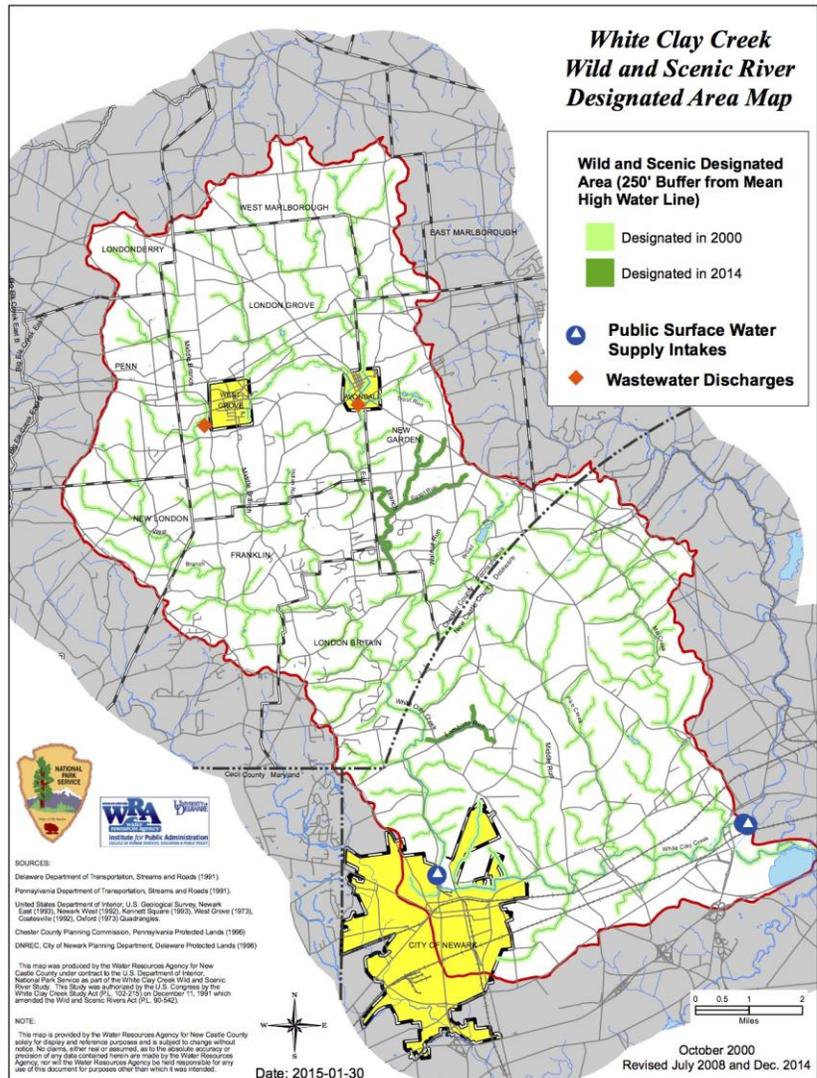




A win-win for White Clay Creek in New Garden Township: 7 stream miles gain protection!

By Shane Morgan, Management Plan Coordinator White Clay Wild & Scenic River Program

What do you treasure most about New Garden Township? I bet the White Clay Creek tops several of your lists with its bounty of natural and recreational resources! In December 2014, after almost 6 years of perseverance, the [White Clay Wild and Scenic Expansion Bill](#), sponsored by Senator Chris Coons (D- Del.) and Congressman Joe Pitts (R-Penn.), was passed adding nine stream miles to the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic designation. The new segments include a 1.6-mile stretch of Lamborn Run in Delaware and a 7.4-mile stretch in Pennsylvania, including portions of the East Branch and Egypt Run (see map). Both segments, originally excluded due to their potential to be dammed for future drinking water sources, will now receive the same protection as the original 190 miles in terms of federal assistance for any water resource projects that may pose a potential adverse impact to the creek or its resources.

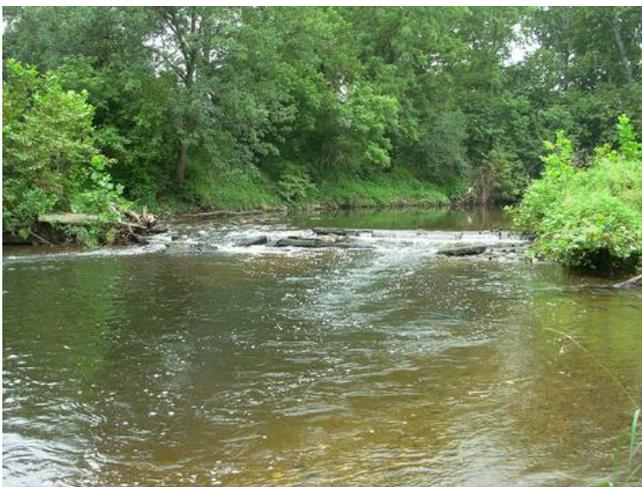


Our Wild & Scenic partnership first gained the support of New Garden Township, PA and New Castle County, DE. Then, we found champions in the Senate and House to sponsor the legislation to include these new stream segments. This support enabled us to expand protection for the White Clay Creek with no federal land acquisition and at no cost to taxpayers. How is that not a win-win?

In contrast to the vast majority of National Wild and Scenic Rivers, the White Clay Creek relies on strong public and private partnerships that work cooperatively for the long-term management and protection of the waterway. The role of the Federal government is not to own or manage lands along the river corridor. It is primarily to support local jurisdictions in long-term river management and protection by assisting with the development of a [river management plan](#), providing funding to implement that plan, and conducting reviews of any proposed [federally assisted water resources projects](#).

To highlight some of our successes, since 2005, the White Clay Wild and Scenic Steering Committee has on average, matched our federal funds 1:1. In other words, every dollar of federal funds spent has been matched 100% over the past decade. In fact, just in the past two years we have seen an even greater match in excess of 1:2.

Simply put, the federal funds we receive get put to good use. They are put towards conserving open space, implementing best management practices such as detention basin retrofits and manure management practices, dam removal, tree plantings, and education and outreach efforts that are supported by our local partners. Our partners include municipalities, state and county agencies, other non-profits, private donors, and of course local citizens who volunteer their time.



Byrnes Mill Dam 2012 © Craig



Byrnes Mill Dam Removal 2014 © Sheppard

Our biggest accomplishment is our Open Space program. Since 2000, we preserved just under 2000 acres of land were valued at \$26 million at a cost of just \$127,500 in federal funds. Furthermore, we planted 7,500 trees restoring 24 acres of stream side property with forest buffers at a cost of \$12,442 in federal funds. Finally, this past December we supported the University of Delaware's Water Resources Agency with [the first documented dam removal in the State of Delaware](#). The dam was also the first to be removed for shad restoration along the White Clay Creek.

To find out more about the White Clay Creek National Wild & Scenic River and for a sampling of projects please visit our website at www.whiteclay.org.