

# WEST SALEM TOWNSHIP

---

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

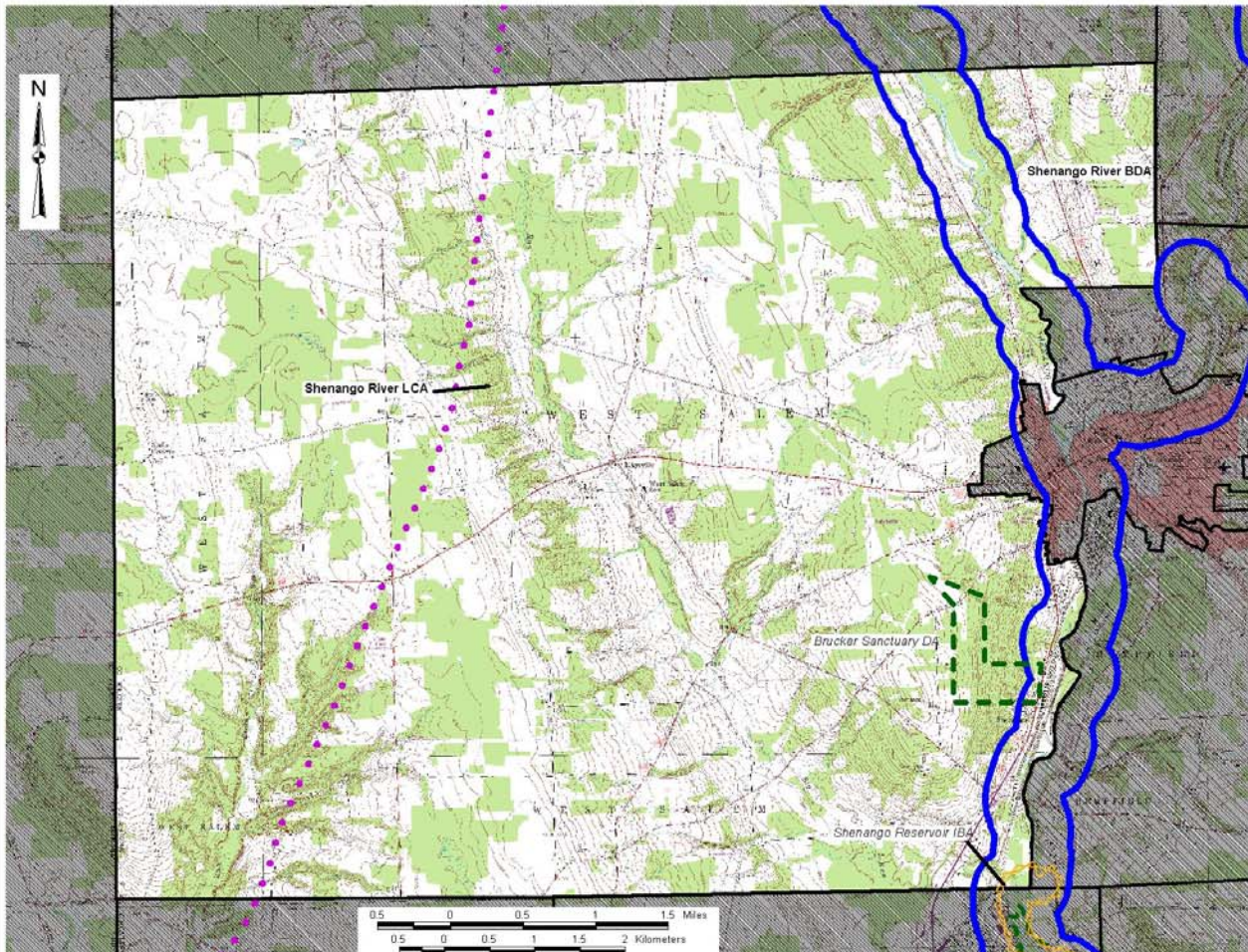
---

*NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS:*

SHENANGO RIVER BDA	<i>Exceptional Significance</i>		
Fog-fruit ( <i>Phyla lanceolata</i> )	G5	S2	TU
Special Animal 1	G5	S3	PC
Special Animal 2	G3	S1	PE
Special Animal 3	G3	S1	PE
Special Animal 4	G5	S3	PC
Special Animal 5	G5	S2S3	PE
Special Animal 6	G5	S1S2	PE
Special Animal 7	G4	S3	PC
Special Animal 8	G5	S2	PT
Special Animal 9	G4	S1	PE
Special Animal 10	G2	S1S2	PE
Special Animal 11	G3	S1	PE
Special Animal 12	G4	S1	PE
Special Animal 13	G5	S3	PC
Special Animal 14	G4	S2B	PE
SHENANGO RIVER LCA	<i>Exceptional Significance</i>		

*MANAGED LANDS:* Brucker Sanctuary DA

# West Salem Township



## West Salem Township Mercer County Natural Heritage Inventory

### Biological Diversity Areas:

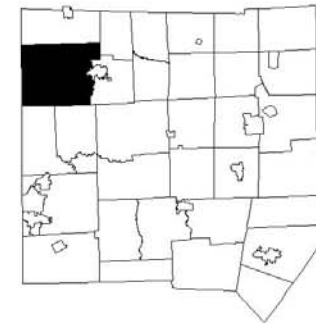
Shenango River

### Landscape Conservation Areas:

Shenango River

### Managed Areas:

Brucker Sanctuary DA



### Map Legend

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

## **WEST SALEM TOWNSHIP**

West Salem Township is located in northwest Mercer County west of Greenville, PA. The Shenango River forms the eastern boundary of the township. There are two Natural Heritage Areas and one managed land – **Brucker Sanctuary DA** located in West Salem Township.

### **Brucker Sanctuary DA**

Brucker Sanctuary is owned by Thiel College and set aside as a heron rookery. A mature forest of pin oak (*Quercus palustris*), swamp white oak (*Q. bicolor*) and sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) provides habitat for the herons. At this point in time the herons are not utilizing the site. It is widely thought that the herons may have dispersed to the rookery at Leechs Corners BDA (also called the Barrows Heronry). Thiel College still uses this site as a field station for students at the college.

#### Threats and Stresses

The limited size of the habitat is a threat to the viability of the natural community here. Edge effects could give invasive plant species ample opportunity to take over in time. Although the herons were here for many years, it is not known what caused them to abandon the rookery. If appropriate habitat remains, future occupation and nesting of herons is possible.

#### Recommendations

To better protect the viability of the forest within the BDA the land surrounding and adjacent to the property could be allowed to revert to forest. Invasive plant species needs to be monitored at the site to maintain the integrity of the habitat. Again, the herons have left but the habitat is still present. Activities that disturb the site need to be evaluated in order to maintain a habitat favorable to the herons.

### **Shenango River BDA**

Shenango River BDA is discussed in Delaware Township.

### **Shenango River LCA**

Shenango River LCA is discussed in West Salem Township.