

EAST LACKAWANNOCK TOWNSHIP

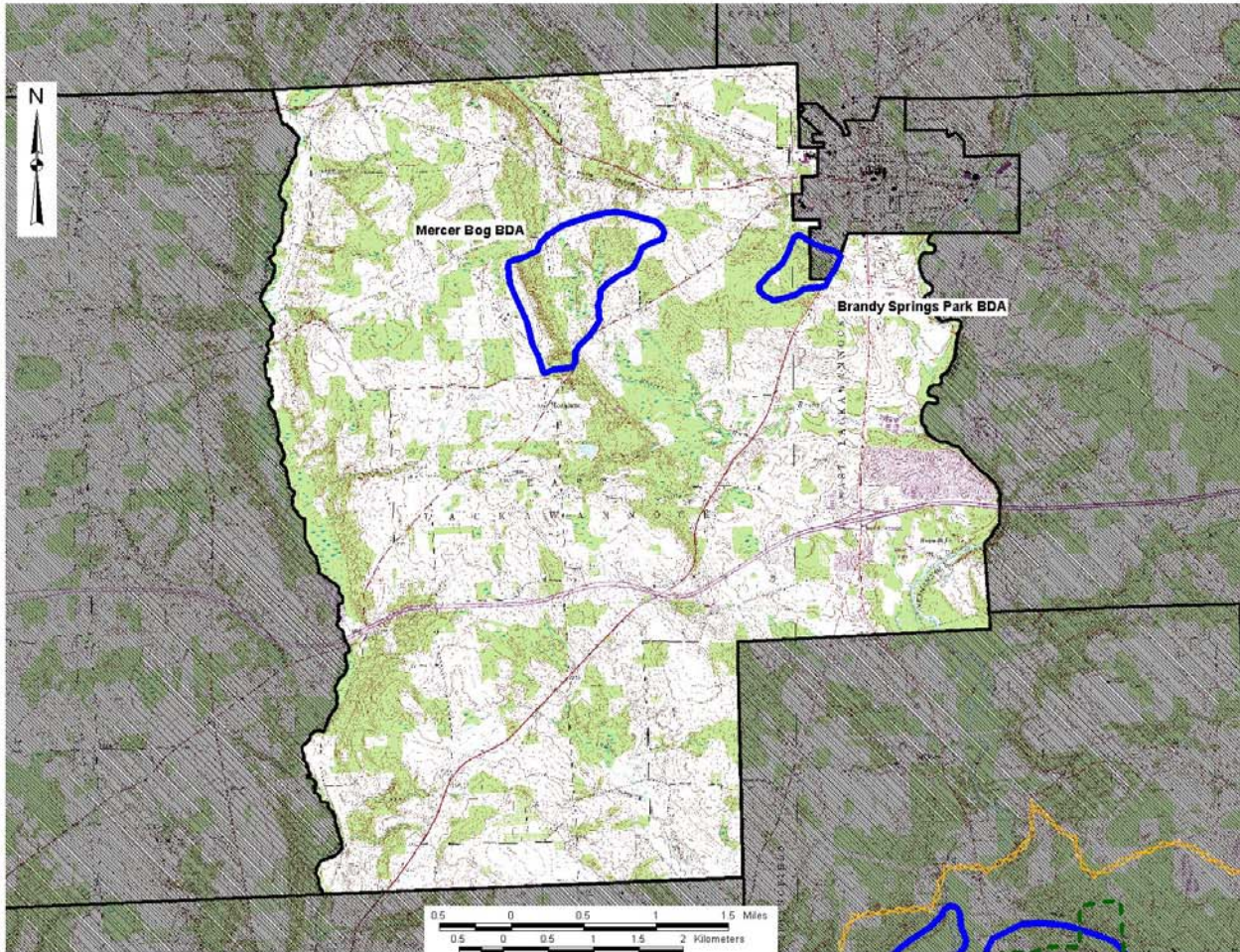
<u>PNDI Rank</u>		<u>Legal Status</u>	
Global	State	Fed.	State

NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS:

BRANDY SPRINGS PARK BDA	<i>Notable Significance</i>		
American Columbo (<i>Swertia caroliniensis</i>)	G5	S1	PE
MERCER BOG BDA	<i>High Significance</i>		
Few Seeded Sedge (<i>Carex oligosperma</i>)	G4	S2	PT

MANAGED LANDS: None

East Lackawannock Township



East Lackawannock Township

Mercer County Natural Heritage Inventory

Biological Diversity Areas:

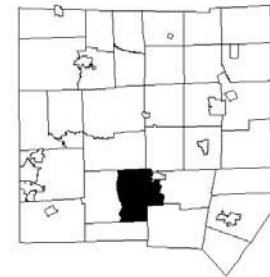
Brandy Springs Park
Mercer Bog

Landscape Conservation Areas:

None

Managed Areas:

None



Map Legend

-  Biological Diversity Area (BDA)
-  Landscape Conservation Area (LCA)
-  Audubon Society Important Bird Area (IBA)
-  Managed Area
-  Municipal Boundary

EAST LACKAWANNOCK TOWNSHIP

East Lackawannock Township is located in south central Mercer County. Little Neshannock Creek is the main drainage. There are two Natural Heritage Areas and no managed lands in East Lackawannock Township.

Brandy Springs Park BDA

Brandy Springs Park BDA is discussed in Mercer Borough.

Mercer Bog BDA

Mercer Bog is a kettle-hole depression bog with open water in the center. On the southside is a floating mat of about 140 square meters in size. Surrounding the opening is an extensive shrub swamp.

Water-willow (*Decodon verticillatus*) is present along the borders of the open water and shrub swamp. The main shrub swamp is dominated by highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), poison sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*), alder (*Alnus incana*) and (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*). Other species present but not dominant include nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*), marsh St. John's Wort (*Triadenum* spp.), water-dragon (*Calla palustris*), water hore-hound (*Lycopus uniflorus*), spike rush (*Juncus effusus*) and buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*).

The mat located in the bog is primarily covered by one graminoid species, which is a Pennsylvania plant species of special concern, **few seeded sedge** (*Carex oligosperma*). Other species on the mat include cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*), pitcher-plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*), three-way sedge (*Dulichium arundinaceum*) and cotton-grass (*Eriophorum virginicum*).

Threats and Stresses

The bog and the mat are very fragile and frequent visitation or other direct disturbance could compromise the integrity of the mat. The current owner has an expressed desire to protect the bog and the habitat around it. As such this site does not have any impending threats. Invasive species have not yet become a problem but could become one in the future.

Recommendations

This wetland community, although termed a bog, may receive a mixture of both ground water and surface water inputs. Activities that could alter the hydrology of the wetland by reducing quantity or quality of water, especially through the addition of nutrients or pollutants should be carefully considered. Research aimed at determining the best approach toward managing these communities is certainly needed. Exotic species, while not currently an issue within the wetland, need to be monitored to prevent establishment in the wetland.