

May Programs at Oil Creek State Park

Listed below are the upcoming programs for the month of May! Please note that one of these programs, “Creek Critters” on May 9, is actually located at the Oil City Library, not the park.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out. Thanks so much! Ivy Kuberry

Wildflower Walk (AM)

Saturday, May 6

9:00am-11:00am

Jersey Bridge Trailhead

Join the park naturalist for a walk on the paved bike trail starting at the Jersey Bridge Trailhead as we learn to identify spring wildflowers. We will walk out-and-back in a leisurely fashion with no set distance.

Wildflower Walk (PM)

Saturday, May 6

1:00pm-3:00pm

Petroleum Centre Bike Trail Parking Lot

Join the park naturalist at Petroleum Centre Bike Trail Parking Lot for a walk on the paved bike trail as we learn to identify spring wildflowers. This is an out-and-back walk with no set distance.

REMINDER: The bridge by the park office is CLOSED. To reach the Petroleum Centre Bike Trail Parking Area, enter the park through Plumer. Take Rt. 227 to Petroleum Center Road. Continue for 2 miles until you see the park office on the right. The parking lot is directly after the park office on the right. Contact 814.676.5915 for further direction if needed.

Creek Critters

Tuesday, May 9

6:00pm-7:30pm

Oil City Library

What lives in your creek? Join the park naturalist to find out! We'll read a story about the helpful critters called macroinvertebrates that live in our local waterways before meeting some real macros collected from Oil Creek. After we identify the critters, we'll use our data to decide if Oil Creek is a healthy waterway. Register by calling the Oil City Library at 814.678.3072.

What's in Your Water?

Friday, May 12

5:30pm-7:00pm

Blood Farm

The Venango Conservation District is partnering with Oil Creek State Park to provide a fun and educational afternoon learning about aquatic stream species and their role in determining ecosystem health. Participants will learn how to sample and identify aquatic macroinvertebrates, test water quality, and determine best management practices for stream ecosystems. Those who attend will receive their own stream study kit to take home! Dress for the weather. If creek conditions permit, participants can enter the water during macroinvertebrate collection. Be sure to wear boots or old sneakers to walk in the creek. To register, contact Venango Conservation District office by calling (814) 676-2832 or email bkozalla.vcd@gmail.com.

Warbler Walk

Saturday, May 13

8:00am-whenever

Blood Farm

Join us for this walk led by Mal Hays and Larry Towse to see wonderful warblers. At this time of year, warblers will be returning to our area to breed while others will be migrating through the area. All are welcome to this family-friendly walk. Expect to be birding for about 2 – 2 ½ hours, but you can leave earlier. Meet at 8 am at the Blood Farm area at Oil Creek State Park. We'll observe birds in this area from 8-8:30 am before starting a leisurely loop walk on trails. Be prepared for damp or soggy areas if it's been a wet spring.

Books-n-Bike

Saturday, May 20

1:00pm-3:00pm

Petroleum Centre Bike Trail

Ride or walk along the bike trail in Oil Creek State Park during this family friendly event organized by Stephanie Staub and the Oil City Area School District. At this event we will have three stations along Oil Creek's Bike trail for families to enjoy. The first station will be a read aloud of a story, the second station will be a STEM challenge, and the third station will be a trail talk and treat! Students will collect artifacts at each station to earn a prize after all are completed. Students and families can come at any time during the event. The last group will start at 2:30. Families can choose to walk or bike the event. Please bring your own bike and helmets if you choose to bike the trail.

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Geology of Oil Creek

Saturday, May 27

1:00pm-3:00pm

Wildcat Hollow Parking Lot

Lace up your hiking boots and join the park naturalist on a hike through some of Oil Creek State Park's most interesting geologic features. We'll cover approximately 1 mile of steep, rocky terrain as we learn about the formation and geologic history of the Oil Creek Valley. This trail is difficult and can be wet or slick in the spring. Please wear appropriate footwear and dress for the weather. You may want to bring hiking poles if you use them.

REMINDER: The bridge by the park office is CLOSED. To reach Wildcat Hollow from Oil City, take Rt. 8 to State Park Road and continue for 2.8 miles. The parking lot will be on the right before the train tracks. To reach Wildcat Hollow from Titusville, take Rt. 8 to Petroleum Center Road and continue to the stop sign. Turn right, then immediately left. The parking lot will be on the left after crossing the train tracks. Contact 814.676.5915 for further direction if needed.

Ivy Kuberry | Environmental Education Specialist
Oil Creek State Park | Bureau of State Parks
305 State Park Road | Oil City, PA 16301
Phone: 814.676.1810 | Fax: 814.677.5082
www.dcnr.state.pa.us