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For Immediate Release

Dinosaurs Return to The Domes

Milwaukee, WI (April 25, 2014) – Visitors to the Mitchell Park Domes will step back in time –way back – when they enter “Dinos Under Glass,” a prehistoric exhibit, in the Tropical Dome, beginning Sat., May 3. The Domes, “Milwaukee’s Living Landmark,” is located at 524 S. Layton Blvd.

Seven dinosaur models, ranging in length from 9 to 16 feet, are nestled among plants of the Tropical Dome. Allosaurus, Dromaeosaurus, a “baby” Minmi, a flying Pteranodon, Protoceratops, Stegosaurus, and Triceratops are easily viewed from the walking paths. Educational, interpretive signage is located throughout the exhibit.

To complement the “prehistoric” experience, children, as well as adults, will have the opportunity to step inside a dinosaur “fossil” footprint and to take part in an interactive scavenger hunt. The hunt includes a search for a dinosaur nest and a variety of brightly colored smaller species of dinosaurs. To test their knowledge of dinosaurs, visitors are encouraged to complete a themed crossword puzzle. The exhibit runs through Nov. 2, so it can be incorporated into science field trips to The Domes.

“This is such a great gift from The Friends of The Domes,” said Sandy Folaron, Director of the Mitchell Park Domes. “This exhibit presents the opportunity not only to reach out to all those interested in dinosaurs, but also to those who are interested in prehistoric plants and their amazing adaptations.”

Highlighted in the exhibit are prehistoric plants, such as Horsetail (a native plant in Wisconsin), Hare’s Foot Fern, Sago Palm, Spike Moss, Tree Fern, and ZZ Plant.

Static dinosaur models include carnivores and herbivores from the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods.

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Allosaurus, theropods similar to T-Rex with a large skull and short “arms,” were carnivores living in the Jurassic period in North America, Africa, and Europe. They had sharp, curved claws, and because they walked on two legs, they had a massive tail for balance. The model in the show is 10-1/2 feet long and 6 feet high.

Dromaeosaurus, or “running lizard,” with a large skull, powerful hind legs, and small forelimbclaws, were carnivores living in the late Cretaceous period in the western United States and Canada. They also had a large sickle-claw on their feet. The model in the show is 9-1/2 feet long and about 4 feet high.

Minmi were known for the thick oval plates fused in the leathery skin over most of their bodies. These herbivores lived in the early Cretaceous period in Australia. To successfully attack, predators had to flip the Minmi to expose the unplated under-belly. The model in the show is about 6 feet long and 3 feet high.

Pteranodon, flying, toothless reptiles, lived at the time of dinosaurs in the late Cretaceous period. They had a crest on their heads and wing spans greater than that of any known bird. The model in the show has a 4-foot wing span.

Protoceratops had a large head surrounded by a bony frill, similar to Triceratops. Protoceratops were herding herbivores, with a toothless, hook-like beak. They lived in the late Cretaceous period in Mongolia. The model in the show is 4 feet long and about 2 feet high.

Stegosaurus, recognized by the bony plates along the back, were herbivores living in the late- Jurassic period in the forests and swamps of North America. For protection from predators, they had spikes at the end of the tail. The model is about 16 feet long and 7 feet high.

Triceratops, or “face with three horns,” were herbivores living in the late Cretaceous period on the plains of North America. The beak, or central horn, was used to cut plants and small trees. Scientists believe that when threatened, the one-ton dinosaur aimed its spear-like horns and charged its enemy. The model is about 13 feet long and 5 feet high.

“Dinos Under Glass” is included with regular admission. Admission for adults age 18 and over is \$7; Milwaukee County Seniors with ID, persons with disabilities, students of any age with ID, and youth age 6-17 are \$5. Children 5 and under are admitted for free.

For more information, call The Domes at (414) 257-5611 or visit countyparks.com

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