

Annual Update



An opportunity to expand minds and grow our economy
circa 2000

our History

The Great Plains Dinosaur Museum (GPDM) is governed and operated by the volunteer board of the Judith River Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 2002 to bring the exciting dinosaur discoveries of Phillips County to life. Our mission is to curate and prepare paleontological resources for educational programs, scientific research, and interpretive displays, advancing knowledge for the benefit of all.

The museum operates independently, without tax-dollar support or affiliations with municipal or higher education institutions. It is entirely self-funded through memberships, admissions, dig and tour revenue, and fundraising efforts.

GPDM originated as a volunteer-run Dinosaur Field Station in 2002, located near the Malta railroad underpass. In 2008, a new 3,000-square-foot facility was built adjacent to the Phillips County Museum on US Highway 2 in Malta, Montana, thanks in part to a \$500,000 special appropriation from the State of Montana. The museum property is owned by the City of Malta and leased to GPDM under a long-term agreement.

Today, the museum continues to inspire visitors and support its mission through community-driven efforts and the dedication of its volunteer leadership.

**Judith River Foundation, Inc., doing business as
the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum**

**Date of Incorporation and IRS 501c3 nonprofit
designation 10.31.2002.**

Current building constructed in 2008



**G R E A T P L A I N S
D I N O S A U R M U S E U M**

F I E L D S T A T I O N • M A L T A M T



the Board & staff

Governed by a volunteer, citizen based Board of Directors, we are dedicated to making our community strong through efforts to recover, prepare and display regional dinosaur treasures for the world to appreciate, enjoy and fully understand.

Current members include: Anne Boothe (President), Michael Morser (Vice President), Mardy Demarais (Secretary), Taylor Sjostrom (Treasurer) Damien Austin (immediate Past President), Dixie Stordahl, David Rummel, Yavon Pekovitch, Dollyann Willcutt, Randy Shores, Austin Bunk, Dennis Fitzgerald, and Laura Pancratz

Our awesome staff members are: Harris Boekenheide (Director of Paleontology), Kathleen Hughes (Season Manager), Kevin Campbell and Donna Parsons.

Our Mission

To curate and prepare paleontological resources for use in educational programs, scientific research, interpretive displays and in support of the advancement of knowledge and the benefit of all people.

2024 by the Numbers



Annual operating budget @ \$60,000
Revenue sources - visitor fees @ \$10,000, program fees @ \$13,000, gift store sales @ \$15,000, memberships, donations, misc. grants and fundraising \$15,000



Capital investment account @\$155,000
Fossil rental - our goal is to reserve for expansion project but we have tapped for operations.



Grant projects - EMI Leo Exhibit & Marketing Plan grant @ \$52,000 (2022-4), PhillCo Signage & Beautification @ \$1800, potential MDT PCTGP @ \$100,000 for PAR and building improvements.



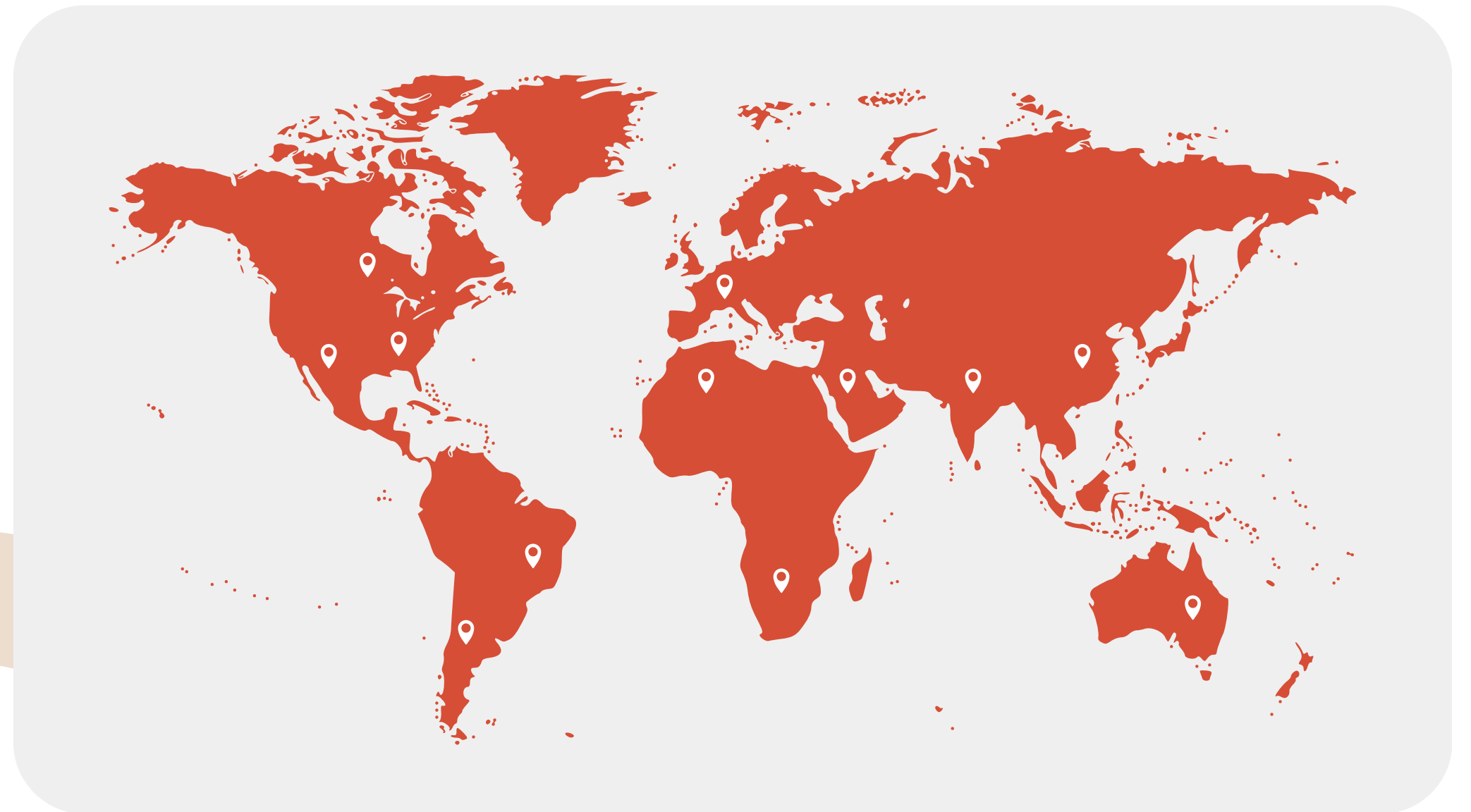
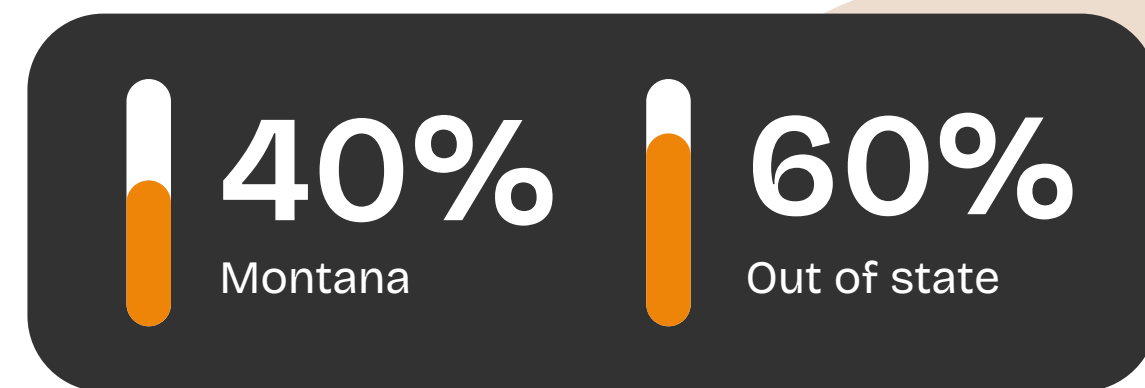
where they came from

Visitation estimate for 2024 = 2700 guests

- 40% from Montana
- 60% from out of Montana

Of the overall total, less than 5% were from Phillips County

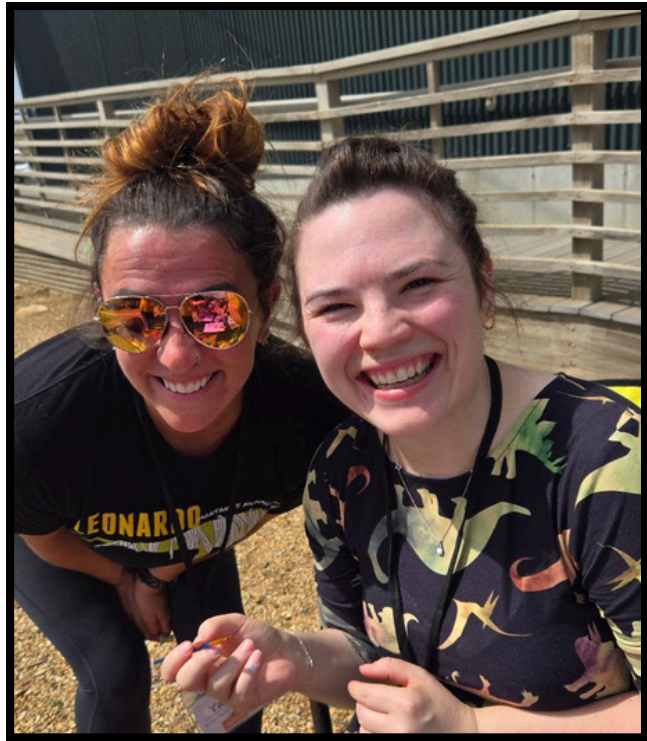
School groups @ 180 students from Malta, Harlem, Lodgepole, Hays, Dodson



International visitors came from Switzerland, Australia, England, UK, Thailand, EU, France, Slovenia, Mexico, Greece, Hong Hong, Germany, Norway, Italy, Argentina, Phillipines.



New exhibit space - thank you to all who helped! Special thanks to the Montana. EMI grant program.



**Kids Dino Day
over 100 kids
participated.**



We had many special visitors this year, including this team of Ammonite Specialists from the American Natural History Museum in NYC.

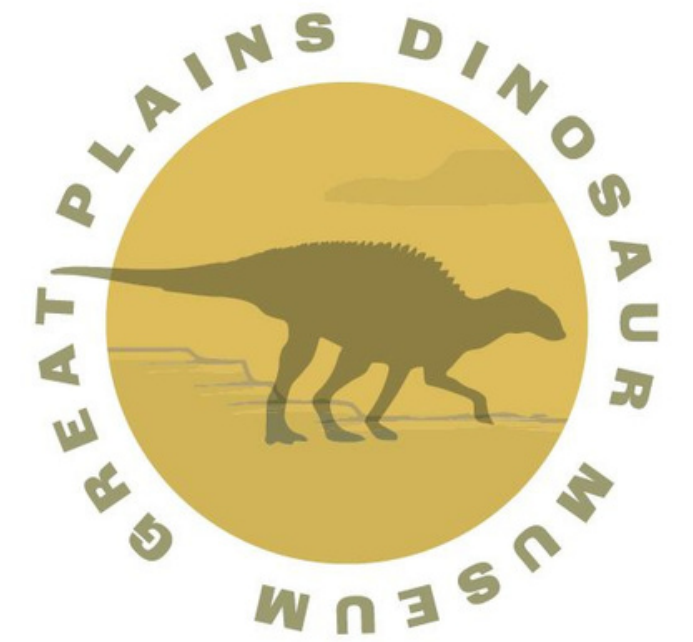
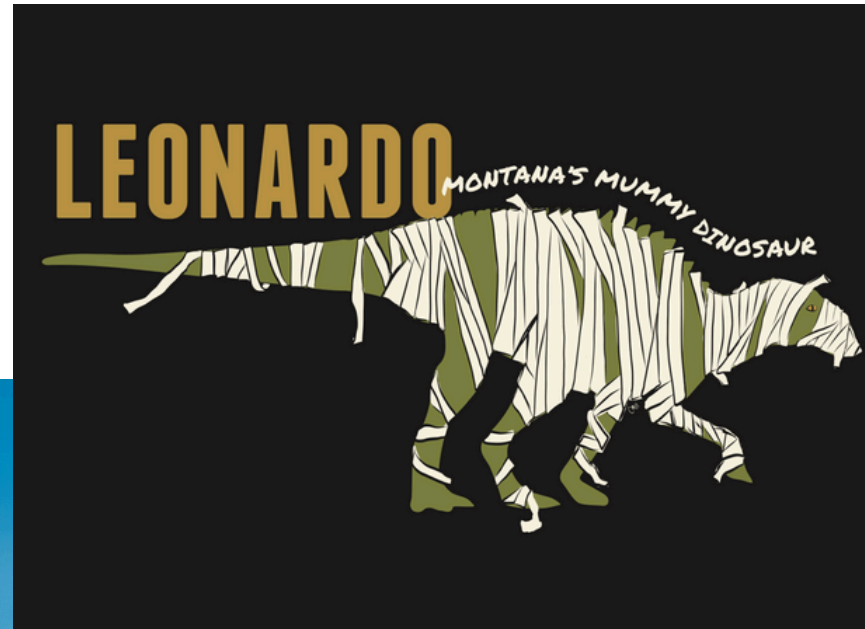


Daughter of the Plains - film day at GPDM!!

Thank you PhillCo Economic Growth Council and PC Museum for partnering on our sign, lighting and painting improvements. And thanks board members Austin & Randy for installing the new sign and Dave for helping install solar lights :)



new Looks



programs

Adult Digs and Youth Experiences!



we might need a dremel...





looking Forward



\$\$ Preliminary Architect Report (PAR)for Expansion

Partner with Mt. Dinosaur Trail seeking grant funds from Pilot Community Tourism Grant Program (PCTGP) - deadline 12/2024. PAR process includes identifying needs, options, budget feasibility. Hire an architect, begin process, identify funding sources. Needs - dedicated fossil prep lab, onsite storage, dedicated federal fossil repository.



Collaborate with other tourism interests.

Trafton Trailhead effort by Malta Trails, Night Skies effort by Missouri River Country, 20th and 25th Anniversaries of Montana Dinosaur Trail. Continue our partnership with Fukui Dinosaur Museum.



Improve operations.

Secure/fund operations Manager, Continue financially successful programming, secure additional landowners for fossil exploration, BLM permits for exploring and excavation on public lands, research benefits of fossil repository, strong volunteer program to extend seasons of operations.

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Thank YOU



to our community for your continued support and belief that GPDM is an important aspect of this community - and to our dedicated board. Together, we can do great things. Please consider joining us as a member, volunteer, staff and/or board member....

