DISCOVER FANNIN **COUNTY'S PALEO TREASURES AT LADONIA FOSSIL PARK ON THE NORTH SULPHUR RIVER** AT FM 2990



CRETACEOUS PERIOD

The Cretaceous Period yields fossils of large marine reptiles. Finds include the ancient sea turtles on exhibit at the Perot Museum, 50 ft long mosasaurs, 95 ft long plesiosaurs, Devil's Toenail oysters, ammonites and wormtubes.

Ice-age fossils from mammoths, mastodons, giant beavers, miniature horses, and camels are also found in the embankments and riverbed that stretches ten miles in each direction.





cocladonia.org







EVERY DAY is fossil day at Ladonia Fossil Park. An attempt to straighten a

meandering creek many years ago went wild. The result was a continually eroding ditch that yields fossils over 60 million years old from the Cretaceous Period when the area was part of the Western Interior Seaway. Erosion continues to expose a new set of fossils with each rainfall here.

Visitors to the park range from the serious research Paleontologist, to the local fossil collector to the dinosaur-inspired first grader whose parents come along for the stroll. On most explorations even first-timers come away from NSR with something of significance - yes, this park is one of few locations where hunters can carry away all but the most unique finds that would have scientific importance.

The park is open daily with no admission required. For more information see website links provided.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP

Take precautions as listed below: Wilderness Area - Take all precautions that are due for a guest in a wildlife environment. Hazards range from wild hogs to coyotes, snakes, poison ivy, and Texas Redheaded Centipedes.

Elevation Precautions - Falls from steep 60 feet banks are possible. Also, mudslides and dirt cave-ins are possible.

Accessing the Riverbed - There is a path leading directly into the river with the most steep part being a paved sidewalk. Those with mobility challenges with knees, weak legs, hip issues and the like should consider this and probably stay topside and not enter.

Water and Food - Pack plenty of water and snacks. Food is available in Ladonia. Pack it in / Pack it out

Shoes - In wet weather wear mud boots or mud wading shoes. In dry weather wear close toed shoes; no bare feet.

Motorized vehicles - not allowed in the river bed. This is a state law.

Flowing Water - If water is flowing do not enter the river. The turbulence can be heavy and rolling and extremely hazardous. Generally, following heavy rainfall the river is safe to enter by third day after rain.

See water level info at http://bitly.ws/pm2P. The numbers are actually calculated east of the river towards Cooper so when it says 2.5 ft flow (on the right side of the graph) it's lower than that at the 2990 bridge so is generally a good time to go.

Camping - It is not permitted at the park but there are several places nearby. A list is provided on the City of Ladonia website, cityofladonia.com. Also see the FAQ / Announcements in the Ladonia Fossil Park page on Facebook.

LAKE RALPH HALL CONSTRUCTION

Lake Ralph Hall is under construction with an estimated date of completion in 2025. See more at lakeralphhall.com.