



Columbia Farm

Venango County, Oil Creek State Park

DONORS & SPONSORS

Let George Do It

CONTRACTED SERVICES

Klapec Express

Cleanup Date: Oct. 8-10, 2008
Township: Cornplanter
Trash Removed: ~12 tons
Scrap Recycled: 37.89 tons

Cleaning the Columbia Farm of debris increased visitor safety and has substantially increased the beauty of the area, contributing to the aesthetics of Oil Creek State Park. The clean-up was the first step in preparing the historical farm for a self-guided interpretive tour. It could not have been accomplished without the direction and assistance from PA Cleanways!

Jake Weiland
Park Manager
Oil Creek State Park

The 400 acre original farm on this site was known as the William Story Farm. It was purchased in 1860 by a group of Pittsburghers, among them Andrew Carnegie, and renamed Columbia Farm. Columbia Oil Company was formed and it became a town during the oil heydays before eventually dying out. The original Columbia town has changed hands over time and the buildings and ruins remaining are mostly from more recent operations. At one time, casing head gasoline was made here and sold under a brand name, and numerous old oil wells are still in the process of being plugged. In 1972, Columbia Farm became a part of Oil Creek State Park.

Many of the remaining structures were in various states of disrepair and were a hazard to state park visitors. Restoration of the buildings was not feasible and a contractor was brought in to safely remove several of them. The scrap metal was separated from the structural wood and recycled. The building footprints were left in place as a reminder of the historic era.



Cleanup funding provided by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Forest Lands Beautification Program.



Empowering people to eliminate illegal dumping and littering in Pennsylvania