



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Walla Walla District

News Release

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Corps hosts ‘wild’ Earth Day presentation

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – Park rangers at Mill Creek Dam and Bennington Lake will celebrate Earth Day with a “wild” program for visitors from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, April 23, at the Rooks Park picnic shelter, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials at the dam announced today.

The Corps partnered with Blue Mountain Wildlife, Blue Mountain Audubon Society and Walla Walla Community College’s Water Resource Center to offer this outdoor program. Information and activities will focus on the fish, birds and wildlife that inhabit the Walla Walla area, said John Derinzy, Walla Walla District park ranger.

A live raptor presentation by Blue Mountain Wildlife, a wildlife rehabilitation center in Pendleton, Ore., is set for 10 a.m.

“We have a lot of school kids coming, but the event is open to the public, as well,” Derinzy noted. “We hope this program will enhance people’s appreciation for wildlife and the natural environment which animals and people share.”

Mill Creek Dam and Bennington Lake encompasses more than 600 acres of land -- the largest public open space in the Walla Walla Valley. These lands provide flood risk management capability, and recreation and wildlife benefits. Recreational facilities include Rooks Park, the Mill Creek Trail and the Bennington Lake Recreation Area. There are more than 20 miles of recreation trails throughout Corps-managed Mill Creek lands. Last year, visitation was more than 264,000.

Directions to Rooks Park: from Hwy. 12 at the east end of Walla Walla, exit south onto Tausick Way; at the traffic signal, turn west onto Isaacs Ave. and follow it 1 mile to Rooks Park Road on the right.

For more information about this Earth Day program or Mill Creek recreation opportunities, call (509) 527-7165.

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