



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



# Oil Creek State Park Trail

*Pennsylvania*



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It's hard to believe that the world's first oil boom occurred along the path of what's now the Oil Creek State Park Trail. The park's forests, beaver ponds, and trout streams were once the site of oil derricks, boomtowns, pipelines, refineries, and a railroad that served the nation's first oil patch.

In 1859 Edwin Drake was the first to strike oil after months of difficult drilling at a site along Oil Creek known since pre-Colonial times for its oil seepages. Oil was mainly used as a substitute for whale oil in lamps and patent medicines; such uses as fuels, plastics, and fertilizers all came later. Soon oil boomtowns popped up along Oil Creek, and railroads began serving them in 1862.

The trail runs on the corridor of the first railroad to reach

Titusville, the Oil Creek Rail Road, which ran to a main rail line in Corry. It later ran the length of Oil Creek to Petroleum Centre and merged to become the Oil Creek and Allegheny River Railway in 1868, and still later became part of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The trail passes through Oil Creek State Park for 9.7 miles; the 1.5-mile [Queen City Trail](#) connects it to Titusville. In addition to the frequent bicyclists and hikers, the path—open daily, sunrise–sunset—is also popular among those who enjoy fishing for bass and trout.

The trail is part of the future 270-mile Erie to Pittsburgh Trail, which will connect with the [Great Allegheny Passage](#). At its southern endpoint, it connects to the 9.4-mile [McClintock Trail](#), which heads south to Oil City and provides further connections to the 3-mile [Oil City Trail](#) and 6-mile [Samuel Justus Recreation Trail](#). The trail is also part of the Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition's developing 1,500-mile trail network through Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, and New York.

The main trailhead is at the Jersey Bridge Parking Area at Oil Creek State Park, which is also the southern endpoint for the [Queen City Trail](#). For a 0.3-mile side trip to the informative Drake Well Museum, which includes a replica of that first oil well, turn right from the parking lot and cross Oil Creek, and then turn right onto Museum Lane.

Otherwise, turn left from the parking lot and head south along the west shore of Oil Creek. The trail follows the twists and turns of Oil Creek through a mostly hardwood forest, which provides good shade in the summer and good views across the gorge that Oil Creek and the trail runs through. There also are numerous historical sites along the trail, as well as some still-working oil and gas wells.

You'll pass the locations of such boomtowns as Boughton, Millers Farm, Shaffer Farm, Pioneer, and Funkville as you



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**States:** Pennsylvania

**Counties:** Venango

Length: 9.5miles

**Trail end points:** Queen City Trail at Drake Well Road near Museum Lane (Titusville) to McClintock Trail near Petroleum Center Road and Russell Corners Road (Oil City)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

## Parking & Trail Access

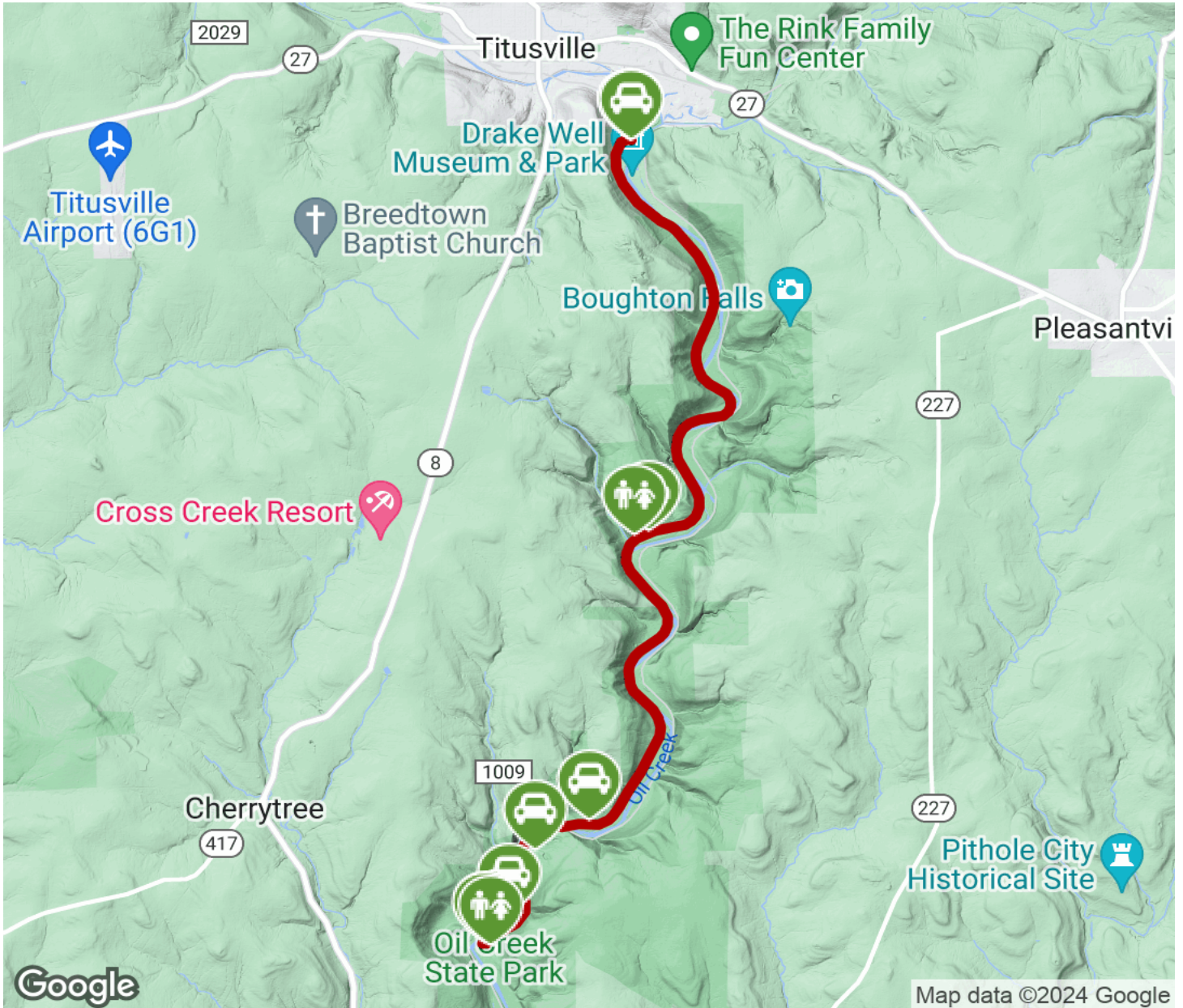
There are several locations for parking along the trail. See the [TrailLink Map](#) for more information.





# Oil Creek State Park Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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