

Oil Creek 100 Trail Runs

Course Description

Abbreviations

DWM – Drake Well Museum

- approx. 1 mile loop around the site of the historic Drake Well, birthplace of the oil industry in 1859
- 100 milers skip this loop their final short 7.7 mile “going home” loop

GHT – yellow blazed Gerard Hiking Trail, with a few white ‘alternate’ trail sections.

TMS – Titusville Middle School - race HQ, start / finish, AS # 4 at kitchen loading dock

General

The course is counter-clockwise primarily on the yellow blazed GHT. You go south on the west GHT to Petroleum Center PA, then north on the east GHT back to TMS race HQ.

Course markings - all races

- pink & silver striped marking flags – with Reflexite reflective tape
- small orange soccer cones – with Reflexite reflective tape
- no painted or lime arrows are used



Course marking - 100 mile “going home” loop

- solid fluorescent green marking flags with a piece of Reflexite reflective tape

Race website with course photos and most other info: OilCreek100.org / oc100.org

NO crew or family at **AS # 1** Wolfkill Run or **AS # 3** Miller Farm Road bridge as there is not enough parking for volunteers. You face disqualification if your crew or family meets you at these aid stations. There is a safety issue in getting emergency vehicles into this narrow and remote dirt Miller Farm Road bridge area. This is a one lane bridge with a weight restriction.

LOOP 1 - all races

You will have approx. 1.5 miles to space out before entering the primarily single track west GHT.

Section 1 Start – 7.1 miles

TMS to AS # 1 Wolfkill Run

1. Start at TMS rear courtyard, left onto the rear school access road, immediate right across bridge over Oil Creek, then a left onto Bank St
2. At the end of Bank St (where it makes a hard right and becomes Allen St), go straight ahead on the paved bike path which will be marked by orange soccer cones
3. Stay on the bike path, go straight across the road at the Jersey Bridge bike / hike parking lot, and continue on the bike path for about ¼ mile until you reach the west GHT trail head (green metal pipe entrance). Take a hard right across the small wooden bridge (**caution – extremely slippery when damp**) and enter the southbound west GHT.
4. After nearly 2 miles you will descend some switchbacks and see signs to bear to the right to stay on the main yellow-blazed west GHT. There will be plenty of trail marking material here (and possibly a volunteer) to make sure you do **not** turn left and go down the hill on the white alternate trail to the bike path. There should also be **1 gallon jugs of Culligan water** on the ground at this intersection and a trash bag.

Note: the left fork down the hill on the white alternate trail is what the 100 milers will be running down on their final 4th “going home” loop. 100 milers will see a large sign three times to get familiar with this intersection for their final 4th loop.

5. Follow the yellow GHT south for about 3.5 miles to AS # 1 at Wolfkill Run picnic pavilion. Be sure to bypass the Wolfkill Run shelters which is about ¾ of a mile before AS # 1. There is a wooden sign that says the shelters are 400 yards to your right. - do not go this way, bear to your left at this intersection and run down the hill.
6. You will level out after the steeper descent section and run along Wolfkill Run until you run straight into AS # 1 picnic pavilion.

Race portable toilets

NO crew / family, no drop bags

Section 2 – 6.8 miles

AS # 1 Wolfkill Run to AS # 2 Petroleum Center

1. Exit AS # 1 and continue south on the yellow GHT. Immediately after leaving AS # 1 you'll go up **“sWITCHback Mountain”** – a steep climb that takes about 8 or 9 minutes to hike. There is a scenic overlook bench that looks down on Miller Farm Rd bridge and AS # 3, a short level section, and then a short switchback descent along a steep bank (**caution – “unforgiving”**).
2. It is about 3.4 miles from AS # 1 to the unstaffed **water-only station** at the dirt Pioneer Road intersection. All unstaffed water-only stations have 5 gallon Culligan water containers with a hand pump. There may or may not be cups so plan on having a hand held water bottle. There may be a portable toilet in the small parking lot if the road is accessible race weekend.
3. In a few miles you will run past the Benninghoff Farm oil derricks, these are roughly a mile or a little more from AS # 2.
4. Go down the hill from Benninghoff Farm derricks, cross over a small arched wooden bridge, go the end of a guard rail, turn left and go straight across paved Petroleum Center Road and re-enter the GHT. Be careful crossing this road as runner crew / family will be using this road heavily for crew accessible AS # 2.
5. When you reach dirt Old Petroleum Center Road, turn left and follow this road straight into Petroleum Center. You will cross the active Oil Creek & Titusville RR train tracks (**caution during daylight hours**), go straight across the one-lane open grate bridge over Oil Creek.
6. About 100 yards past the bridge, turn right into the Egbert Farm picnic facility and follow the course markings to AS # 2. You will enter AS # 2 from the rear and exit it at the front to begin the trip back north to Titusville and race HQ at TMS. **Put your drop bags in the “return zone” if this is your last visit to the aid station so it can be returned to race HQ.**

Restroom (fairly nice composting pit toilets)

Race portable toilets

CREW and FAMILY permitted at this aid station, this is the only drop bag location other than at AS # 4 at TMS race HQ (for 100K and 100 milers). Parking is limited.

Drop bags will be returned to the front drop-off lane of TMS every couple of hours starting around noon.

Section 3 – 8.7 miles

AS # 2 Petroleum Center to AS # 3 Miller Farm Rd bridge

1. Exit AS # 2, cross the small ditch and use caution to go straight across paved Petroleum Center Road (**caution**) and on the right edge of the park office parking lot and following course marking material as always.
2. To the right of the park office there is a propane tank and the entrance to the white trail which leads up the hill to the main yellow GHT intersection. **“Heisman Trophy Hill”**
3. At the yellow GHT intersection there are permanent wooden directional signs – follow the course markings and bear to the left to head north toward Cow Run and Drake Well Museum past large rock formations.
4. After reaching the top of the hill you will follow the yellow and red dual-blazed cross country ski trails for a few miles that are more gentle and wider for easier passing. Use this section to make up time. Eventually the red cross country ski trail splits off from the main yellow GHT. Stay alert to course markings in this area so you don't accidentally end up on a cross country ski trail instead of on the yellow-blazed east GHT.
5. There is a slight right angle to cross dirt Russell Corners Rd, and in perhaps a mile you'll come to a gas line access road where there will be a portable toilet and an unstaffed water-only station.
6. In a few miles you'll come to Cow Run shelters where there is a restroom and a **water-only station**. At this point you are about 3.8 miles from AS # 3 Miller Farm Rd. Follow the soccer cones past the restroom and through the dirt parking lot for a short distance to the entrance to the northbound yellow blazed east GHT.
7. At dirt Miller Farm Rd turn left and follow the road down the hill, around the right turn, across the active Oil Creek & Titusville RR train tracks (**caution during daylight hours**) to AS # 3 Miller Farm bridge.

Race portable toilets

NO crew / family, no drop bags

Section 4A – 6.1 miles

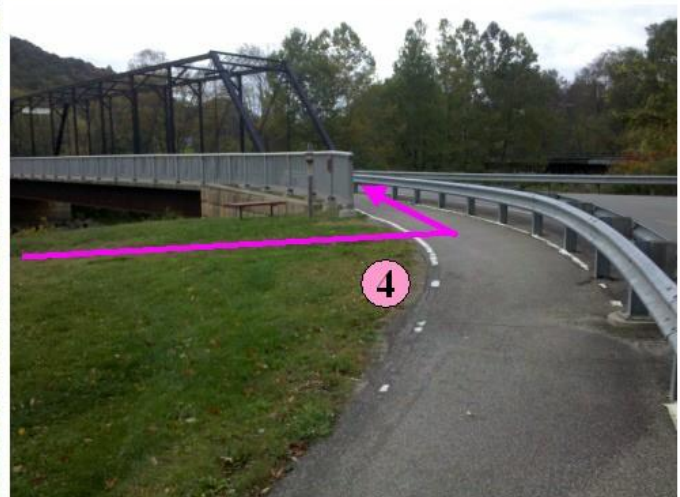
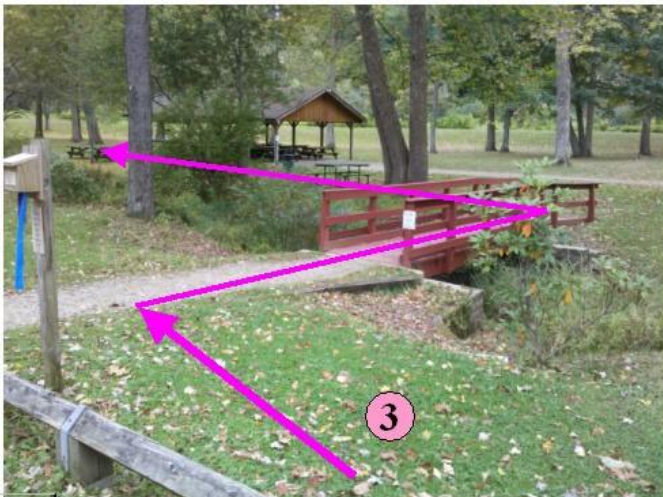
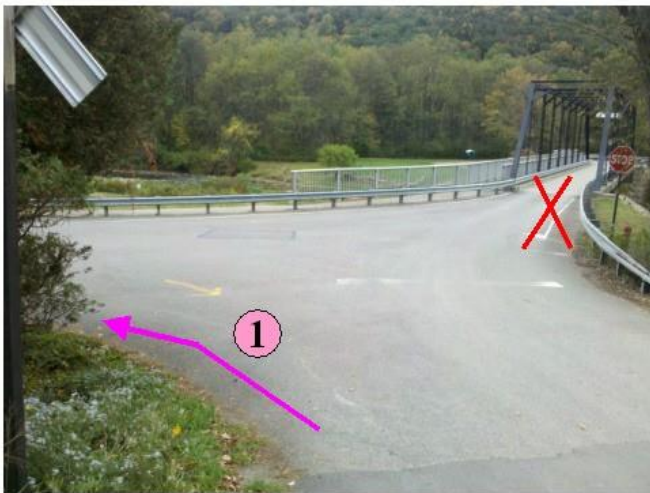
AS # 3 Miller Farm Rd bridge north on east GHT to northern trailhead at Jersey Bridge

1. Exit AS # 3 in the direction you came from, across the train tracks and go a short distance up the hill, turn left up the dark brown wooden staircase on the white alternate trail that leads past historic Miller Farm cemetery. **“Cemetery Hill”**
2. After going up the steeper hills near the cemetery you will bear to the left at the intersection with the main yellow GHT and continue going north toward Drake Well Museum on the yellow GHT. You will go over a large wooden bridge and then the long climb up **“Rockefeller’s Revenge”** - named after oil tycoon John D. Rockefeller that had his Standard Oil monopoly broken up in 1911 by the government after journalist Ida Tarbell’s expose on the company between 1902 and 1904.
3. About ¼ mile past the Toy Run wooden bridge there is a **water-only station** at an access road intersection. This is about 2.5 miles from AS # 3 Miller Farm Rd. There is a slight right angle as you cross the access road and to continue north on the yellow GHT.
4. Continue north on the east GHT and you will make your way up a gradual incline and Boughton Falls on your left, then make a hard left turn over a small wooden bridge at Boughton Run (**caution –extremely slippery when damp / wet**)
5. As you get closer to Boughton where in the 1860’s thousands of people lived, you will run down a bit of hill and come to a hard right turn on the east yellow GHT. To the immediate left there is an overlook with a bench, it is worth a minute to look north up Oil Creek toward Titusville and during the daylight you will be able to see the “swinging” suspension bridge that the 100 milers (only) will cross over as part of their final 7.7 mile 4th “going home” loop. At night you should be able to see the lights of Titusville.
6. At the trail intersection and sign for the “swinging” suspension bridge - which is a white trail which leads left down the hill to the westside trail – ignore it and continue to follow the pink striped flags or orange cones and go straight on the yellow GHT. The left white trail is the half mile long **“Hill of Truth”** that the 100 milers (only) will make their way up on their final “going home” loop (following their fluorescent green flags on that section of trail).
7. As you near Titusville you will start to hear the intermittent bark of the “Olin Hit & Miss engine” at Drake Well Museum. This sound lets you know are you are near the northern end of the east GHT. This engine normally runs during museum hours from approx. 9 AM til 5 PM and will be reproduced over the museum’s outdoor loudspeakers at night.
8. You will make your way down a hill and across a small wooden bridge and exit under the gate of the east GHT at a road. Turn left and up over the elevated crossing for the active Oil Creek & Titusville RR train tracks (**caution during daylight hours**).

Section 4B DWM loop – 1 mile

East GHT exit at Jersey Bridge, through historic DWM, back to Jersey Bridge

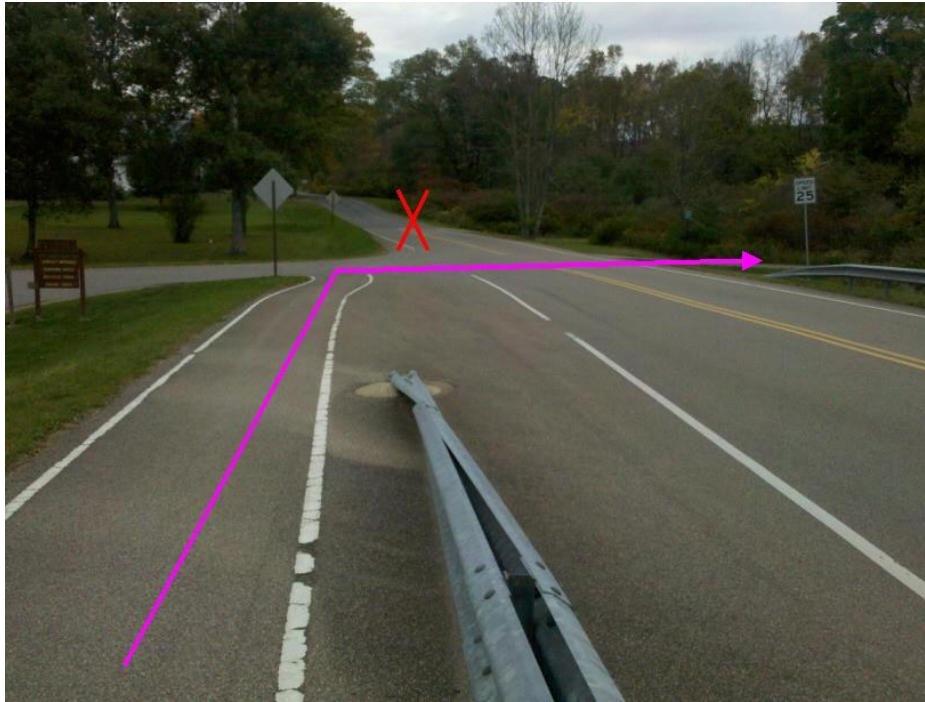
1. Turn left immediately past the tracks and run down Museum Lane to do the 1 mile Drake Well Museum loop which includes running past the Olin Hit & Miss Engine that you may have heard for a few miles on the trail. There will be abundant course markings and a sign indicating this loop. **DO NOT** run straight across the one lane Jersey Bridge or face disqualification.
2. The nearly flat loop will first go past the Oil Creek & Titusville RR station, through the gated main entrance, straight back along / through the DWM parking lots (caution – this area may be busy during daylight hours for the park's train).
3. Turn right to cross a small red bridge, sharp left past a picnic pavilion, then a right to the dike, then right to run along the dike separating Oil Creek from the museum.
4. The dike along Oil Creek goes past the Olin Hit & Miss engine, historic Drake Well, and ends at the Jersey Bridge walkway on the side of the bridge. Turn left and follow the walkway of the one-lane Jersey Bridge.



Section 4C – 1.3 miles

Jersey Bridge to TMS race HQ / finish/ AS # 4

1. At the end of the Jersey Bridge sidewalk you'll bear to the right and run about 30 yards, then make a hard right to cross over the paved road (**caution**) and onto the paved bike path. There will be a large sign at this intersection with a large right turn arrow to guide you to the FINISH / race HQ / AS # 4:



2. Follow the bike path back to Bank St, straight on Bank St, turn right onto the S Brown St bridge to cross Oil Creek. There is a sidewalk on the right side of the bridge to avoid traffic.

3. Race dependent:

50K

After crossing the bridge, immediately turn left and cross to the left side of the road (**caution**) and enter the school's rear bus drop-off road and right into the rear courtyard to **finish**. There will be a large FINISH sign with a left arrow at the entrance to the rear drop off road.

100K and 100 milers

After crossing the bridge, cross over to the left side of the road (**caution**) and follow the AS # 4 sign straight ahead along the outside of the TMS lawn, bearing left past the Coach John Heisman monument, along Water St the short distance to the school, left up the lawn to the tents at the corner of the school for AS # 4. Check in.

TMS race HQ –finish line and AS # 4



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LOOP 2 - 100K & 100 miler

Repeat – see loop 1 details

Exit AS # 4 by continuing through it and along the outside school wall / gymnasium, left on the sidewalk next to the rear bus lane, right across the bridge over Oil Creek just like you did at the start of the race. You end up making a counter-clockwise loop in and out of AS # 4. Repeat loop 1.

100K

Enter the school's rear bus drop-off road and right into the rear courtyard to finish. There will be a large FINISH sign with a left arrow at the entrance to the rear drop off road.

100 milers

Check in at AS # 4 for the second time.

LOOP 3 - 100 miler

Repeat – see loop 1 details - check in at AS # 4 for the third and final time.

LOOP 4 - 100 miler - final 7.7 mile “going home” loop

First 3.4 miles of section 1

1. Exit AS # 4 in the usual (and now-familiar) counter-clockwise loop.
2. After about 2 miles on the trail and descending the switchbacks you will again reach the Boughton Acid Works white alternate trail intersection where the large OC100 race sign is located... this is your 4th time seeing it so you should be very familiar with it by now.
3. At this intersection follow the sign for the 100 mile “going home” loop by turning LEFT to go down the hill on the white alternate trail (instead of doing the hard right turn on the first 3 loops).
4. The short section across the bottom of the valley and over Oil Creek will be marked with fluorescent green flags with Reflexite reflective tape. Go down the hill, through the Boughton Acid Work dump area (it has sulfuric acid burns that look like a fire site, and you can usually smell the acid) and bear left on the trail to the paved bike path.

5. Run straight across the bike path (caution during daylight hours – watch for bicyclists both directions), run the flat section along Oil Creek, across the “swinging” suspension bridge over Oil Creek, across the active train tracks (caution during daylight hours).

6. Enter the white alternate trail head, proceed up the half mile long “Hill of Truth” with its several switchbacks (some level, some relatively steep), bear left and rejoin the yellow blazed east GHT to go north toward DWM just as you did the first 3 loops. You will have seen this intersection during your 3 prior loops so it should look familiar by this time, there is the large wooden brown sign for the suspension bridge.

7. Exit the east GHT for the 4th and final time (congratulations), left up over the elevated train crossing (caution), bear to the left and go about 30 yards until you are even with the end of the guard rail, turn right and cross the road (caution) so that you skip the DWM 1 mile loop, and run on the inside of the guard rail across the one-lane Jersey Bridge’s sidewalk.

Section 4B – 1.3 miles

Jersey Bridge to TMS race HQ / FINISH – 100.6 miles

100 milers

Enter the school’s rear bus drop-off road and right into the rear courtyard to finish.
Congratulations !