

A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

White Clay Creek Preserve

White Clay Creek Preserve

Pennsylvania
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Pennsylvania State Parks Mission

The primary purpose of Pennsylvania state parks is to provide opportunities for enjoying healthful outdoor recreation and serve as outdoor classrooms for environmental education. In meeting these purposes, the conservation of the natural, scenic, aesthetic, and historical values of parks should be given first consideration. Stewardship responsibilities should be carried out in a way that protects the natural outdoor experience for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

PAStateParks

2025



White Clay Creek Preserve



The 1388-acre White Clay Creek Preserve is in southern Chester County, three miles north of Newark, Delaware. The White Clay Creek Valley, which forms the core of the preserve, varies from steep to gradually rolling hills with some flat bottomlands. White Clay Creek Preserve shares a boundary with Delaware's White Clay Creek State Park.

White Clay Creek has been designated a National Wild and Scenic River because of its outstanding scenic, wildlife, recreational, and cultural value.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 39.746823 Long. -75.774176

The park is located 11 miles south of the Russellville/New London exit off US 1, along PA 896 and Indiantown Road.

Address: 405 Sharpless Road, Landenberg, PA 19350



Recreational Opportunities

White Clay Creek Preserve is managed for year-round, low-intensity recreational activities. Day use areas are open daily from sunrise to sunset.



FISHING: White Clay Creek is stocked several times throughout the season and is considered one of the best trout streams in the area. Middle Branch White Clay Creek is also a Keystone Select Stream, indicating the stocking of larger fish. Special delayed harvest and artificial lures only regulations apply to Middle Branch White Clay Creek from Good Hope Road south to its confluence with East Branch White Clay Creek.

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.



CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: Cross-country skiers may use any park trails when snow cover permits.

SIGHTSEEING: There are several points of historical interest in the preserve. Near the park office, visit the Evans House, London Tract Meeting House, and Sextons House. Hike to the Tri-State Marker (Pennsylvania/Delaware/Maryland) and the Arc Corner Monument which mark historical points along the Mason-Dixon Line.



London Tract Meeting House

BIKING: 2.8 miles
The southern portion of the PennDel Trail is relatively flat for biking. The hilly Edwin Leid Trail is open to mountain biking. E-bikes are permitted but must follow all e-bike guidelines. www.pa.gov/dcnr/ebike-policy



HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About 1,300 acres are open to the use of archery equipment and muzzleloaders for deer hunting only during respective seasons. The use of rifles, shotguns, and handguns is prohibited.

Hunting woodchucks, also known as groundhogs, is prohibited. Dog training is only permitted from the day following Labor Day through March 31 in designated hunting areas. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission rules and regulations apply. Contact the park office for ADA-accessible hunting information.

Use extreme caution with firearms at all times. Other visitors use the park during hunting seasons. Firearms and archery equipment used for hunting may be uncased and ready for use only in authorized hunting areas during hunting seasons. In areas not open to hunting or during non-hunting seasons, firearms and archery equipment shall be kept in the owner's vehicle or enclosed trailer. Exceptions include: law enforcement officers and individuals with a valid *Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms* are authorized to carry a firearm concealed on their person while they are within a state park.

HORSEBACK RIDING: 2.8 miles
The southern portions of the PennDel Trail and Edwin Leid Trail are available for horseback riding. Some sections of Edwin Leid Trail are steep.



Learn, Experience, Connect

White Clay Creek Preserve offers a variety of programs year-round. Gain a better understanding of the park's natural, cultural, and historical resources through guided outdoor recreation, hands-on activities, walks, special events, and other programs.

Curriculum-based environmental education programs are available to schools and organized groups. Call the park office to schedule a group program. A variety of professional development workshops are also offered for teachers.

Contact the park office or explore the online calendar of events, https://events.dcnr.pa.gov, for more information on programs and other learning experiences.



Trails: 12 miles



Hiking and multi-use trails explore the habitats of the park and tie in with trails in Delaware's White Clay Creek State Park. Trails are designated by signs instead of blazes. Only travel on established trails.

Charles Bailey Trail

2.1 miles | More difficult hiking | Connector trail
Recreations permitted: hiking

This shaded trail closely follows the eastern side of White Clay Creek and offers great wildlife watching opportunities.

Edwin Leid Trail

1.6 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail
Recreations permitted: hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding

Accessed by parking lots 1, 2, or 3, this trail meanders along the Middle Branch of the White Clay Creek and through some of the hills and valleys of the preserve. Some sections of the trail are steep.

PennDel Trail

3.1 miles in the park | More difficult hiking | Point-to-point trail
Recreations permitted: hiking, biking, horseback riding

This relatively flat trail follows the east and main branches of the White Clay Creek, travelling through both Pennsylvania and Delaware state park systems. The northern part of the trail is only accessible to hikers, while the southern part can be used by hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders.

Tri-state Marker Trail

2.3 miles in the park | More difficult hiking | Loop trail
Recreations permitted: hiking

Following the Mason-Dixon Trail, this 3.5-mile loop leads to the historic Tri-state Marker (PA, DE, MD) and the Arc Corner Monument (PA, MD).

Wendel Cassel Trail

2.0 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail
Recreations permitted: hiking

Located on the eastern side of the park, this trail continues across the border into White Clay Creek State Park in Delaware. It meanders through forests and open fields.



Information and Reservations

White Clay Creek Preserve
405 Sharpless Road
Landenberg, PA 19350
610-274-2900
WhiteClaySP@pa.gov

An Equal Opportunity Employer
www.pa.gov/state-parks

Make online reservations at www.pa.gov/state-parks or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.

Access for People with Disabilities

A special vehicle permit is issued at the park office to give access to areas of the park not typically open to vehicles.

This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible for people with disabilities. This publication text is available in alternative formats.

If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

In an Emergency

Call 911 and contact a park employee to summon medical, fire, or safety professionals.

Call or text 988 to contact a crisis center counselor during a mental health or substance abuse crisis.

Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

NEAREST HOSPITAL
ChristianaCare Christiana Hospital
4755 Ogletown Stanton Rd
Newark, DE 19718
302-733-1000



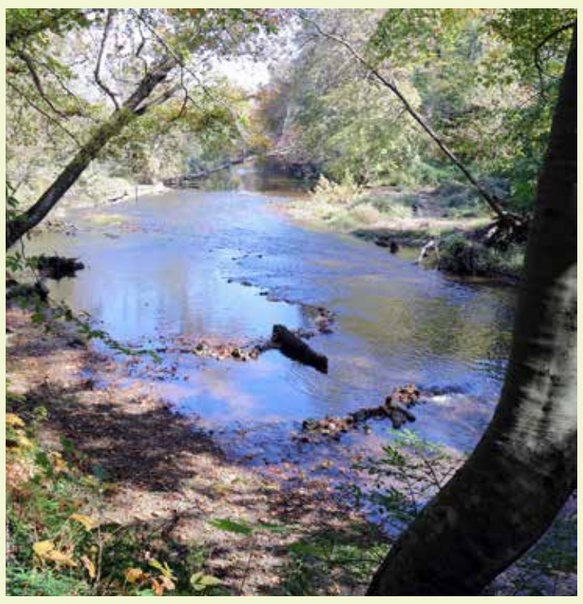
Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau. 484-770-8550. www.brandywinevalley.com

Big Elk Creek State Park consists of fields and forest lands with opportunities for hiking, bird watching, horseback riding, fishing, and hunting. 610-274-2900

The 3,600-acre **White Clay Creek State Park** in Delaware includes 486 acres of the original land grant of White Clay Creek Preserve. The park offers opportunities for mountain biking, disc golfing, bird watching, hiking, and special events. Educational programs are offered year-round at the Chambers House Nature Center. 302-368-6900. www.destateparks.com/park/white-clay-creek

Fairhill Natural Resource Management Area is a 5,000-acre Maryland state park that connects to Big Elk Creek State Park. It has over 20 miles of trails for hiking, biking, and equestrian riding. 410-398-1246



WHITE CLAY CREEK PRESERVE

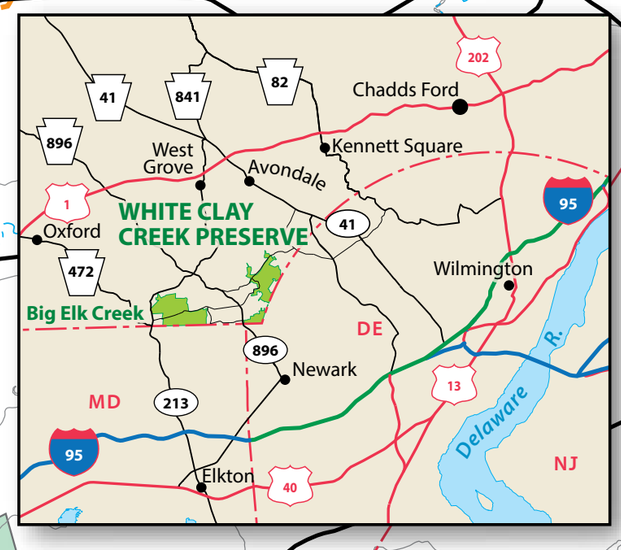
To PA 41, 2.9 Mi. Avondale, 4.0 Mi.

To Eastern Terminus of Mason-Dixon Trail at Chadds Ford, approx. 15.2 Mi.

N

Mercer Mill Road
North Bank Road
Crestwood Road
Penn Green Road
Broad Run Road
Sawmill Road
Buttonwood Road
Watson Mill Rd.
Good Hope Road
Ayrshire Dr.
Country Walk
North Creek Road
Middle Branch White Clay Creek
East Branch White Clay Creek
Nivin View Trail
Lot 1
London Tract Road
PennDel Trail
Vaughn's Trail
Fern Ridge
Delayed Harvest Area
Edwin Leid Tr.
New Peltier Road
Lot 3
Sharpless Road
Wendel Cassel Trail
Charles Bailey Tr.
Private Land
Middle Branch White Clay Creek
Edwin Leid Tr.
Glen Road
London Tract Road
Lot 2
Sharpless Road
London Tract Meeting House
Edwin Leid Trail
PennDel Trail
Charles Bailey Trail
Clay Creek
Indiantown Rd.
Sexton House
London Tract Road
White Clay Creek
Charles Bailey Trail
South Bank Road
Yeatman Station Road
Quartz Mill Rd.
Flint Road
Branch Road
Corner Ketch Road
PENNSYLVANIA DELAWARE
Wendel Cassel Trail
Thomson Station Road
DELAWARE
WHITE CLAY CREEK
STATE PARK
Chambers Rock Road
Thompson Station Rd.
Pleasant Hill Road
Arc Corner Road
Strickersville Rd.
London Tract Rd
STRICKERSVILLE
Nature Center
Hopkins Road
Tri-State Marker Trail
Elbow Ln.
Tri-State Marker
MARYLAND
PENNSYLVANIA
DELAWARE
Arc Corner Monument
Pomeroy Tr.

To PA 896, 1.3 Mi.
To US 1, 9.3 Mi.
To Big Elk Creek State Park, 2.2 Mi.
To Downtown Newark, 3.9 Mi.



Park Office
Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible
Historic Site
Road - Unpaved
Road - Paved
Gate
Parking - Unpaved
Parking - ADA-accessible
Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only
State Park - No Hunting
State Park - Hunting
State Park - Boundary
Public Land - Other
White Clay Creek State Park (Delaware)
CONTOURS ARE ON 100 FT. INTERVAL

TRAIL INFORMATION
Trail - Hiking
Trail - Multi-use: Hiking, Bicycling, and as designated
Mason-Dixon Trail Hiking Only
Mason-Dixon Trail Multi-use: Hiking, Bicycling, Horseback Riding
Horseback Riding

¼ 0 ¼ ½ ¾ 1 1¼ 1½ KILOMETERS

¼ 0 ¼ ½ ¾ 1 MILE

Rev. 2/9/2026