



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Fort Worth District**

News Release

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers move to protect dinosaur tracks at Grapevine Lake

FORT WORTH, Texas – The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, elected to cover exposed dinosaur tracks along the shoreline at Grapevine Lake this past Friday. The actions were necessary in order to protect the remaining tracks after several were damaged late Thursday or early Friday. Two tracks were removed and one track was damaged due to someone unsuccessfully trying to make a mold of the print. Dinosaur footprints or tracks are exposed along the shoreline of Grapevine Lake during periods when the lake level is low.

Since their discovery in 1982, various sets of tracks have been studied on several occasions by paleontologists from Southern Methodist University and the Dallas Museum of Natural History. The tracks have been identified as those of a hadrosaurian ("duck-billed") dinosaur that lived during the Cretaceous Period about 85-95 million years ago. The tracks are in a remote area along the north shore of the lake and until news media reports starting surfacing early last week the area did not have large numbers of visitors. With increasing number of visitors and not having 24 hour security on site, the lake staff placed a six to eight inch bed of loamy soil over the tracks before placing large rocks to cover the tracks and protect them.

Grapevine Lake representatives have met with local paleontologists to explore initiatives in forming a public/private partnership to protect the tracks while allowing viewing by the public. Park visitors are reminded that the dinosaur tracks are a paleontologic find and federal regulations prohibit their unauthorized defacement or removal.