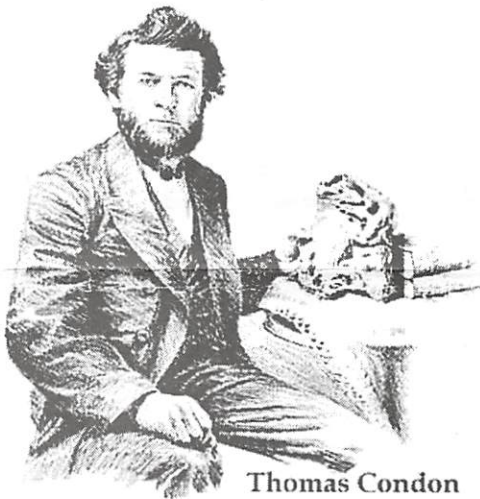




Thomas Condon Paleontology Center – Map and Guide

Welcome to the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center, a high level research center dedicated to the study of the John Day Fossil Beds of eastern Oregon. The 11,000 square foot center first opened its doors to the public and scientists in mid December, 2003.

This flyer will give you basic information about the building. The map on the reverse of this flyer will show you the layout of the building and grounds and its features.



Thomas Condon

Named after a prominent 19th century Oregon minister turned scientist, an exhibit on Thomas Condon is on display in the lobby.

The entire facility is “green” powered, over 98% of the electricity coming from windmill generators along the Columbia River. The remaining power comes from solar cells added to the top of the center, any extra power generated turned back into the system. When operating properly, the center is carbon- neutral in its energy use effect on the environment.

Two of the building features are the wood and stone that much of the center exterior is made of, coming from regional sources. The wood is red cedar milled in Eugene, from either southern Oregon and/or British Columbia forests.

The hand cut, gray lava stone is basalt from a quarry at Camas, WA, within the Columbia Gorge. The quarry has basalt that is part of the same, widespread Columbia Flood Basalts that one can see cresting the ridgelines outside the center. These flood basalts cover over 60,000 square miles and are about 16 million years old.

In August, 2005, the featured resource for the park opened to the public, the center’s 2,500 square foot, fossil museum gallery. The center is dedicated to ongoing research, but sharing what we have learned from the research is just as important. The museum gallery presents for our education and enjoyment an expanding and remarkable story of life covering over 40 million years of our Age of Mammals.

As you tour through the museum gallery and the lobby you will see hundreds of fossils on display. These represent about 1 % of all the fossils in the center. The dedicated storage, our “evidence locker,” has a hundred times more fossils than you see in the exhibits, close to 45,000 fossil specimens. Each year the collection adds about 1,000 significant specimens.

We hope you enjoy your visit to this remarkable facility and will return soon. Your interest and support is important to our ongoing scientific work.



ma = millions of years



The two large petrified tree trunks are about 15 ma. They are related to sequoias and were found near the town of John Day.

The six replica fossil icons, on the wall near the entrance, represent six John Day Fossil Beds time periods on display in the museum. The banners hanging in the lobby are of the six icons.

Left-to-right, the icons are of:

- > 44 ma ... conglomerate of fossil nuts, seeds, vines, and wood
- > 40 ma ... skull of a carnivorous mammal called a creodont
- > 33 ma ... Oregon's State Fossil, the "dawn redwood," *Metasequoia*
- > 29 ma ... skull of the "John Day Tiger," *Pogonodon*, a nimravid
- > 15 ma ... skull of a "giraffe-deer," *Dromomeryx*, and hackberry seeds and oak leaves
- > 7 ma ... teeth and a humerus of an Asiatic, short-faced bear, *Indarctos*

← parking lot

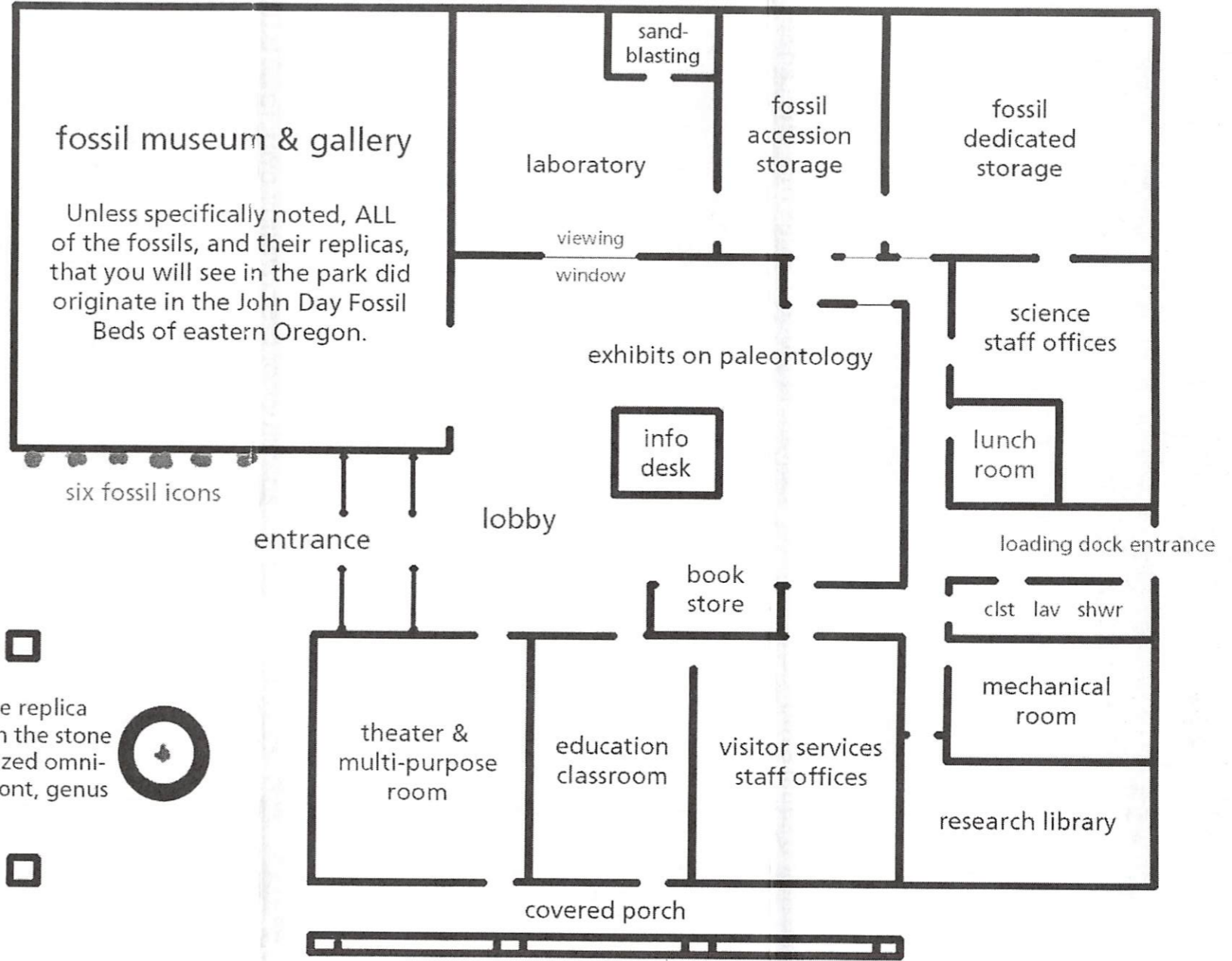


flagpole •

Living about 25 ma, the replica fossil skull displayed on the stone bench is of a buffalo-sized omnivour called an entelodont, genus *Archaeotherium*.



patio & wayside exhibits



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