



FWCCSP RECORD

September 2022

Join your Friends at...

The **LAST** White Clay Creek Summer Concert of the Season!!

- Labor Day, 3 pm at the Carpenter Recreation Area
- Enjoy Friends' raffle, the Beer Garden, food trucks, and Rita's water ice
- For weather updates call 302-368-6560 or visit the park Facebook page
- <https://destateparks.com/concerts/whiteclaycreek>

Date	Band	Music Type	Brewery	Food Truck
September 5, 2022 (Labor Day Monday)	The Newspaper Taxis	Beatles Tribute	Hangman	Ole Tapas, Bailey's Dawgs



What Have the Volunteers Been Up To?

Memorial benches!

Our memorial bench program provides an opportunity for families and friends to honor the memory of their loved ones with a beautiful park bench. Volunteers help by building new benches, placing these benches in the park, and maintaining existing benches.

This opportunity often requires volunteers to bend, lift more than 10 pounds, and use tools such as hammers and drills.

For more information about the Memorial Bench program and upcoming volunteer opportunities, contact Susan Eggert at sueggert@gmail.com or call the Park Office at 302-368-6900.



HOW WHITE CLAY CREEK GOT ITS NAME: NEWARK CHINA CLAY COMPANY

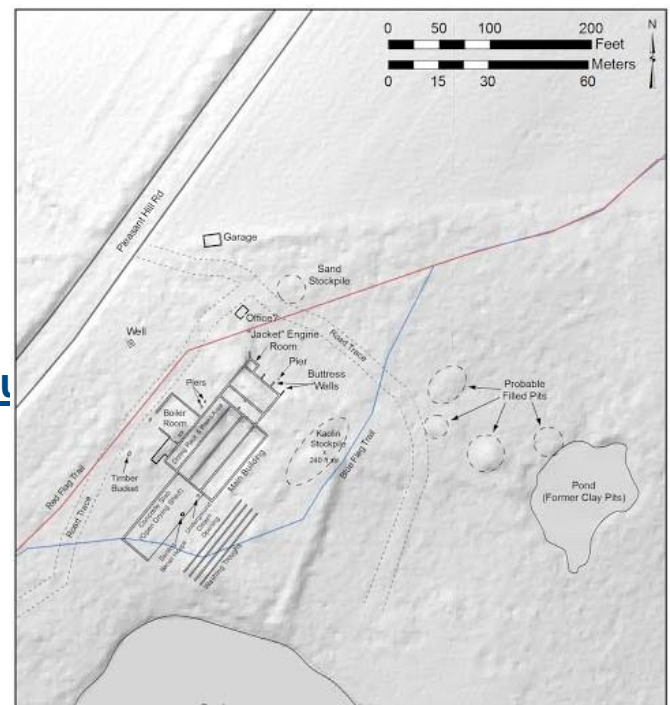
The Newark China Clay Company was located off of Pleasant Hill Road where workers hand-dug clay pits and processed kaolin for 30 years. Clay pits were hand dug to a depth of 50 – 100 feet and 30 feet wide by crews of no more than six men. Mining clay was hard and dangerous work. Records show one employee died from falling into a 36ft pit in 1936. Clay was hauled out in massive buckets on a pulley system and then processed in the nearby facility.

Kaolin clay (aka “white clay”) is valued for its ideal properties for use in ceramics: fine particle size, white color, and water absorption ability. When mixed with specific ratios of water, the clay becomes plastic, meaning it can be molded under pressure and then retain the shape when pressure is removed. Kaolin clay is produced by the weathering of Feldspar, a mineral which often appears pinkish or orange because of the iron oxide in its composition. However, white clay lacks this iron oxide and comes from white feldspar, samples of which can be found in the creek beds of White Clay Creek State Park.

The Clay Process

The processing began by washing the clay. The resulting runoff was dumped into “Muddy Run” – aka Middle Run. It was then screened for impurities and concentrated. Mica was filtered out. Then the clay was dried in “cakes,” loaded onto wagons, and taken to the Thompson Station. They shipped the “clay cakes” on trains running the Newark Pomeroy Line, and the clay was ultimately delivered to the Lenox China Company, the oldest china manufacturer in the United States. Even though the mine is long gone and the pits have been filled, the veins of white clay still remain underground.

The factory foundation ruins are still visible from the Tri-Valley Trail (as long as volunteers work to clear the area) The Park plans to place a storyboard marker near the site.



(Thanks to Katie Evers for her blog about this)



The Friends have a governing body, the Executive Committee, with the President and six other members. We are in need of someone to handle **Publicity and Social Media**. This means helping, for example, with this newsletter, with Facebook, and connecting with people and organizations that use and support the Park. If you think this is of interest please send a note to whiteclaycreekfriends@gmail.com.

Quiz



Did you know White Clay Creek State Park has a cross-country course that local high schools use for training? How many cross-country courses are there in the entire DE state park system?

Of course there is a prize for the correct answer.....send to whiteclaycreekfriends@gmail.com

Upcoming Park Activities

Full Moon Friday

Friday, September 9, 2022 at 7:30 PM

Join our park naturalist for an evening hike near the full moon. We'll start the hike as the sun sets and then enjoy the moonrise as we return. Online registration ends 24 hours prior to the program. After that, please call 302-368-6900. Meeting location provided upon registration. \$6 per person

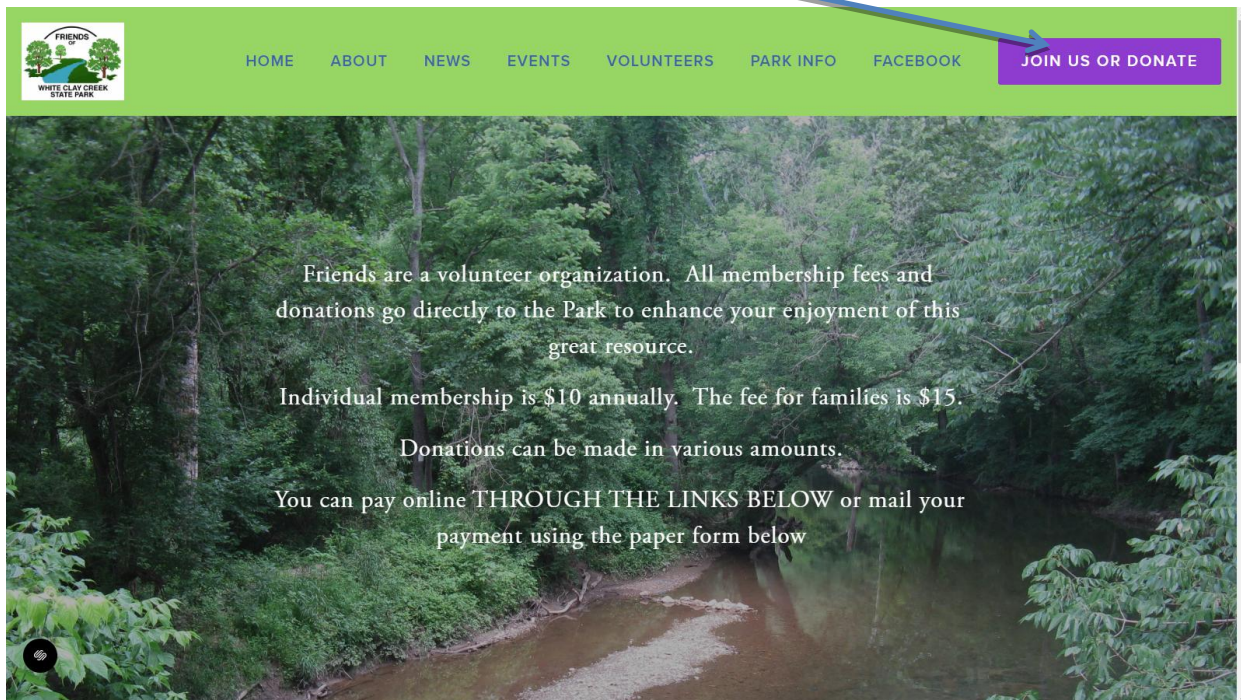
Girl Scouts Love State Parks!

Sunday, September 11, 2022 at 2:00 PM

Girl Scout exclusive program* Join naturalists at White Clay Creek on Sunday, September 11 from 2-4 pm to work on a variety of Girl Scout Badges. We'll meet at the Nature Center, please dress for the weather and bring a bottle of water. Pre-registration required by September 8, call 302-368-6900 to register. \$4 per scout.

Support the White Clay Creek State Park by Renewing your Membership!

The more members we have, the more our voice is heard when we seek to preserve and enhance our Park. Please go to our [website](#) and click on the purple button.



The image shows a screenshot of the website for Friends of White Clay Creek State Park. At the top, there is a green navigation bar with the following links: HOME, ABOUT, NEWS, EVENTS, VOLUNTEERS, PARK INFO, FACEBOOK, and a purple button labeled "JOIN US OR DONATE". A blue arrow points from the text above to this button. Below the navigation bar is a large photograph of a forest stream. Overlaid on the photograph is the following text:

Friends are a volunteer organization. All membership fees and donations go directly to the Park to enhance your enjoyment of this great resource.

Individual membership is \$10 annually. The fee for families is \$15.

Donations can be made in various amounts.

You can pay online THROUGH THE LINKS BELOW or mail your payment using the paper form below