

The Fred Roger's Connection

Several stone foundations and retaining walls from the once formerly owned private property are visible at the Buttermilk Falls Natural Site. These are the remains of Fred McFeely's summer estate. McFeely, grandfather of Fred Roger's of children's television fame, was a wealthy industrialist from Latrobe, PA. He utilized the property as a retreat and owned the property from 1930 to 1956. During McFeely's tenure, the property featured a large house, horse stables, a three-car garage, outbuildings, and a swimming area in the creek above the falls. Fred Roger's, creator and host of the public television's "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood", made many childhood visits to Buttermilk Falls.

Gallery of Photos



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Photo 1*: Exterior of Cottage on McFeely Property

Photo 2*: Exterior of Cottage on McFeely Property

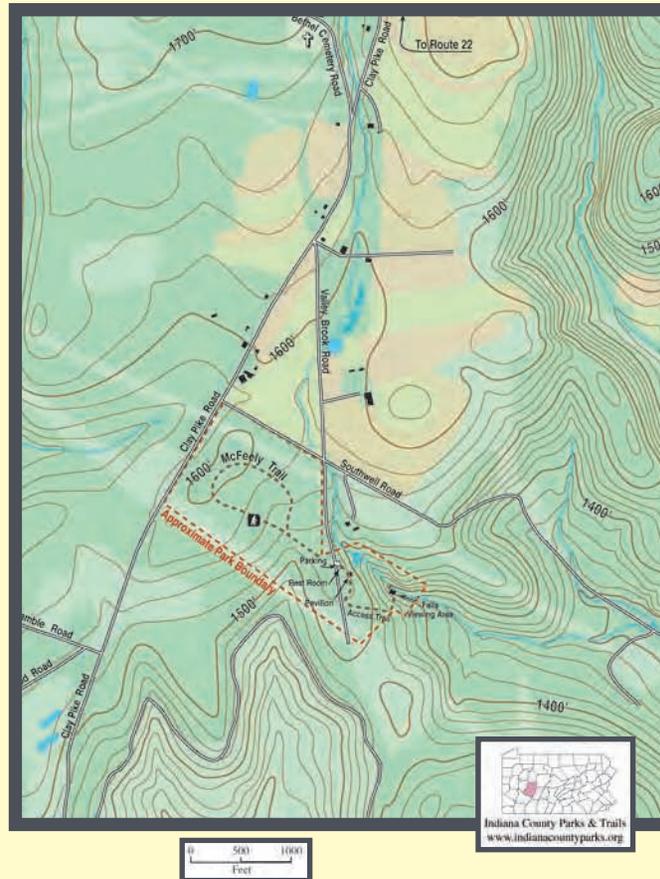
Photo 3*: Patio from McFeely Property

Photo 4*: Swimming Hole on McFeely Property Located Above Buttermilk Falls

Photo 5: Remains of Swimming Pond and Fish Pond from McFeely Estate

**Photo Courtesy of Rita Nist*

Map of Buttermilk Falls Natural Area



Directions to Buttermilk Falls Natural Area

Buttermilk Falls is located 2 miles south of Route 22 at Clyde (one mile west of Armagh).

From Clyde, follow Clay Pike Road South (TR 716) to Valley Brook Road (TR 599).



For Indiana County Information:

Indiana County
TOURIST BUREAU

724.463.7505

www.VisitIndianaCountyPA.org

Buttermilk Falls Natural Area



Buttermilk Falls Natural Area

a portion of the 2,700 acres comprising the Indiana County Parks and Trails system

570 Valley Brook Road
New Florence, PA 15944
www.indianacountyparks.org

Buttermilk Falls Natural Area

This 48 acre site is located two miles south of Clyde in West Wheatfield Township. Buttermilk Falls features a 45-foot waterfall, mature woodland, a wide variety of wildflowers, and historical remains. The property was donated to Indiana County Parks and Trails in January 1996 by the Keystone-Conemaugh Group, owners of the nearby Conemaugh Generating Station.



Protecting Natural Areas

Natural areas are set aside to protect both typical and unique plant and animal communities and to protect outstanding examples of natural interest and beauty. Buttermilk Falls and the Blacklick Valley Natural Area are the first formally established natural areas in the county parks system. These areas are in direct support of the mission of the county park system that includes, “preserving, protecting, and enhancing county lands to improve the health of our people and the environmental health of the county.”

Geology of Water Falls

Waterfalls the scale of Buttermilk Falls are uncommon in western Pennsylvania. Falls occur when a stream wears away an easily-eroded layer of rock, but then encounters a resistant layer. The resistant layer erodes at a slower rate than the surrounding rock, forming a waterfall. At Buttermilk Falls, a resistant layer of sandstone underlays easily-eroded shale. Buttermilk Falls is in the Hires Run Valley. Hires Run is a tributary to the Conemaugh River.

Natural Area Regulations

- Camping and campfires are prohibited.
- Keep pets on a leash and under control.
- Do not disturb wildlife or plants.
- Please do not litter.
- Off-road vehicles are not permitted.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Swimming or wading is not permitted.
- Park Hours: 8 AM - Sunset
- Obey all safety zones.
- Do not cross gates or fences.

Buttermilk Falls Natural Area is home to a wide variety of plants and animals. Help us protect the fragile plant and animal habitat in this natural resource area by staying within the steps and platform areas while enjoying all that nature has to offer.

The 48-Acre Natural Area Includes: 45-Foot Waterfall, Picnic Pavilion, Falls Overlook Area, Hiking Trail, Parking, and Rest Room.

