

What is a natural history park?

More than a green space, a recreation area or playground, a natural history park is a place for visitors to engage in the natural environment in a tangible way. They learn the story of the landscape and the dynamic changes that natural forces and human activity have wrought. As they see the residual effects of catastrophic events (i.e. large woody debris), they are learning about the 1964 tsunami event. As they move through a field of wetland sedges, they hear a local plan expert explain what makes plants adapted to salt-water unique.

The natural history is not a snapshot that visitors view, but an immersive landscape that engages them. The natural processes that shape human events and in turn are shaped by human activity are revealed at a range of scales, from slow, geologic events to the daily fluctuation of weather patterns.