

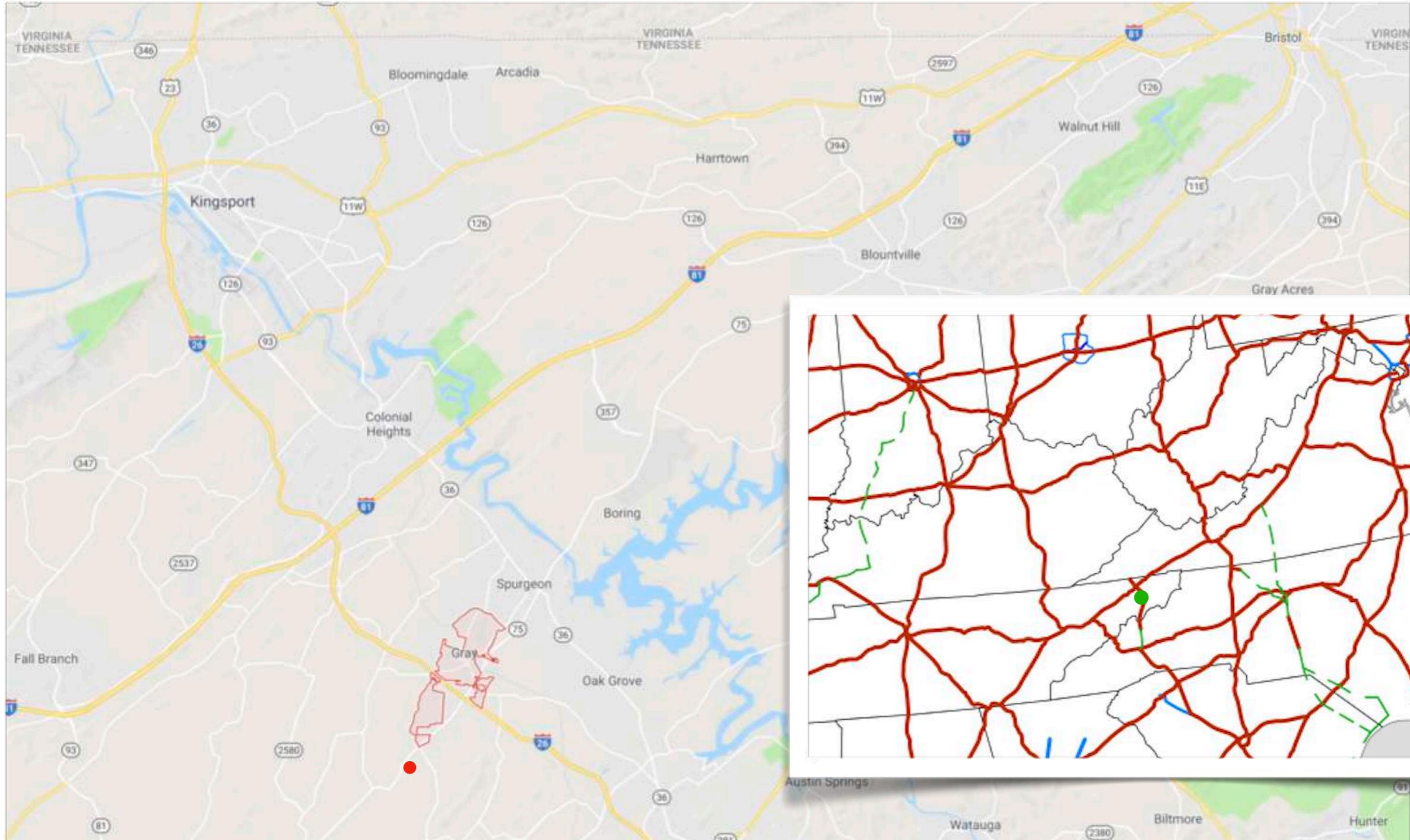
East Tennessee State University
General Shale Brick

NATURAL HISTORY
MUSEUM

Visitor Center Gray Fossil Site

**Gem and Mineral Society of the Virginia
Peninsula
January 4, 2018
Greg Hajos and Ingrid Carlberg**

Where is Gray, Tennessee?



Gray straddles Interstate Highway 26 (I-26) in northeastern Tennessee, approximately 3 miles from the intersection with Interstate Highway 81 (I-81).

The fossil dig site and museum are operated by the East Tennessee State University Center for Excellence in Paleontology.

Much of the work at the fossil site, museum and laboratory is by volunteers. The museum will have a volunteer recruitment drive prior to kicking off the 2018 digging season, probably in April (weather dependent).

The Museum website is <http://gfsm.handsonmuseum.org>

They have a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/grayfossilmuseum/>

The ETSU Center of Excellence in Paleontology website is

<https://www.etsu.edu/cas/paleontology/default.php>

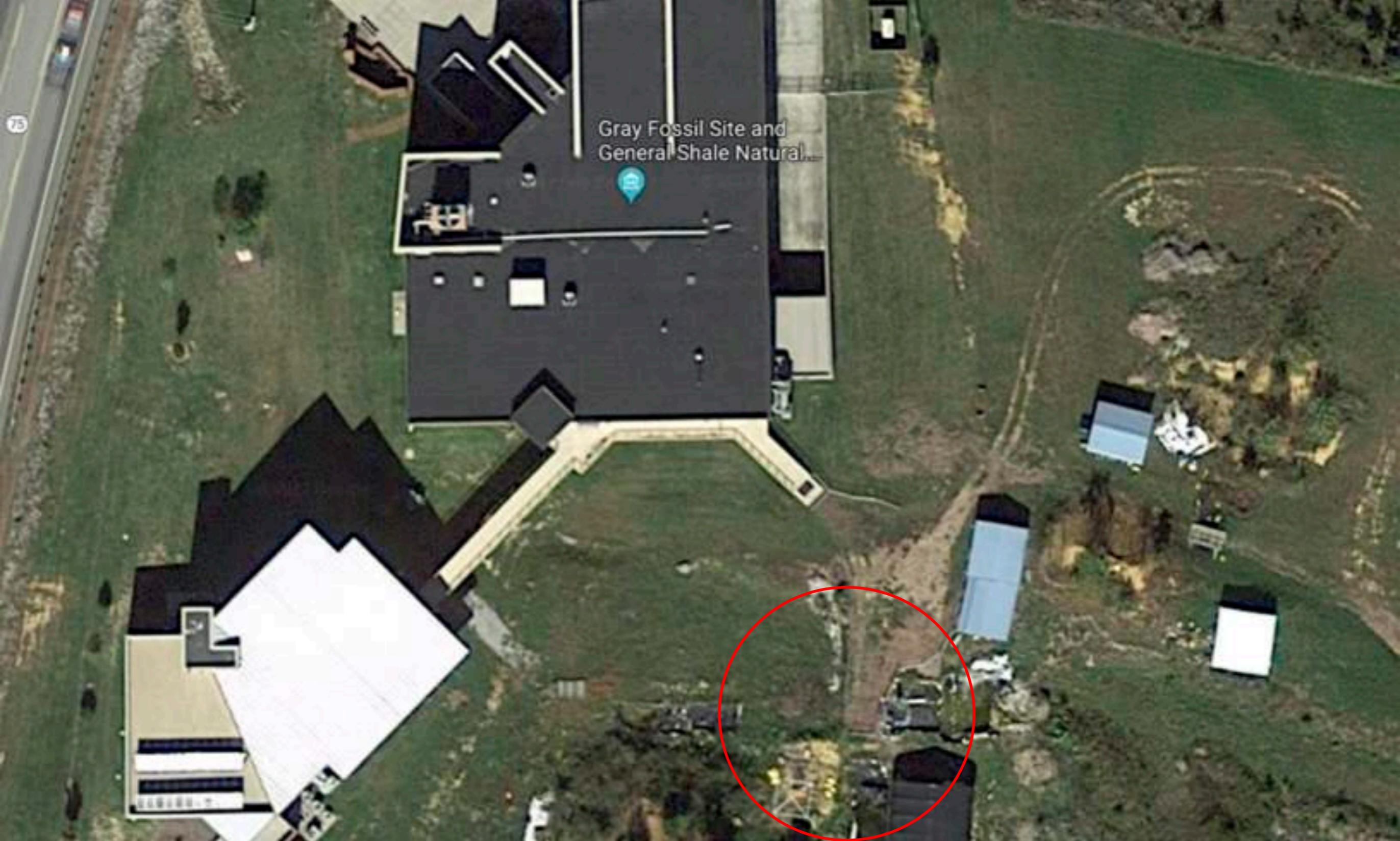
**Admission to the museum is \$5 each for ages 3+,
add \$3 each for the guided tour.**

Gray Fossil Dig site

The Gray Fossil site was discovered in 2000 during widening of Route 75 near Gray, Tennessee. The Governor of Tennessee, Don Sundquist, had the road rerouted to protect the site.

The site is thought to be a sinkhole that filled with water forming a pond between 4.5 and 7 million years ago. Local wildlife drank from the pond, and occasionally fell in. Sediment filled the hole over the millennia, burying the bones.





Gray Fossil dig site, museum and conference center

Dig Site





Alligators, Tapirs, Saber-Tooth Cats

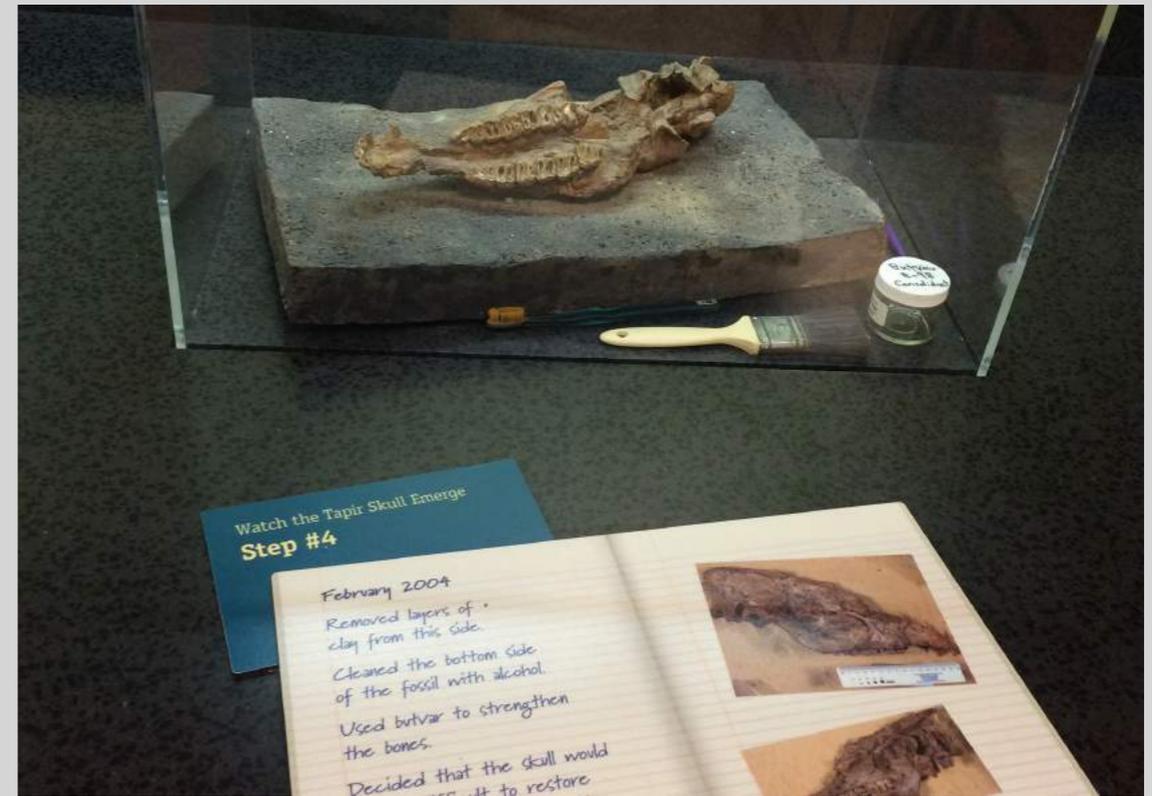
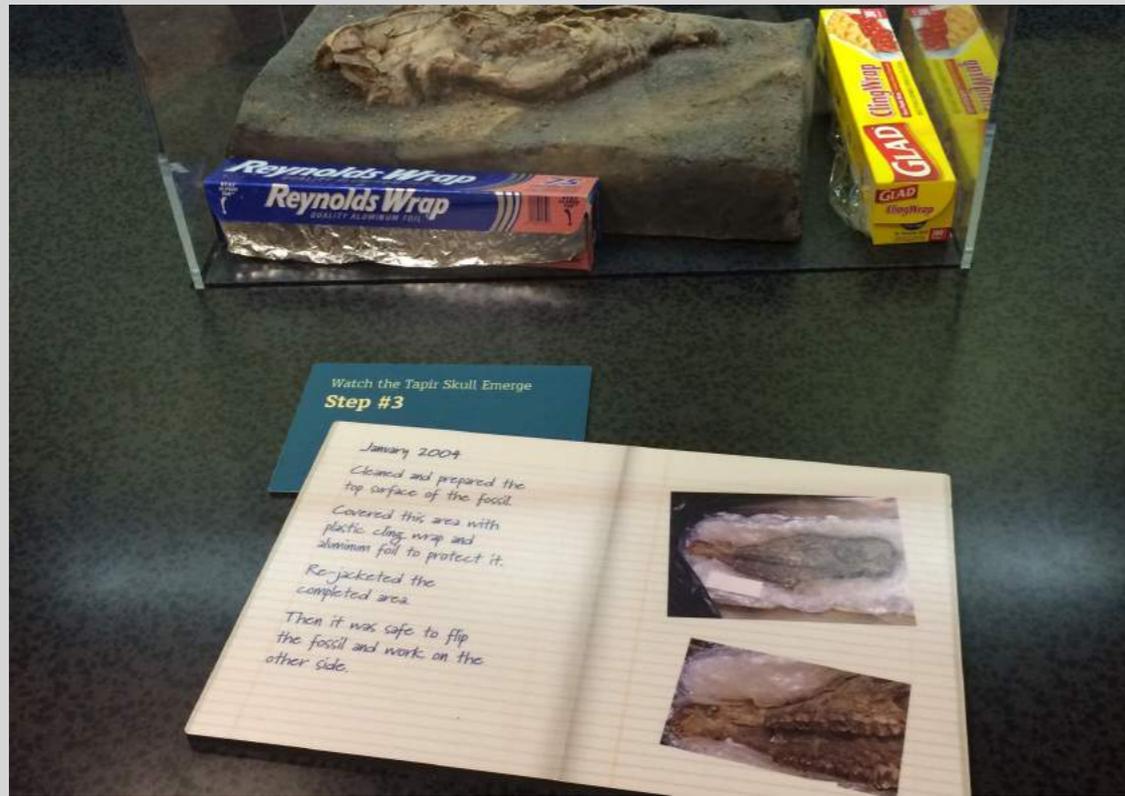


Fossils on exhibit include a saber-toothed cat, alligator, turtles, short-faced bear, ground sloth, rhinoceros, camel, shovel-tusked elephant, Eurasian badger, tapirs, and red panda. Many fossils are almost complete skeletons.

Fossil Preparation



Preserving Fossils



Casting Fossil Replicas

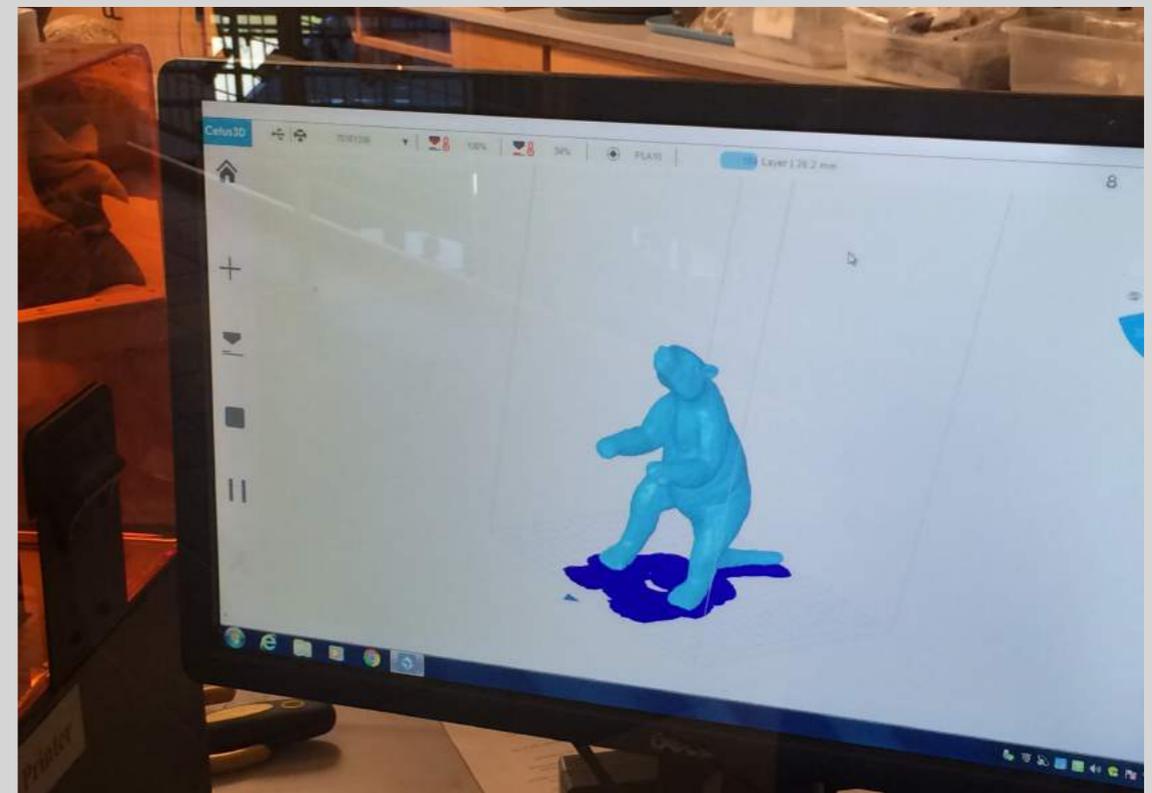


Giant Short-Faced Bear

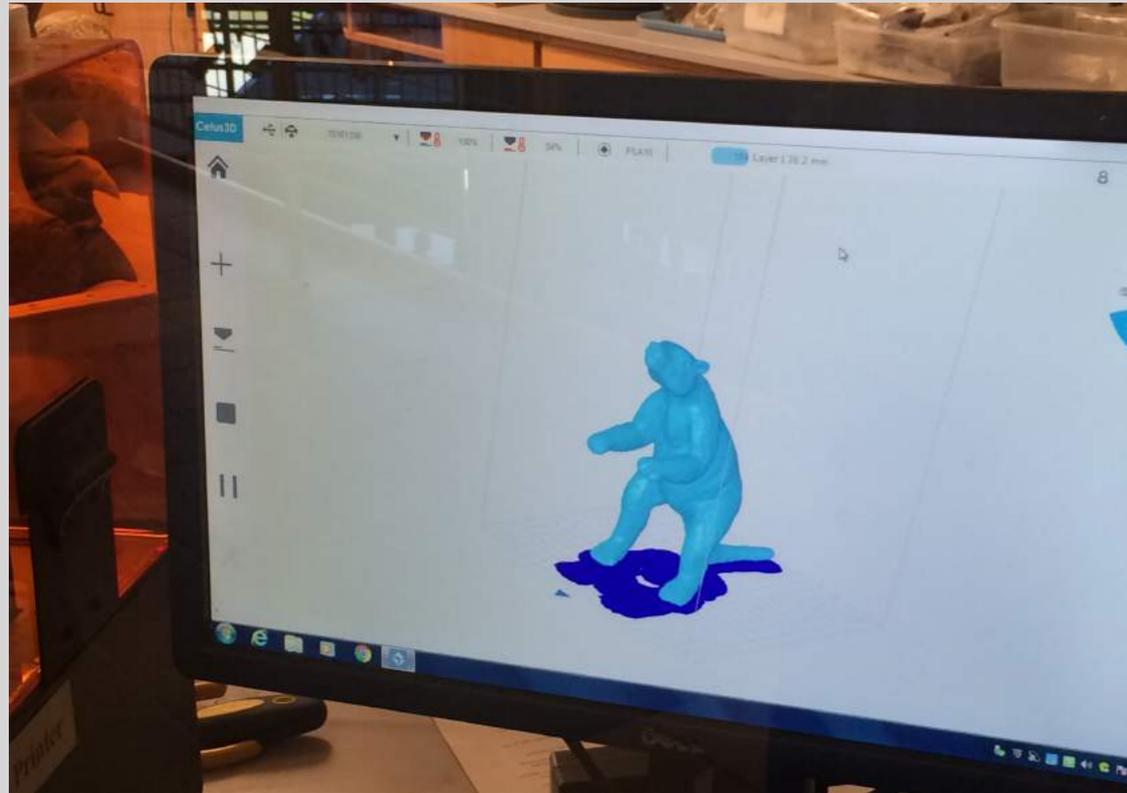
How big were
Giant Short-
Faced Bears?



Head,
shoulders,
and ribcage
taller than
Ingrid.



Building a bear with 3-D printing



Re-assembling the bones



Mastodon





PLEASE DO NOT
STAND OR CLIMB
ON THE FOUNTAIN

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