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CREEK FEST

12 - 4 p.m. Saturday May 4th

Carpenter Recreation Area, White Clay Creek State Park

The family event of the spring! Live band, family entertainment, kids crafts, food, nature talks, live animals, local colonial history enactors, fly fishing clinics, native gardening ideas, FREE Water Bottles, and MORE. Co-sponsored with White Clay Creek State Park, United Water Suez Environment, Friends of White Clay Creek State Park, and the American Mushroom Institute.



The Watershed Steering Committee, with our local and state partners, is charged with promoting the long-term protection of the White Clay Creek watershed and its resources in Pennsylvania and Delaware through the implementation of the Watershed Management Plan. The Management Plan Coordinator was added in 2002 to assist the Committee in project and administrative duties. In January 2011, a Management Committee Planning Team began the process of Strategic Planning to guide the development and focus on priority issues in the White Clay Watershed for the next five years. For more information, please visit our website at www.whiteclay.org.

The White Clay Creek watershed contains some significant natural areas and outstanding values through which the watershed achieved its federal designation. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Program supported projects that protect this jewel through community outreach and education, open space preservation, restoration, and research.

White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic Steering Committee Members:

Kyle Sonnenberg, Delaware Co-Chair, Newark Delaware Resident
 Aileen Parrish, Pennsylvania Co-Chair, London Britain Township
 Phil Geoghegan, Franklin Township
 Don Peters, New Garden Township
 Linda Stapleford, WCCSP Advisory Committee
 Martha Corrozi Narvaez, University of Delaware Water Resources Agency
 Kristen Travers, Delaware Nature Society
 Douglas Janiec, CardnoENTRIX
 Ed O'Donnell, Fly Fishers
 Dorothy Miller, Coalition of Natural Stream Valleys
 Martin Wells, London Britain Land Trust
 John Theilacker, Brandywine Conservancy
 Jack Stefferud, Natural Lands Trust
 Sally Cheyne, London Britain Township
 Jake Michael, Chester County Planning
 Nick McFadden, DNREC, Division of Parks and Recreation
 Gerald Kauffman, University of Delaware Water Resources Agency
 Kevin Donnelly, New Castle Conservation District
 Thomas Zawislak, President White Clay Watershed Association
 David Hawk, Treasurer White Clay Watershed Association

Jennifer Egan, Management Plan Coordinator 2012 - Staff
 Shane Morgan, Management Plan Coordinator 2013 - Staff
 Julie Bell, National Park Service liaison to Wild & Scenic Watershed Steering Committee



For information on all of our projects
 visit our website www.whiteclay.org or find us on
 Facebook/WhiteClayWildandScenic and
 Twitter/WhiteClayWS



Upcoming Community Events 2013

Spring Volunteer Opportunities:

- Earth Day Planting at Swift Park, Hockessin, Delaware
- Stormwater Retrofits, Hunt at Louviers, Newark, Delaware

Summer Workshops:

- Children in Nature Family Hike at Goddard Park, London Grove Township, Pennsylvania
- Stream Adoption Workshop, Middle Run Natural Area, Delaware

Fall Lecture and Tour:

- Journey Towards Sustainability, Case Study - Margot Taylor, Land Ethics

(Check website for dates and times)
www.whiteclay.org



WATERSHED STEERING COMMITTEE 2012 UPDATE

WHITE CLAY CREEK NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

Working to promote and support the preservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural and cultural resources, and in addition, encourage a balance of recreational enjoyment of the White Clay Creek Watershed in Pennsylvania and Delaware.



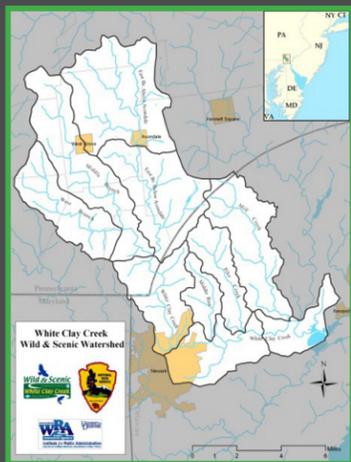


Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers

The 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act calls on the nation to preserve select rivers in free-flowing condition. Rivers are chosen on the basis of outstanding values such as scenic, recreational, ecological, geologic, historic or cultural.

Most National Wild and Scenic Rivers flow through federal lands, but Partnership Rivers flow through privately held lands or lands owned by local or state governments. The National Park Service provides funds and staff assistance to communities and local and state representatives to protect and manage these rivers for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

White Clay Creek was designated a Partnership Wild and Scenic River by an Act of Congress signed into law by President Clinton in October 2000.



2012 UPDATE

Welcome to the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic Program Update. The Watershed Steering Committee presents our 2012 accomplishments to watershed partners, legislators, and our community.

Ecological Research and Restoration

“The good life of any river may depend on the perception of its music; and the preservation of some music to perceive.”
-ALDO LEOPOLD

Human influence in the White Clay watershed has left terrestrial and aquatic species stressed and habitats fragmented or destroyed. A goal of the Wild and Scenic Program is to aid our partners in securing grant funding to research issues and restore the impairments by implementing projects supported by scientific research.

Freshwater mussels are the most imperiled of all the flora and fauna across North America, as well as in the State of Delaware. Once extirpated from a stream, mussels are not able to recolonize easily because either there is no longer broodstock nearby, or dams and other impediments to fish passage may block dispersal of juveniles (via fish hosts) back into the stream. Based on preliminary research that indicated food and water conditions in the White Clay were capable of supporting mussels, the Committee is supporting the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary with its mussel recovery efforts in the White Clay.

Thanks to tax deductible contributions made by Delaware citizens to the White Clay Creek Restoration Fund, The Partnership will conduct additional mussel surveys in the Delaware

portion of the White Clay in Spring 2013. Contingent on supportive outcomes from the surveys, up to 200 adult freshwater mussels from the Brandywine will be collected, tagged and relocated to three selected areas of White Clay Creek. This is an exciting new restoration opportunity that will be explored further in 2013!

In the past, dams were a part of the fabric of historic land use; however most of the seven dams remaining on the White Clay in DE are no longer in use. These dams are proposed for removal to restore the natural flow of the creek and support fish passage. We are continuing to assist our partner, the Water Resources Agency, with planning for the eventual removal of the first dam farthest downstream.

Cultural surveys conducted in 2012 by the University of Delaware’s Center for Historic Architecture and Design show that Dam No. 1 is a historic 18th century dam; therefore, portions thereof will be preserved intact with a public education display serving to re-tell the dam’s historic past. Restoration plans now include a partial notch in the dam in order to restore fish passage and also to preserve the historic nature of the dam. It will be the first dam removal in Delaware, slated for 2013.

Research on the effects of urban runoff was conducted and reported by a University of Delaware student from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Water Research Center. An additional student at the Water Resources Agency at University of Delaware helped in compiling best management projects and recommendations from various reports from the last 10 years for the White Clay Watershed. This research assisted in the strategic planning meetings held throughout 2012.

Land Preservation and Reforestation

“To plant trees is to give body and life to one’s dreams of a better world.”
-RUSSELL PAGE

In the last 10 years the Wild and Scenic funding has played a vital role in filling gaps to help preserve land in the watershed. In 2012, our funding helped with the cost of securing easements on approximately 154 acres in London Grove Township, PA. This easement area contains important habitat, 3200’ of the Middle Branch, 100-year floodplain, wetlands, 56± acres of Cockeysville marble geology, woodlands, specimen trees, and 86± acres prime agricultural soils. In addition, a 2 acre property along the East Branch in New Garden Township was acquired as a critical link in the envisioned 15 mile, bi-state, White Clay Creek Loop Trail. An additional commitment was made to preserve 34 acres in London Grove Township that may close in 2013.

Research shows that the single most important factor explaining variation in water quality is the percentage of tree cover in each watershed. The White Clay Creek Reforestation Plan, which set a goal of 40% minimum forest cover, is therefore integral to our watershed health. Striving to reach this goal and set priorities for future restoration efforts, planning meetings were held to discuss how to select and prioritize projects. Lands discussed included public, HOA and private ownership. Two sites along the East Branch in Pennsylvania were targeted and four acres (1150 trees) of riparian buffers were installed with the help of 118 volunteers. Restoring the native trees and forests one acre, one tree at a time, helps improve habitat and water quality.

Community Outreach and Education

The White Clay Wild and Scenic Program provided several educational outreach opportunities to increase community awareness of the valuable natural, recreational and historic resources of the White Clay Creek Valley.

- Exhibited at **Newark Community Day** with 20,000+ residents attending.
- Supported Delaware Nature Society in providing a **Community Habitat workshop** in an effort to certify the City of Newark a National Wildlife Federation Community Habitat. Three Newark residents within

the White Clay watershed received reimbursements up to \$200 for installing a rain garden on their properties.

- Hosted a Rain Garden workshop with the Rain Gardens for the Bays Program targeting corporations, developers, and homebuilders.
- Held the 4th annual **Creek Fest** with Delaware State Parks and United Water Suez focusing on the tremendous natural, cultural and recreational assets of the White Clay Creek Valley. There were 800 attendees, with 290 receiving water bottles provided by United Water Suez.
- Hosted the First **White Clay Creek Symposium** focusing on research in the White Clay watershed at the Stroud Research Center with over 40 people in attendance.
- Contracted Gaadt Perspectives to assist New Castle County (DE) with their Comprehensive Development Plan. Environmental and land use planning, including strategies to encourage sustainable development sensitive to the White Clay Creek watershed mission, were provided.

School Programs

- Provided funds for a four-hour **Stream Field Study** for 20 sixth grade students through Stroud Water Research Center.
- Supported **Shad in Schools** fry incubation and release in White Clay Creek’s main stem for two DE schools and one PA school for 80 school children.
- Provided funds for two **White Clay Watershed & Stream Quality Classroom Presentations** serving 271 students at Skyline Middle School (DE) through the Delaware Nature Society.

RECREATION

- Provided comments and coordination regarding proposed trail changes in White Clay Creek State Park. Comments were to help enhance public access while protecting the critical natural habitat.
- Continued support of the Loop Trail and municipal connections in Chester County. The connections will complete a recreationally important multi-jurisdictional pedestrian/bikeway trail.

WATERSHED MONITORING AND PROJECTS

- Planning began in the fall of 2012 for three **stormwater basin retrofits** in partnership with the City of Newark. Two outreach events are scheduled for early 2013 to inform homeowners of the water quality and wildlife benefits of the retrofits and garner community support. Retrofits are scheduled for April 2013.
- Partnered with PA DEP to conduct **bacterial sampling** along the main stem of the East Branch in PA. Eight volunteers collected 50 samples at 5 locations.
- Assisted the National Park Service in monitoring development proposals and permit applications for potential impacts to White Clay Creek and its tributaries as designated streams within the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System.

White Clay Wild and Scenic Maximizes Federal Dollars!

Like all Partnership National Wild and Scenic Rivers, we leverage National Park Service funding with in-kind contributions from state, county, local governments, partner organizations and the community. This year \$30,000 in open space preservation funds helped secure easement on 156 acres worth \$2.2 Million! An additional \$10,000 commitment was made to help preserve an additional 34 acres along the Middle Branch of the White Clay Creek in 2013.

Other donations and in-kind services to the Steering Committee in 2012 included: United Water Suez Grant (\$2000), White Clay Creek Restoration Fund Contributions from Delaware tax filers (\$4,940.87), Delaware State Employee Charitable Contributions (\$123.40). As well as, 1000 hours professional assistance with land preservation, ecological restoration, reforestation planning, events, outreach, mailings, and Management Committee volunteer time valued at \$72,517. An additional \$8,078 in funds were secured for habitat and water quality improvements for 2013. This represents a total estimated value of \$87,659 leveraged against \$99,000 in federal funding

PARTNERSHIPS - Cost-Effective, Sustainable, Catalysts

2012 Partners: Coalition for Natural Stream Valleys, Natural Lands Trust, Brandywine Conservancy, Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control, Delaware Nature Society, Chester County and New Castle County Conservation Districts, Friends of White Clay Creek State Park, Taproot Native Design, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Stroud Water Research Center, University of Delaware, United Water Suez Environment, White Clay Watershed Association, City of Newark, and Franklin, London Britain, London Grove and New Garden Townships, and Chester and New Castle Counties.