

More information about the Bismarck Area Dig

The Site:

The Bismarck Area digs are named such because they are near Bismarck. The staff and diggers depart from and return to Bismarck, ND each day. The site is on private property, and to prevent excess vehicle traffic, we will be driving participants out in a van. We want to make sure we are invited back in future years, so please make sure that all trash is picked up off of the site.

This dig is focused on collecting fossils that were around at the end of the Cretaceous, 67 million years ago – the last gasp before dinosaurs went extinct. This may include dinosaurs such as *Edmontosaurus*, *Triceratops*, and *Tyrannosaurus*. This may also include any other animal that was alive at the time, such as crocodiles and turtles. During the Cretaceous, the landscape would have been much more lush with vegetation, humid, and warm. At this site we are able to drive very close, and then walk the last 50 yards or so from where we park, to where we dig.



Diggers hard at work in the quarry



Plenty of opportunities to get dirty



Mixing plaster



Tyrannosaurus teeth



Shoveling

This is a quarry site, so after a brief orientation on what is expected, diggers will pick their favorite spot, and get right to digging. Some shoveling and pickaxe work may be necessary. If it rains and we cannot dig, there will be opportunities to work on fossils previously collected, in the lab located in the basement of the Heritage Center.



Crocodile osteoderm (skin armor)



Dinosaur bone, emerging from the rock with care



Dinosaur rib, heavily fragmented



Edmontosaurus (duck-billed dinosaur) toe claw



Participants working in the lab, during a rain day



Fossils wrapped in plaster jackets