

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2011



EVENTS

SPRING WORKSHOP

Shad Restoration in the White Clay Creek (check website for date and time)

PROJECTS TO FOLLOW IN 2011

Dam Removal in addition to openspace preservation and reforestation will continue as focal projects in the watershed. Community involvement will also be an important component of 2011!

CREEK FEST

1 – 4 p.m. Saturday May 7th
Carpenter Recreation Area,
White Clay Creek State Park

Bigger and better! 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 and United Water Suez Environment.



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FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ALL OUR PROJECTS, SEE WWW.WHITECLAY.ORG

White Clay Creek Watershed Management Committee
National Wild & Scenic Rivers Program

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WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2010 UPDATE



WHITE CLAY CREEK
NATIONAL WILD & SCENIC RIVER





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PARTNERSHIP WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM

The 1968 Wild and Scenic River 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 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, state and county representatives to manage these rivers for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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

MARCH 2011 UPDATE

Welcome to the White Clay Creek Update. The Watershed Management Committee, which administers the White Clay Creek National Wild and Scenic River program, presents our 2010 accomplishments to watershed partners, legislators, and our community.

The Watershed Management 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. For more information regarding the White Clay Creek Watershed Management Committee, Management Plan, role of the National Park Service and River Administrator, history of the White Clay Creek's Wild and Scenic River designation, past and current projects and events, and volunteer opportunities, please visit our website at www.whiteclay.org.

2010 was a special year that marked the 10th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Designation of the White Clay Watershed. Special events were held to celebrate the anniversary of the designation. These events are highlighted in this update.

REFORESTING AND RESTORING

In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.

John Muir

The Management Committee, in concert with other local groups, began the work of implementing the White Clay Creek Watershed Reforestation Plan. With partners and funding from last year's Pennsylvania League of Women Voters' Watershed Resources Education Network and the Dockstader Foundation grants, we conducted a Reforestation Workshop for 42 Pennsylvania watershed residents and officials. Attendees learned how planting trees benefited their community and the watershed. They also were given resources to help

PARTNERSHIPS - Cost-Effective, Sustainable, Catalysts

2010 Partners: Bi-state Preserve Council, Brandywine Conservancy, Coalition for Natural Stream Valleys, Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control, Delaware Nature Society, Chester County and New Castle County Conservation Districts, Duffield Associates, Friends of White Clay Creek State Park, Hale-Byrnes House, Natural Lands Trust, 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.

them both in planning their own tree planting projects and to encourage the formation of volunteer groups to assist with planting and maintaining the reforestation projects.

The first and largest tree planting occurred in Franklin Township's Goodwin Preserve. Under the direction of Brandywine Conservancy, Stroud Water Research Center, and the Township, nearly 200 volunteers planted 2500 trees on 6 acres. Jessie Benjamin, Taproot Native Design, helped coordinate Chester Countians for a Clean Environment plant 450 trees on 1.3 acres with the help of 23 community volunteers. The trees were planted in London Grove Township on South East Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA) lands that will become part of parklands in the township. This planting is part of a three year project to establish a riparian buffer to protect a stream flowing to Chatham Run and to assist in providing future seed sources for natural succession. Other planning work has been done with Franklin Township and Avon Grove Charter School.

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING

Preserving open space is key to providing safer and more plentiful water, scenic vistas, cleaner air, recreational opportunities, and wildlife habitat. Two properties totaling 90 acres with an estimated value of \$1.5 million were preserved with Wild & Scenic assistance. Conservation and trail easements were purchased on a 24 acre portion of a property valued at \$362,000 and a 66 acre property, valued at \$1.2 million, both in the Middle Branch sub-watershed. Preservation of another three parcels, totaling 140 acres, with an estimated value of nearly \$1 million, is near completion.

Our Open Space Preservation program includes landowner contacts, research of funding sources and groups to hold fee simple titles or easements, and grant applications.



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COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

OUTREACH

Municipal and County

- Tracked or provided input on resource protection involving 1 large development project.
- Made final presentation to City of Newark City Council as they considered new environmental ordinance sections that are consistent with our Management Plan, recommendations adopted.

Citizen

- Organized Community Workshops with WCWA on Dissuading Deer from your Garden and with Brandywine Valley and Red Clay Valley Associations on Gardening for Wildlife, combined 140 participants
- Held the second Creek Fest with Pennsylvania and Delaware State Parks and United Water Suez Environment to increase community awareness of the valuable natural and historic resources of the White Clay Creek Valley; 400 attendees with 200 receiving free rain gages provided by United Water Suez
- Exhibited at London Grove Green Fair and Newark Community Day, total contacts about 1200 persons
- Promoted and offered Ten programs for the tenth anniversary including: The Pomeroy Railroad and Wildflower Walk; Creek Geology Family Hike; White Clay Creek Fest; Spring Kayak Trip Along the White Clay; Stroud Water Research Center Tour; Historic Buildings in the Preserve; Creekin' for Critters; North Creek Nursery Tour; Hale Byrnes House History; and Bi-State Preserve Hike
- Presented at City of Newark Rainbarrel Workshop, 25 participants

School

- Provided funds for a four hour Stroud Water

Research Center stream field study for one 6th grade class

- Presented a program for Newark Center for Creative Learning

TRAILS AND RECREATION

- Printed 2000 water and tear resistant copies of the White Clay Creek Watershed Trail Map and Visitor Guide and made available online. Printed copies available at the White Clay Creek Preserve and State Park offices.
- Printed 1000 copies of the Bi-State White Clay Creek Trails Map (includes all trails in the White Clay Creek Preserve and State Park) and made available online. Printed copies available at the White Clay Creek Preserve and State Park offices.
- Provided seed funds to allow the contractor for London Grove, New Garden, and Franklin Townships to successfully obtain a Chester County grant to develop a multi-municipal White Clay Trail plan.
- Supported Chester County and State of Delaware on Bi-state trail planning

WATERSHED MONITORING AND AWARENESS

Completed Botanical surveys on two properties and for London Britain Township to provide information assisting with preservation priorities and grant proposals

Replaced five roadway signs within the Delaware portion of the watershed identifying White Clay Creek tributaries as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System Supported partners' successful first dam removal grant awarded for White Clay and the State of Delaware

Provided last phase of Stroud Water Research Center project to finalize the Stream Health Analysis report and refine the simplified online version

STRETCHING OUR 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. Two properties totaling 90 ac. (estimated value of \$1.5 m) were preserved; Conservation and trail easements were purchased on 24 ac. (valued at \$362,000) and on a 66 ac. Property (valued at \$1.2 m) and reforestation occurred on 15 acres. Other donations and in-kind services to the Management Committee in 2010 included: United Water Suez Environment (\$100); graphic artwork; professional assistance with land preservation & mapping, events & municipal outreach, website, and mailings; reforestation projects; and Management Committee volunteer time. This represents 2580 volunteer hours at total estimated value of \$124,360 leveraged against \$133,000 in federal funding.