

CITY OF HERMITAGE, CITY OF FARRELL, CITY OF SHARON, SHARPSVILLE BOROUGH AND WHEATLAND BOROUGH

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

NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS:

SHARPSVILLE BDA	<i>High Significance</i>
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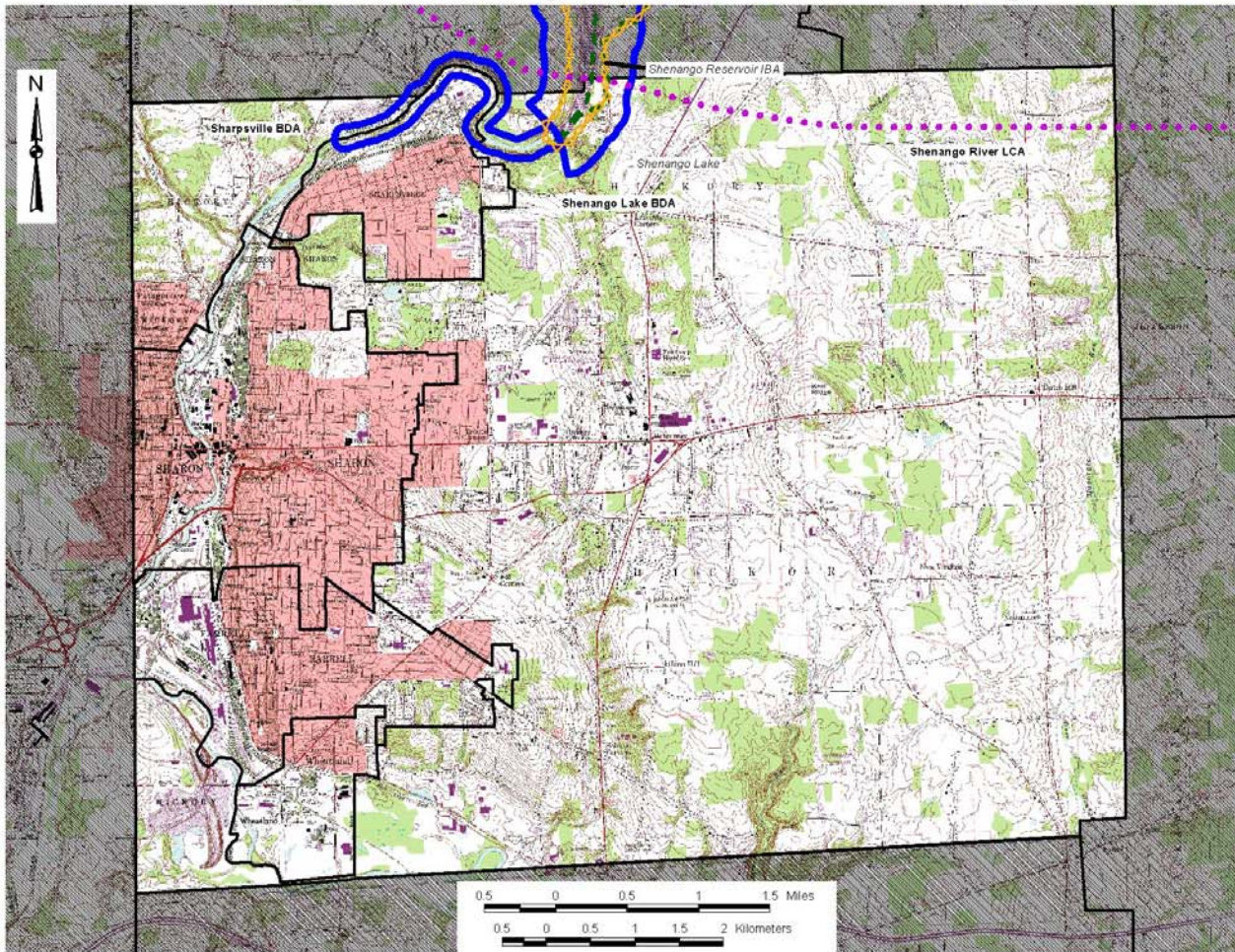
Special Animal 1	G3	S1	PE
Special Animal 2	G3	S1	PE
Special Animal 3	G4	S1	PE

SHENANGO LAKE BDA	<i>Exceptional Significance</i>
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Great Blue Heron (<i>Ardeas herodias</i>)	G5	S3S4B, S4N	
Cat-tail Sedge (<i>Carex typhina</i>)	G5	S2	PT
Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	G5	S2B	PT
Fog-fruit (<i>Phyla lanceolata</i>)	G5	S2	PR
Special Animal 1	G5	S3	PC
Special Animal 2	G5	S1	PE
Special Animal 3	G4	S2B	PE
Special Animal 4	G5	S1S2	PE
Bottomland oak-hardwood palustrine forest	G5	S2	

MANAGED LANDS: None

City of Hermitage, City of Sharon, City of Farrell, Sharpsville Borough and Wheatland Borough



City of Hermitage, City of Sharon, City of Farrell, Sharpsville Borough and Wheatland Borough

Mercer County Natural Heritage Inventory

Biological Diversity Areas:

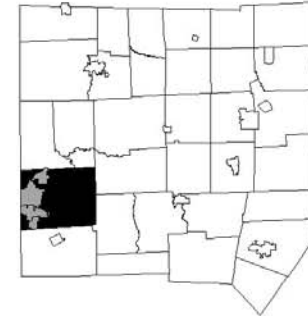
- Sharpsville
- Shenango Lake

Landscape Conservation Areas:

- Shenango River

Managed Areas:

- Shenango Lake



Map Legend

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

CITY OF HERMITAGE

The City of Hermitage is located to the east of both Sharon and Farrell, PA. This municipality has experienced a large amount of the growth from the Sharon area. There are two Natural Heritage Areas and one managed land located in the City of Hermitage.

Sharpsville BDA

Sharpsville BDA is discussed in Sharpsville Borough.

Shenango Lake BDA

Shenango Lake BDA is discussed in Clark Borough.

CITY OF FARRELL

The City of Farrell is located just south of Sharon, PA. Farrell is the next town downstream of Sharon on the Shenango River. The Shenango River is a notable natural feature in Farrell. There are no Natural Heritage Areas and no managed lands located in the City of Farrell.

CITY OF SHARON

The City of Sharon, located in the southwestern part of the county, has the largest population of any municipality in Mercer County. The Shenango River flows through the downtown of the city. There are no Natural Heritage Areas and no managed lands located in the City of Sharon.

SHARPSVILLE BOROUGH

Sharpsville Borough is located north of the City of Sharon in the western part of Mercer County. The Shenango River flows to the north of Sharpsville and south into Sharon. There is one Natural Heritage Area and no managed lands in Sharpsville Borough.

Sharpsville BDA

Sharpsville BDA encompasses a riffle habitat and adjoining floodplain area in the Shenango River just below the Shenango Lake Dam. This site is significant in that it is the furthest downstream section of the Shenango River where **Special Animals 1-3** can be found before the river joins the Mahoning River to form the Beaver River in Lawrence

County. Below this BDA, the river is impacted by the combined pollution and runoff of the Sharon metropolitan area.

From the Shenango Lake dam to this BDA, a distance of about one mile downstream, an area of mature forest parallels the river. A steep slope rises from the south shore while a wide, more developed floodplain sits adjacent to the north shore. Common canopy species on the slopes include sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) and American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). Understory species present are witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) and green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*). Herbs include stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), goldies fern (*Dryopteris goldiana*), Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), green-head coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*) and wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*).

Threats and Stresses

Each of the species of special concern in this BDA could be impacted by changes in the flood regime of Shenango Lake. Being sensitive to pollution, these species could be greatly impacted by additional runoff or pollutants in the river. Historically, the animals have lived downstream of Sharon but pollution and runoff have restricted the animals to this small stretch near Sharpsville.

Recommendations

Any changes in water releases from the Shenango Lake dam should take into consideration the impacts to the species of special concern present in this BDA. Impacts of upstream development should be also considered as broad level impacts. The municipalities in the Sharon area, along with groups working in the watershed, including the Shenango River Watchers, the Shenango Conservancy and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy should work together to improve the water quality of the river below Sharon. With work, the river may once again provide more viable habitat for these animals.

WHEATLAND BOROUGH

Wheatland Borough lies in southwestern Mercer County to the south of the City of Sharon. The Shenango River is a prominent natural feature. There are no Natural Heritage Areas and no managed lands located in Wheatland Borough.