OIL CREEK STATE PARK

Oil Creek Valley is the site of the world’s first commercial oil well. Oil Creek State Park tells the story of the early petroleum industry by interpreting oil boomtowns, oil wells, and early transportation. Scenic Oil Creek carves a valley of deep hollows, steep hillsides, and wetlands.

Reservations

Make online reservations at www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2577), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday, for state park information and reservations.

Directions

Between Drake Well Museum and Titusville, and Oil City four miles to the south, the main entrance to the park is off PA 5, one mile north of the Borough of Romeville.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BICYCLING: A 9.7-mile paved bicycle trail through scenic Oil Creek Valley is a major park attraction. Trailheads are at Petroleum Centre in the south and Drake Well Museum and Park in the north. Trail users may rent bicycles at the park office.

Picnic tables, benches, rain shelters, and restroom are at key points along the trail. Historical markers detail special events of the 1860s oil boom era.

enclosed trailer. Exceptions include: law enforcement officers and individuals with a valid Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms are authorized to carry a firearm concealed on their person while they are within a state park.

FISHING: Oil Creek is known for its bass and trout. Boughton Run, Troy Run, and Jones Run provide brook trout fishing. Two delayed harvest, artificial lakes only areas cover 2.3 miles of Oil Creek. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission stocks fish.

WATERFALLS: Oil Creek is home to four beautiful waterfalls. The best time to view the falls is early to late spring. For safety reasons, visitors are encouraged to stay on the trails while viewing the falls. Additional information can be obtained at the park office.

HIKING: 32 miles of trails

Blood Farm Interpretive Trail: Spend 30 minutes walking a 0.5-mile trail through the 448-acre Blood Farm oil lease. This farm

HISTORICAL OPPORTUNITIES

Oil and mud soon mixed together throughout the valley. Roads were impassable. When J.H.A. Bone got off the train at Petroleum Center he wrote: “. . . pull up your legs when they disappear from sight, remembering that if you descend deep enough, you may strike oil.” Others wrote: “The creek was covered with oil, the air was full of oil . . . we could see, hear, smell, nothing but oil.” “Mad divided our attention with oil, wagons, men and animals were submerged in mud.”

Along Oil Creek, just south of Titusville, Colonel Edwin Drake struck oil at a depth of 69.5 feet in August 1859. Three words— “They’ve struck oil!” thundered triumphantly throughout the valley. This statement changed the world forever and marks the birth of the world’s oil industry. The New York Tribune stated, “The excitement attendant on the discovery of this vast source of oil was fully equal to what I saw in California when a large lamp of gold was accidentally turned out. When California 49ers came into the valley they claimed conditions here were crazier than any they’d ever seen.”

Drake’s discovery caused thousands of people to pour into the valley in search of liquid gold. Boomtowns sprang up instantly as derricks replaced trees and the valley filled with people. “The boomtowns spring up as if from the touch of a magician’s wand; are swept away by fire, or disappear only to reappear miles in advance of their last location.”

HISTORY

Recreational overturned natural...
The trail is open to two-way bicycle traffic. Stay to the right while riding. When passing another cyclist, first ensure that there are no oncoming riders, then call out to the cyclist that you are passing. Bicycles should be parked off of the trail to avoid obstructing traffic. Bicycles are only permitted on paved trails, and bicycles are prohibited on hiking trails.

Caution: Park maintenance and emergency vehicles may be on the trail.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About 6,900 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during designated seasons. Common game species are rabbit, deer, squirrel, turkey, black bear, and furred grouse.

Hunting woodchucks, also known as groundhogs, is prohibited. Dog training is only permitted from the day following Labor Day through March 31 in designated hunting areas. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission Rule and regulations apply. Contact the park office for ADA accessible hunting information.

Use extreme caution with firearms at all times. Other visitors use the park during hunting seasons. Firearms and archery equipment used for hunting may be unsafe and ready for use only in authorized hunting areas during hunting seasons. In areas not open to hunting or during non-hunting seasons, firearms and archery equipment shall be kept in the owner’s vehicle or

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

The park offers a wide variety of environmental education, recreational, and interpretive programs. Through hands-on activities, guided walks, and evening programs, participants gain appreciation, understanding, and develop a sense of stewardship toward natural and cultural resources.

Curriculum-based environmental education programs are available to schools and youth groups. Teacher workshops are available. Group programs must be arranged in advance and may be scheduled by calling the park office.

Programs are offered early spring through late fall. For more detailed information contact the park office.

The Centre from 1863 to 1870 on its twin livelihoods of oil and entertainment. This company town had no government, law enforcement, sanitation, or public works. It was reputed to the “wickedest town east of the Mississippi!” Start at the Petroleum Centre Amphitheater for this 45-minute self-guiding tour.

Wildcat Hollow Trails: The "wickedest hollow east of the Mississippi?" on these short, easy hiking trails. Geology Trail is 1 mile, Forestry Trail is 0.8 mile, Oil History Trail is 0.25 mile, Wetland Trail is 0.8 mile.

Gerard Hiking Trail: This 36-mile long trail encompasses the entire park. The main trail is marked with yellow paint blazes. For shorter day hikes, use the five connecting loops blazed in white. Parking areas are available at several access points. Scenic vistas, waterfalls, and historic sites are prevalent along the trail.

Two overnight hike-in shelter areas (Cow Run and Wolfkill Run) are along the trail. Each area contains test sites, six Adirondack-style shelters with fireplaces, restrooms, and seasonal water supply. A few reservations are mandatory for use of these areas and overnight usage is limited to one night per shelter site. Fires are only permitted in camp stoves, fireplaces, or designated locations and must be extinguished when unattended. Standing timber and shrubs must not be defied. Camping is permitted in shelter areas only. Other special regulations pertain to these areas. Contact the park office for further information.

Pets are permitted at the shelter areas. Please contact the park office for guidelines for pets.

Tell us about your hike at: www.exploreparks.com

the Train Station in Petroleum Centre, just as it did over 100 years ago! The train station is open noon to 5:00 PM, Saturdays and Sundays, June through October.

There are several scenic trails within the park, including the Wildcat Hollow Trails, which offer views of the area's geological and historical significance. These trails are easy hiking trails with varying lengths and difficulty levels.

The Wildcat Hollow Trails are a set of short, easy hiking trails that are perfect for families and beginners. The Geology Trail is 1 mile, the Forestry Trail is 0.8 mile, and the Oil History Trail is 0.25 mile. The Wetland Trail is 0.8 mile.

Gerard Hiking Trail is a 36-mile long trail that encompasses the entire park. It is marked with yellow paint blazes and offers various access points. The trail is scenic and features several vistas, waterfalls, and historic sites.

Two overnight hike-in shelter areas, Cow Run and Wolfkill Run, are located along the trail. Each area contains test sites, six Adirondack-style shelters with fireplaces, restrooms, and seasonal water supply. Reservations are required for use of these areas and overnight usage.

For more information, contact the park office. For more detailed information contact the park office.

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Protect and Preserve our Parks

If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

For More Information Contact Oil Creek State Park 305 State Park Road Oil City, PA 16001-9733 814-676-9915 email: oilcrknpk@pa.gov GPS DD: Lat: 41.51544 Long: -79.68897 An Equal Opportunity Employer www.visitParks.com

Pocket Ranger™ App by Parks by Nature

The Oil Creek and Titusville Railroad operates an excursion train on weekends and other dates from June through October. The 26-mile round trip travels through Oil Creek State Park from Titusville to Rydal Farm. With advanced notice, the train will stop at the Petroleum Centre Train Station within Oil Creek State Park. www.octrp.org