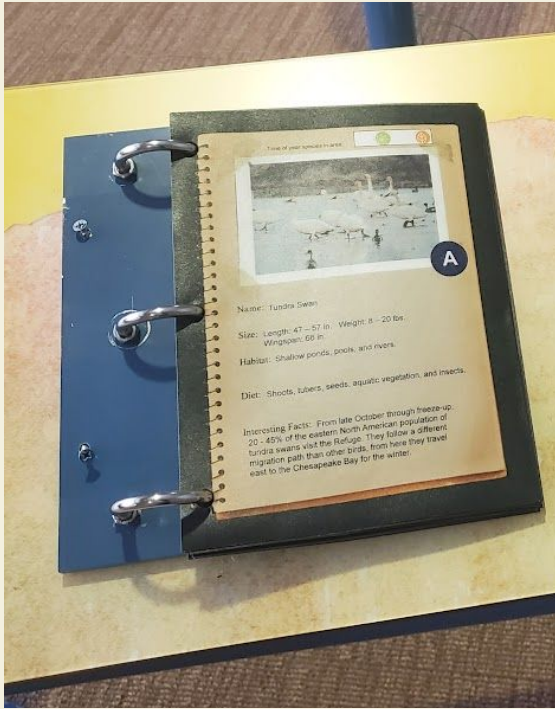
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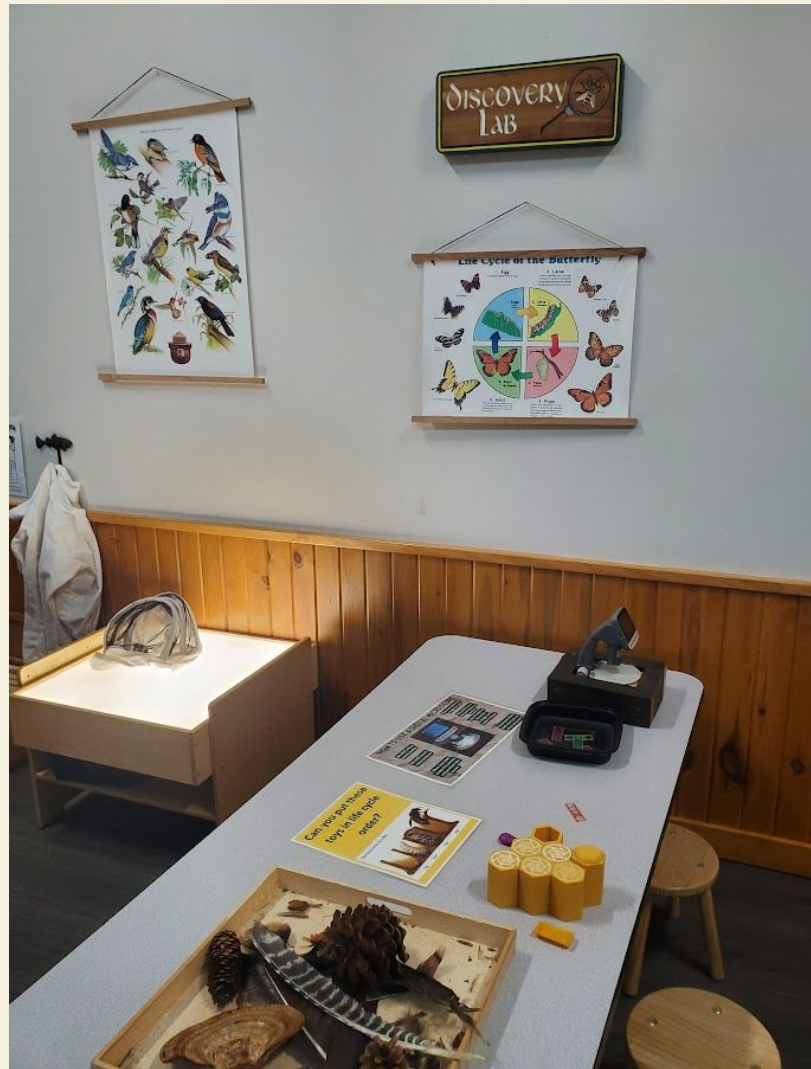
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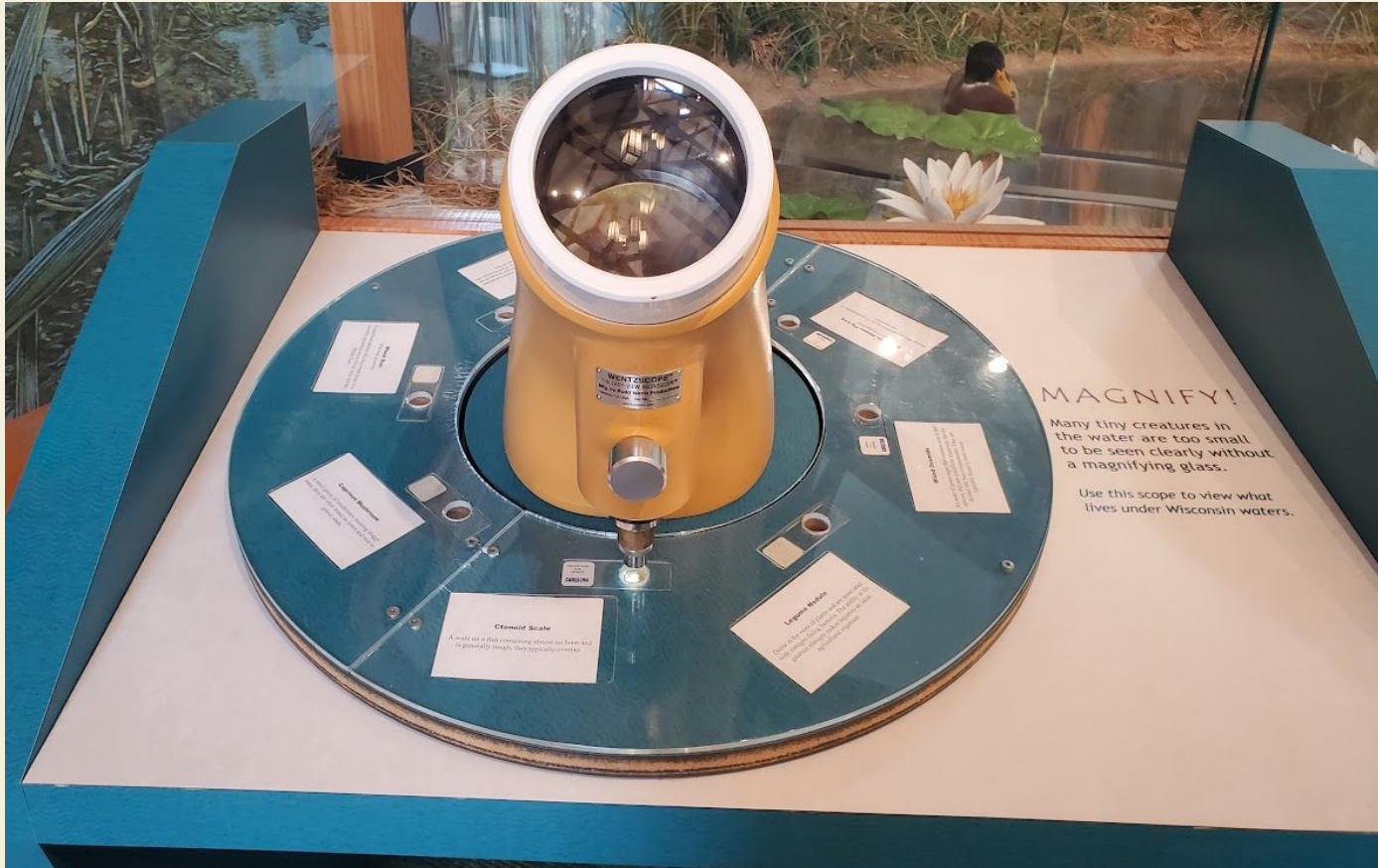
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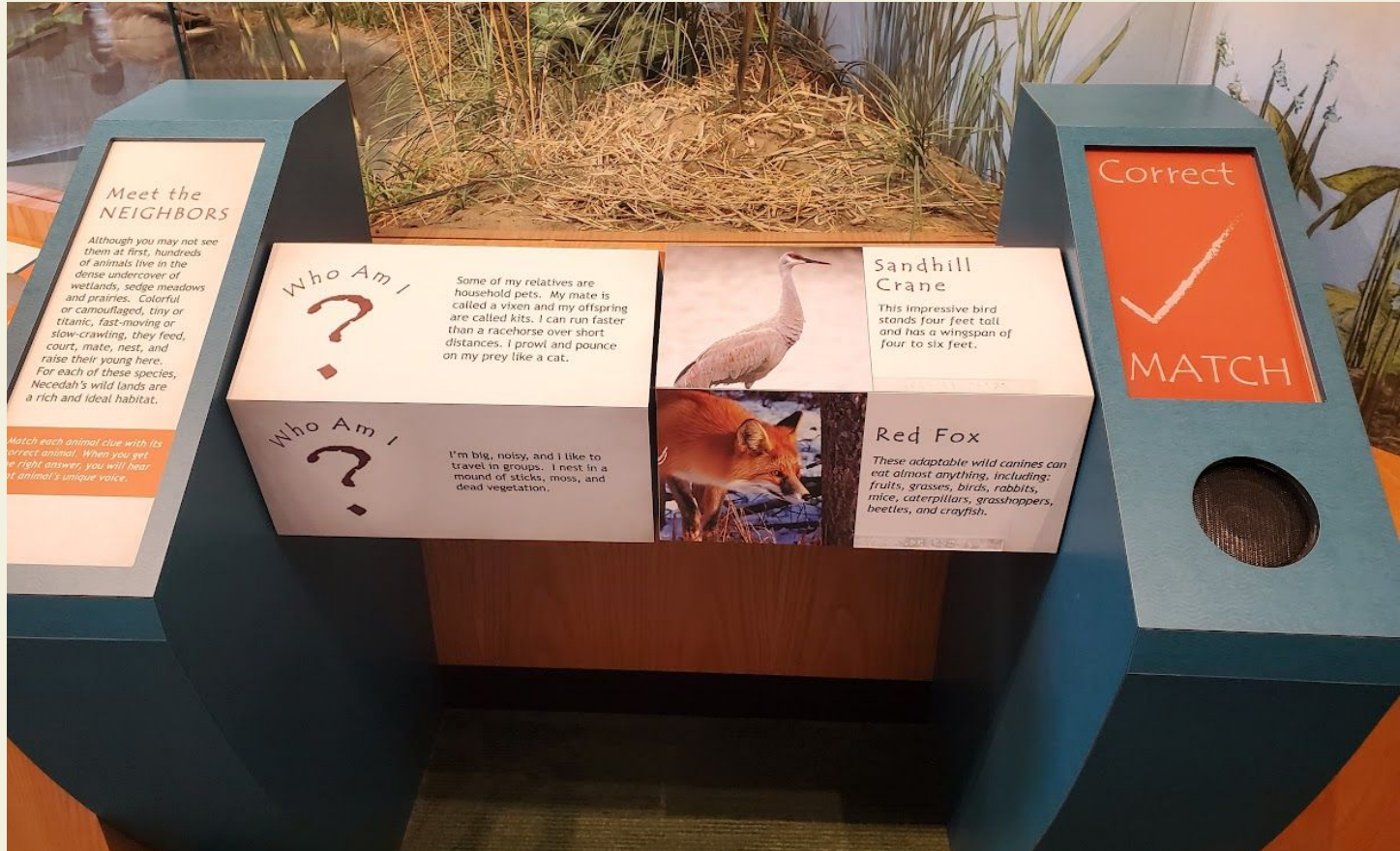
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Guess Who?



Needles are flat and scale-like. They give the tree a lacy appearance.

Cones are tiny and brown.



Bark is gray and peels in long, soft strips.

When an old tree falls, branches can grow into new trees.

Giizhik grow throughout the Northwoods in swamps. They like the wet soils in glacial lake clay and glacial kettles. Deer eat so many young trees that they have trouble growing back.

Giizhik is a special medicine used in ceremonies, and for tea with vitamin C.

Giizhik wood is used to make knockers for harvesting wild rice and beautiful flutes.

Images ©Northern Forests Aikas Foundation

Interactive & Accessible



Interactive & Accessible



Interactive & Accessible



Kids Areas



Kids Areas



Kids Areas



Kids Areas



Kids Areas



Kids Areas



Kids Areas



Kids Areas



Kids Areas



Immersive



Immersive



Immersive



Immersive



Immersive



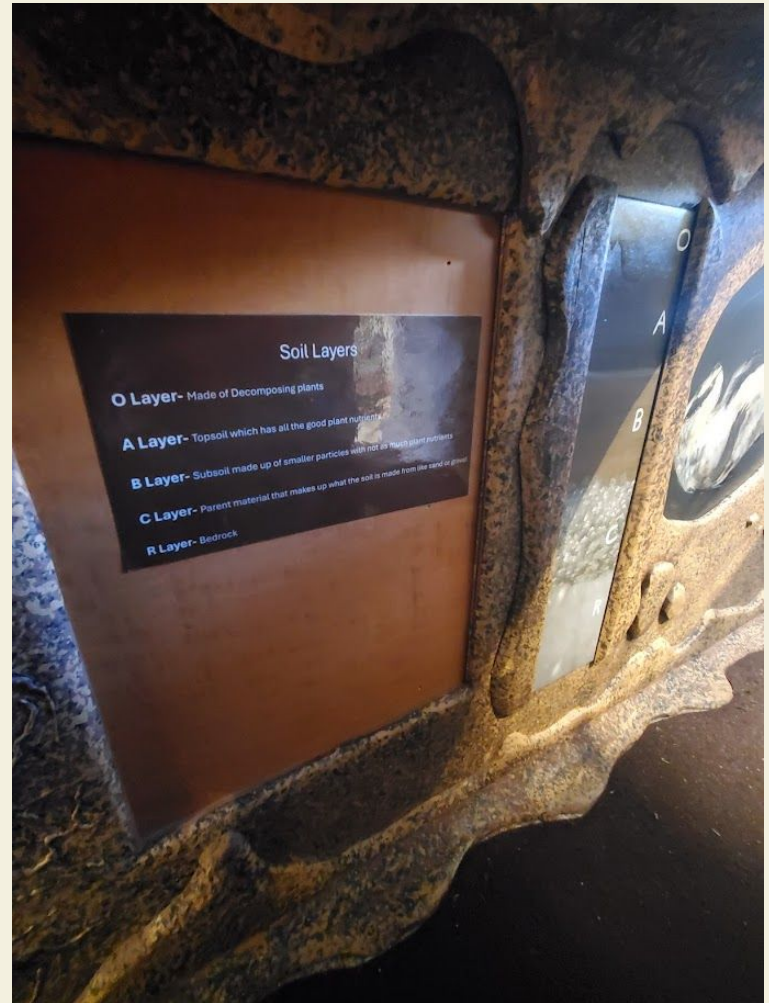
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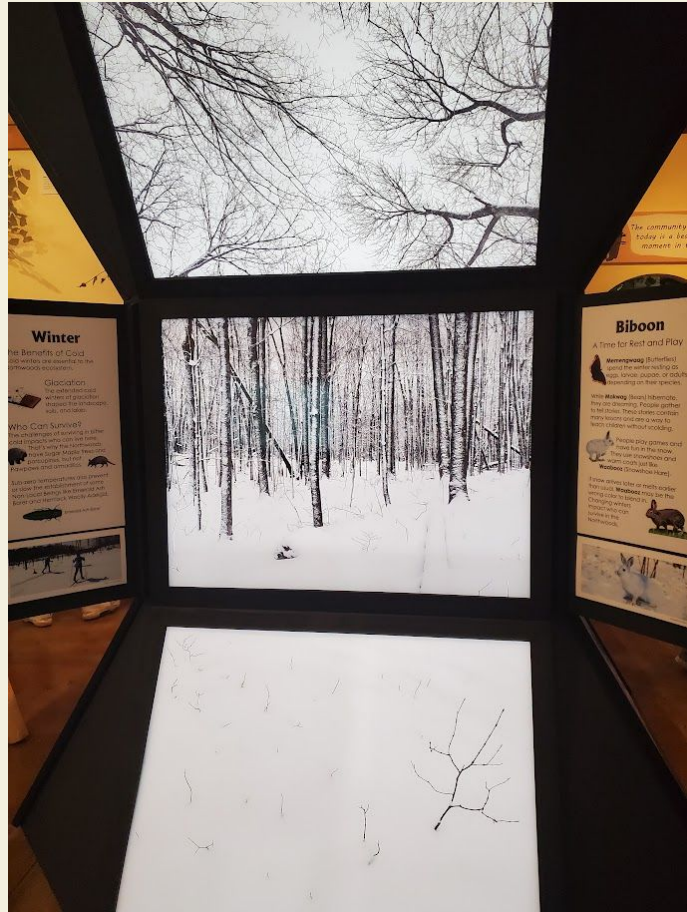
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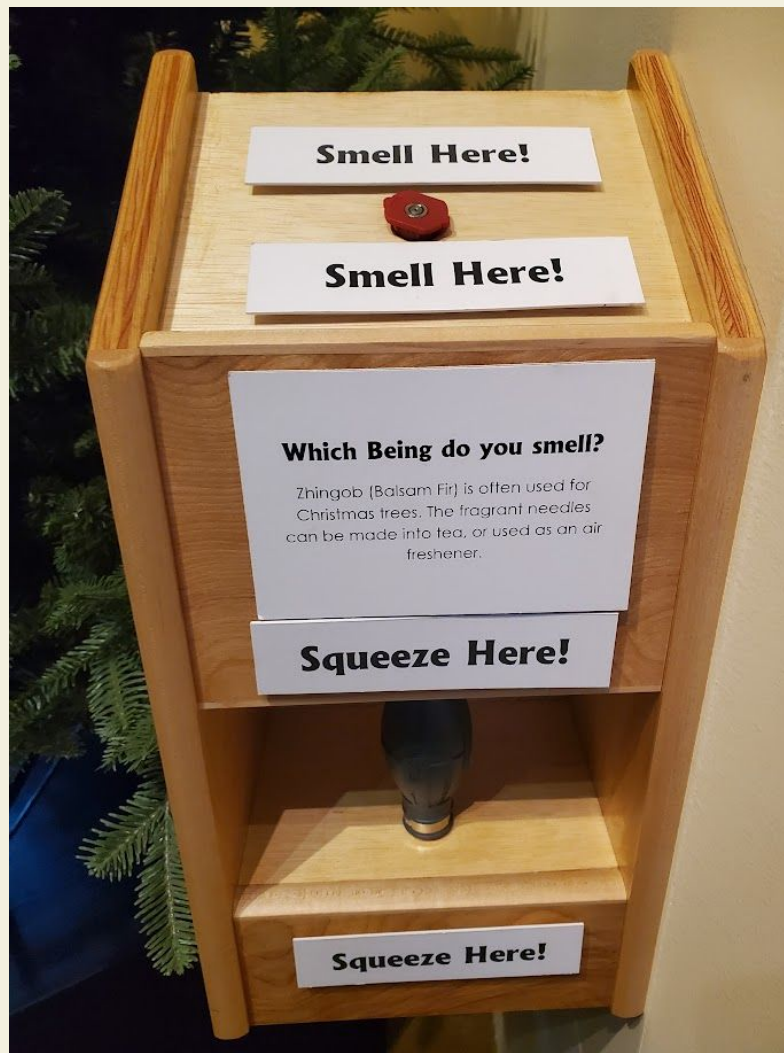
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Live Animals



Live Animals



Live Animals



Live Animals



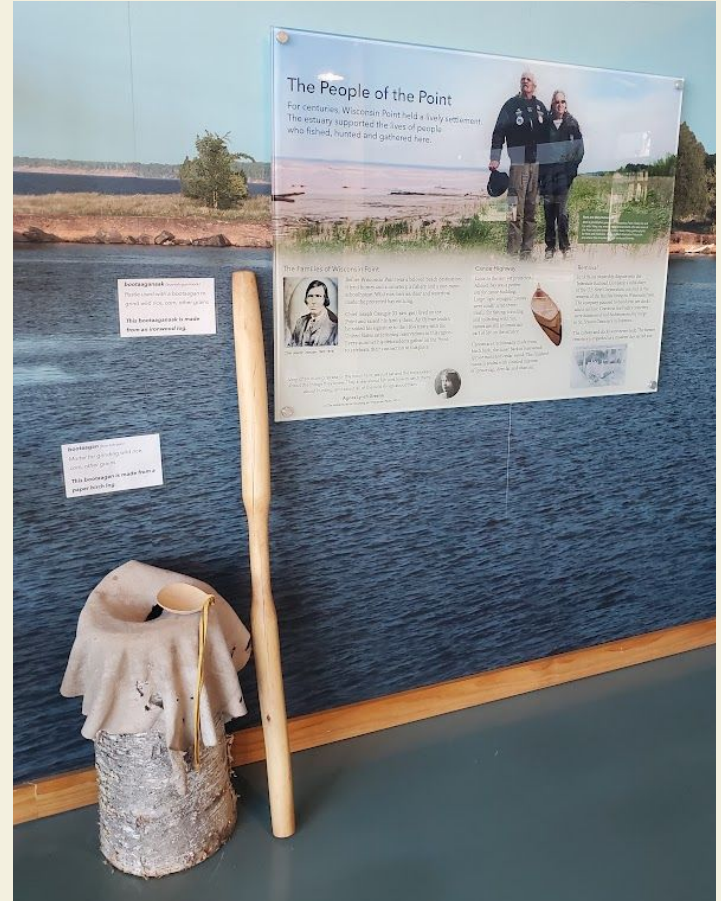
Live Animals



Live Animals



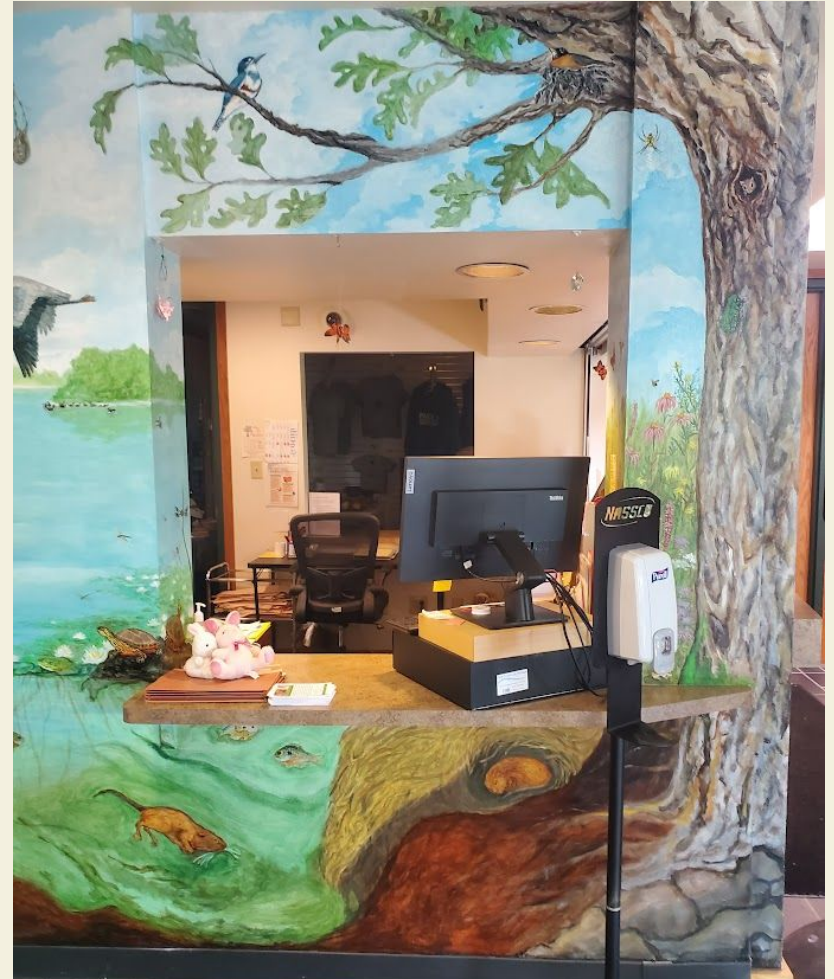
Community Involvement



Community Involvement



Community Involvement



Community Involvement



Changeable Exhibits



Changeable Exhibits



Changeable Exhibits



Changeable Exhibits



A Moment to Reflect

How do we get organized?

- Exhibit or Education Committee/Leadership circles
- Site-wide/indoor/outdoor master interpretive plan
- Strategic plan
- Active and engaged Friends Group
- Decision Model – Rank priorities based on criteria
- Hire outside design group
- Secure funding – grants, donors, campaign
- “Collab Lab” – idea generation
- Consistent meetings (1x/month; quarterly)
- Designated staff

Next Steps

- Bring together all ideas – begin mocking up exhibit sketches
- Determine organizational structure for design process
- Funding (grants, campaign)

It's a Collaborative Process!

We are open to feedback as this process evolves, and open to help! What skills do you have? How can you get involved? Are you able to support with time, financially, ideas?

You've already supported by being here tonight.



Thank You!

