

Town Hill Barren
Significance Rank: S

The site contains a series of small shale cliffs and shelves which host a natural community of concern, the Virginia pine mixed hardwood shale woodland, as well as a variety of shale barren species, including Allegheny stonecrop (*Sedum telephioides*), a vulnerable plant species in Pennsylvania. Although not endemic to shale barrens this species is most closely associated with dry, calcareous shale outcrops and cliffs above streams. The Sideling Hill Creek watershed supports one of the largest concentrations of this species in the Commonwealth.

Species or Natural Community Name		Global	State	PA Legal Status	Last Seen	Quality
Virginia Pine - Mixed Hardwood Shale Woodland (<i>Virginia Pine - Mixed Hardwood Shale Woodland</i>)	C	GNR	S2	NA (NA)	2006	BC
Allegheny Stonecrop (<i>Sedum telephioides</i>)	P	G4	S3	PR (PR)	1995-09-21	C
NA (<i>Phacelia dubia</i>)	P	G5	S3S4	NA (SP)	2015-05-07	E

Threats and Species Recommendations

This site is entirely situated on private land. Invasive species and human disturbance are the largest threats to this site.

Specific threats and stresses to the elements present at this site, as well as conservation actions, include:

- Generally, the most significant threat to shale barren communities is competition from invasive species (Orndorff Coleman 2008). Monitor regularly for invasive species presence and attempt to control them before they become well-established.
- Trampling of the vegetation on the shale barren or climbing on the exposed shale outcrops can also cause damage to the loose shale, dislodging plants and eroding the substrate.
- NA

Location

Municipalities: Bedford County: Mann Township; Fulton County: Union Township

USGS quads: Bellegrove

Previous CNHI reference: Sideling Hill Creek-bedford Co, Lower Barnes Gap

Associated NHAs: Sideling Hill Creek

Overlapping Protected Lands: NA

References

Orndorff S, Coleman T. 2008. Management guidelines for barrens communities in Pennsylvania.

The Nature Conservancy. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Please cite this Natural Heritage Area as:
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2019. Town Hill Barren NHA. . Created on 29 Mar 2019. . Available at: <http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/CNHI.aspx>