

**QUARTERLY/ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT NARRATIVE**

Cooperative Agreement #: CA_P13AC01266
Award Recipient: White Clay Watershed Association
Project/Program Title: Wild & Scenic River Funding
Date: October 7, 2015
Period Covered by Report: July 1, 2015- September 30, 2015
Funds expended during this reporting period: \$14,701.97
Submitted by: Shane Morgan, Management Plan Coordinator
Submitted to: National Park Service – Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers

- 1) **Summary of work performed during the period covered by the report:** This quarter work focused on hands-on restoration/maintenance activities with University of Delaware Students and other volunteers, continuation of our summer bacteria sampling and site analysis with a West Chester University graduate student, migration and improvement of our web presence, planning for the New Garden Park Riparian Buffer including the completion of the first planting phase, outreach to White Clay watershed schools in an effort to provide more kids with a meaningful outdoor environmental education experience. More details to follow.
- 2) **Progress Achieved in Accomplishing Program Goals & Objectives**

**Objective/Task #1 Cooperative Agreement:** Plan and implement the enumerated goals in the White Clay Creek Watershed Management Plan with county, state and federal agencies, watershed municipal governments and non-government organizations with watershed conservation interests.

**Deliverable/Planned Outcome:** Partner with municipalities on installing and maintain existing and new green infrastructure.

**Actual 1:** Led two weeding events at Landenberg Junction Habitat Garden with Friend of New Garden Trails and five University of Delaware GEO 235 (Conservation of Natural Resources) students.

**Actual 2:** Led invasive species removal event with 14 University of Delaware GEO 235 (Conservation of Natural Resources) students at Goddard Park, West Grove at existing rain basins retrofitted by WCWS using DNREC and UWDE funds.

**Actual 3:** Led invasive species removal at basin 3 in the Hunt of Louviers stormwater basin retrofits with 9 University of Delaware GEO 235 (Conservation of Natural Resources) students. Students focused on removing a parasitic plant called Dodder from basin #3.

**Actual 4:** Led volunteer planting event at New Garden Park with 18 University of Delaware GEO 235 (Conservation of Natural Resources) students. 25 flats of native plants were installed in the floodplain buffer of Lamborn Run, a tributary to the East Branch.

\*All volunteer events located at municipal owned sites and focused on invasive species removal while educating volunteers about the benefits of conservation landscaping and teaching volunteers about the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic River.

**Favorable Development:** One student is interested in interning with the Wild and Scenic Program from January- May 2016. Another group of students would like to continue helping with native plant restoration projects.

**Deliverable/Planned Outcome:** Provide a watershed education experience to 4 school groups during the year.

**Actual 1:** Drafted Environmental Education Award notification letter and sent to 37 watershed schools in late September.

**Actual 2:** Avon Grove Intermediate School requested funding to send 370 fourth grade students to Stroud over a four-day period in Spring 2016. White Clay Wild and Scenic Program funds will be used for transportation and program expenses will be covered by Stroud's EITC funds. This is approximately a 1:3 match.

**Actual 3:** BVM Assumption requested funding to send 27 seventh grade students to attend Stroud in Spring 2016. Our funding will cover all expenses.

**Favorable outcomes:** Avon Grove School District is at the heart of the watershed in Pennsylvania. It is a large public school that could not take advantage of programs such as this due to transportation barriers, and unawareness of EITC program funding. On average we have sent under 100 children per year to Stroud. The letter increased awareness of our program and what we do and we now have 400 children who will be served, this is already a 400% increase over last year and we have matched our federal funds with state funds to send more students out in the field to conduct hands on watershed science.

**Actual 4:** Newark High School AP Environmental Science class of 27 students to attend Stroud in Spring 2016. Our funding will cover all expenses.

**Objective/Task #2 Cooperative Agreement:** Develop and produce interpretive exhibits, publications, other media and programs that interpret the resources of the White Clay Creek and watershed, with priority given to updating the website and maintaining an active social media presence.

**Deliverable/Planned Outcome:** New website design.

**Actual:** Migrated old site to Squarespace. The beta site is up and running and awaiting Committee approval to make the final switch over. <https://whiteclay.squarespace.com/>

**Deliverable/Planned Outcome:** Provide quarterly articles to watershed municipalities (New Garden Township and London Grove Township) promoting watershed stewardship and highlighting watershed projects.

**Actual 1:** Wrote and published article entitled, *What's new in New Garden Park? Improved Land Practices Promote Healthy Streams*, for the September 2015 New Garden newsletter. [http://newgarden.org/newsletter/NGP update Sept 2015 newsletter-cr.pdf](http://newgarden.org/newsletter/NGP_update_Sept_2015_newsletter-cr.pdf)

**Favorable Development:** A New Garden Resident reached out asking to help with project. She lives near the park and is willing to help monitor the site.

**Actual 2:** Wrote and published article for the September 2015 London Grove newsletter entitled, *'How can parks improve water quality?'* <http://www.londongrove.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/1164>

**Actual 3:** Designed new interpretive sign for the Goddard Park Rain Basins. The township installed the new sign in September. The fabrication of the sign was paid for by United Water Delaware (\$1000).

**Objective/Task #3 Cooperative Agreement:** Promote the long-term protection of the White Clay Creek watershed and its outstandingly remarkable resources.

**Deliverable/Planned Outcome:** Attend community events to increase general awareness of and appreciation for the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the watershed and expand audiences.

**Actual 1:** Attended Newark Community Day on September 20, 2015 (Jenny Egan and Tom Zawislak manned table)  
**Impact:** Estimated 20,000+ residents in attendance, and 21 new subscribers signed up to receive notifications from the White Clay Wild and Scenic Program.

**Actual 2:** Provided display materials for the Somerset Lake Community Annual Pig Roast on September 20, 2015. Pat Ward (lake committee member) manned the table.

**Impact:** Estimated 200 residents in attendance. The Lake Committee is trying to make more of its residents aware of the impact their personal property has on the water quality in Somerset Lake and the larger watershed. As a result, based on interest, they are putting in an order for rain-barrels.

**Actual 3:** Attended public meeting with DRBC regarding the proposed Artesian Broad Run Well in New Garden Township. Submitted to comment to the PA and DE commissioners, DRBC, and DEP regarding the need for a more robust monitoring plan. Advocated for a working session with DRBC, UDWRA, CCWRA, Stroud, WCWSP, and Artesian to develop a more favorable monitoring plan to ensure adequate stream flow in Broad Run. Aileen Parish represented the interests of the White Clay Wild & Scenic Committee at the public hearing held on September 16, 2015.

**Favorable development:** DRBC postponed approval of Artesian's Docket for further review; the new docket will be posted on October 30<sup>th</sup> (10 days prior to the November 10<sup>th</sup> public hearing). Additionally, DRBC is changing their public input process to allow time for more consideration of information received at the public hearings rather than continuing hold the public hearing and meeting on consecutive days.

**Objective/Task #4 Cooperative Agreement:** Provide technical support to NPS for planning, education, outreach and research activities as they relate to the White Clay Creek watershed.

**Actual:** Met with NPS and University of Delaware management (Scott Hopkins, Jenny McDermott) on site to explore potential restoration projects that Wild & Scenic and/or DelDOT could help fund. UD is receptive to installing a riparian buffer if DelDOT is willing to help fund.

**Favorable development:** UD CANR is interested in pursuing and potentially expanding its existing buffer regardless of DelDOT and is aware of the White Clay Restoration Funds (DE taxpayer monies) for this type of project. *This brought to light the need to develop a proposal/application for these funds so our partners know how to apply for them.*

**Actual:** Assisting NPS and the Brandywine Conservancy as they navigate the Section 7 review process for the Moorehead equestrian farm. This project will include 100'-300' riparian buffers along Exceptional Value waters of the White Clay on 19 acres of horse farm. It involves 3 remove and replace stream crossings that will be reviewed by NPS.

**Objective/Task #5 Cooperative Agreement:** Support the needs and goals of the White Clay Creek Steering Committee.

**Actual:** Attended multiple meetings and conferences with other non-profits and government entities representing the interests of the White Clay Steering Committee and White Clay Management Plan. (Including the Christina Basin Task Force, Chester County Watersheds Roundtable, New Garden Township DRBC public meeting, and the Delaware River Watershed Forum, Healthy Watershed Fund meeting with London Grove and Penn Townships)

**Objective/Task #6 Cooperative Agreement:** Work with the Water Resources Agency, Natural Lands Trust, and the Brandywine Conservancy to provide GIS analysis, technical assistance and recommendations to the NPS, watershed counties and municipalities, other non governmental organization and the State of Delaware and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania concerning the management of river resources.

**Deliverable/Planned Outcome:** Work with WCWA partners at the UD WRA to research and publish a 15-year progress report for the White Clay Creek Wild & Scenic River Program, including a municipal ordinance review.

**Actual:** Reviewed and edited first draft of report. Met with Martha and Andrew (UD WRA) to go over suggested content edits and additional mapping needs. Second draft for review will be available early October.

**Deliverable/Planned Outcome:** Student and technical assistance from UD WRA to generate GIS maps for displays and website.

**Actual 1:** Generated updated maps for 15-year progress report, revised wild and scenic designation map to show gaps in designated miles, created locator maps for watershed interpretive signage. Currently working on producing land use maps in the surround catchment basins for each bacteria-sampling site in Pennsylvania.

**Actual 2:** Completed watershed signage report which includes map locating existing watershed signage and corresponding addresses, photos of existing condition of sign, contact information for replacements, and replacement priorities indicated. Map will be used in an effort to replace outdated, vandalized, and faded signage and keep track of new signage.

**Deliverable/Planned Outcome:** Hire summer intern to continue bacteria sampling at 12 sites in the Pennsylvania portion of the watershed following PA DEP sampling protocol.

**Actual:** Completed and collected 10 samples from each of the 12 sites. Compiled data collected 2012-2015 into one spreadsheet. Intern put together qualitative assessments for each site and Andrew H. (UD WRA) is developing land use maps for each sampling point (to be completed mid-October). The maps will help us determine which microbial DNA markers to test for. Patrick Heringslack (summer intern) also put together a snapshot of each sampling site, including site photos, qualitative data, and quantitative data.