# Town Hill Barren NHA

Site significance rank: **S**

NHA Join ID: **ct70362**

# Instructions

This template will collect the written content for this NHA and allow us to transfer all information into a formatted report. Please fill in all boxes as completely as possible, using the information from Biotics, our species-specific threats and recommendations database, and our NHA geodatabases, as well as your own personal expertise. **Please do not delete any of the tags** (which look like this: |TAG|), as those demarcate the beginning and ending of each content section. Please make sure to check automated sections, such as the species table and location information, for accuracy. Make notes of any issues in the form of Word comments. Also, please be sure to upload any pictures you have associated with this site into the NHA report picture folder, FOLDER PATH HERE.

# Overview of NHA Report Status for this Site

Please highlight or otherwise indicate the answers to the following questions upon completion of this site report; add details if necessary to your responses, using Word comments:

* Is the underlying spatial information complete and correct for this site? **yes no**
* Is the species table complete and correct for this site? **yes no**
* Did you have enough information to complete a comprehensive threats and conservation recommendations section for this site? **yes no**
* Is this NHA report content complete and ready to be formatted and published? **yes no**

# Site Description

Site Description - this should be about a one paragraph description of the site describing its location, size, major habitats, or other descriptive information about the site. General species info can be placed here (e.g. *“The wetlands at this site provide high quality habitat for a number of species of dragonflies.”*).  
 Paragraphs can be added to supply more detail about each species or group of species at this NHA, if you want. If information is added, try to keep it general and not have a lot of detail about each specific taxon as it will help to keep the sites as current as possible without a lot of ongoing editing-remember, we are going to rely on the factsheets for that purpose. For example, it would be good to say something like “The dragonflies at this site depend on clean water to breed” as that statement would likely be true even if we added or subtracted species to the list.

This brief description from the NHA geodatabase reads: **Steep, south-facing slope that harbors a shale-barren community and a species of concern.**

**Enter your site description text in the space between these lines:**

|DESC\_B|

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. |DESC\_E|

Please check the species table below for accuracy. Make a note of any issues, using Word comments.

| SNAME | SCOMNAME | ELEMENT\_TYPE | G\_RANK | S\_RANK | S\_PROTECTI | PBSSTATUS | LAST\_OBS\_D | BASIC\_EO\_R |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Virginia Pine - Mixed Hardwood Shale Woodland* | Virginia Pine - Mixed Hardwood Shale Woodland | C | GNR | S2 |  |  | 2006 | BC |
| *Sedum telephioides* | Allegheny Stonecrop | P | G4 | S3 | PR | PR | 1995-09-21 | C |
| *Phacelia dubia* |  | P | G5 | S3S4 |  | SP | 2015-05-07 | E |

## Information from Biotics

See output below from Biotics, in association with all the EOs at this site. Biotics fields reported include EO\_ID, SNAME, EO\_DATA, GEN\_DESC, MGMT\_COM, GENERL\_COM. Use this to inform both the site description and the threats and conservation recommendations section.  
To learn more about each EO, follow the links provided below to the Biotics page for each EO at this site:

[Sedum telephioides](https://bioticspa.natureserve.org/biotics/services/page/Eo/12899.html), [Virginia Pine - Mixed Hardwood Shale Woodland](https://bioticspa.natureserve.org/biotics/services/page/Eo/16751.html), [Phacelia dubia](https://bioticspa.natureserve.org/biotics/services/page/Eo/27532.html)

## [1] "12899--Sedum telephioides--1995-09-21: 15 STEMS OBSERVED IN FLOWER AND FRUIT; HEALTH DESPITE DROUGHT; NOT IDEAL HABITAT FOR SEDUM. One collection, with flowers. Determined by A.W. Cusick, 2009 (F95GRUB7, S95GRUCM, CM470024).<br /><br />1985-08-15: PLANTS OBSERVED AT BARNES GAP BARRENS (F85WIE12).<br /><br />1969 AUG 17 AND 1969 SEP 7: PETALS WHITE, ANTHERS RED; ON CREST OF UPPER BLUFF, IN SHADE OF AMERICUS ALBA; CLIFF ON NORTH SIDE OF BARNES GAP; SSW EXPOSURE; 245-253 M (S69CLACU) .<br />1969 AUG 18: LEAVES PALE GREEN, PETALS WHITE, PINKISH AT APEX; ON CREST OF CLIFF ON N SIDE OF BARNES GAP (S69CLACU).--SOUTH-WEST FACING SHALE CLIFF WITH OPEN EXPOSED SHALE LEDGESTHE UPPER LIP OF THE CLIFF IS THE BEST HABITAT. THE NW-ERN PORTION OF THE BARREN IS WOODED. THE SE-ERN PORTION OPEN.<br />1995-09-21: Sideling Hill Creek, just above mouth of Crooked Run, W-facing shale cliff just above creek (U10CMN01).--NA--F95GRUB7 NOTES THAT THE HABITAT AT DOT 5 IS QUITE DISTURBED."  
## [2] "16751--Virginia Pine - Mixed Hardwood Shale Woodland--2006: Tony Davis interpreted PA MAP 2004-2006 aerial photos to replace previous polygons with a better polygon (P11DAVK2).<br><br>1984-05-15: 40-50 ACRE SHALE BARREN, CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES, BUT NO STRICT ENDEMICS OBSERVED (F84WIE08).--SW FACING CLIFF OF TOWN HILL,CUT BY SIDLING HILL CR.& SEC RDBARNES GAP ON THE SE SIDE OF THE RIDGE. SMALL CLIFFS AND SHELVES BETWEEN CLIFFS. 40-50 FEET HIGH. BEST BARRENS @ TOP OF CLIFF. EXPOSED SHALE. NW PORTION OF THE CLIFF WOODED.--NA--EO SHOULD BE SURVEYED DURING FALL TO CHECK FOR LATER APPEARING SPECIES."   
## [3] "27532--Phacelia dubia--2015-05-07: element found getting crowded out by Lonicera japonica on roadbank. More in opening above from the road, where it is threatened by Lonicera morrowii (see SF\_ID 52548) (F15GRU02).--2015-05-07: Four Quarters Interfaith Sanctuary is located in the Sideling Hill Creek watershed, and the creek runs through the tracts owned by the organization. The surface bedrock is Devonian, entirely within the Catskill Formation, and consists of a red rock called a sandstone in the description of the formation, but is locally more of a shale. Judging from the flora here and elsewhere in the vicinity and within this geology, the soils range in pH from moderately acid to moderately alkaline. The most notable features from a biodiversity standpoint are the stream and the WSW-facing outcrops, which constitute a shale barren (F15GRU02).--NA--2015-05-07:We surveyed from the road only as we did not have landowner permission (F15GRU02)."

# Threats and Conservation Recommendations

This area should include, first, a short, one paragraph description of the overall threats and conservation recommendations for the NHA. This paragraph could include an overview of historic impacts, a general statement about the level of site protection, existing management plans, and known conservation issues. Incorporate information specific to the site overall, as well as to the individual EO’s present.

**Enter your threats and conservation recommendations summary paragraph in the space between these lines:**

|THRRECP\_B|

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

|THRRECP\_E|

Secondly, this section will contain a bulleted list of known conservation issues at this site, and what needs to be done to address them. Use the pre-generated EO-associated conservation threats and recommendations available below as a starting point. Be as specific as you possibly can–for example, if an EO is generally known to be susceptible to invasive species and there is information in Biotics about particular invasive species known to be present at this site, incorporate the specific information into the pre-written invasive species bullet. For example:

* *Aggressive non-native plant species are a particular threat to species is calcareous habitats. Invasive species known to be present at this site include xxxx, xxxx, xxxx, and xxxx. Monitor for invasive plant species and remove them prior to becoming dominant at this site, if possible. Target pioneer populations of invasive plants for immediate and continued removal.*

**Enter your specific threats and conservation recommendations bullets in the space between these lines. Please use the tagging format *|BUll1\_B| bullet text here |B\*ll1\_E|, |BLL2\_B| bullet text here |Bll2\_E|*, etc. until you have completed all the bullets you need:**

|BULL1\_B| *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.* |BULL1\_E|

|BULL2\_B| 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.

|BULL2\_E|

## EO-Specific Threats and Conservation Recommendation Info

Included below is species-specific information on general conservation threats and recommendations. This includes:

1. A summary table with the number of EOs that fall into each of the conservation threats/recommendations categories at the site. This table is meant to help you quickly summarize the types of issues that the species present at this site face, for the threats and conservation recommendations summary paragraph.
2. The text for each species-specific threat and recommendation available in the database. Copy and paste those which are relevant at this site into conservation threats and recommendations bullets.

## Joining, by = "TRID"

| ThreatRec\_Name | n |
| --- | --- |
| calciphile - invasive threat | 1 |

## [1] "Sedum telephioides calciphile - invasive threat Aggressive non-native plant species are a particular threat to species is calcareous habitats. Left to spread, these species can crowd out the species of concern, as well as other native plant species. Monitor for invasive plant species and remove them prior to becoming dominant at this site, if possible. Target pioneer populations of invasive plants for immediate and continued removal. It is much easier and more effective to keep a place invasive-free than to try to repair a heavily infested habitat. Invasive species management should be coordinated by individuals familiar with the rare species as well as the invasive species present. Continual invasive species monitoring and control will likely be necessary. McPherson, J. I. 2013. Conservation Assessment of Calcareous Ecosystems. Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program at Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Pittsburgh, PA. Report to Wild Resources Conservation Program, Grant #10391. 152 pg."

# References

Below, see the list of references associated with the automated threats and recommendations bullets. Please copy and paste below the references that are associated with bullets which you actually used to write this site report.

|REF\_B|

*Orndorff S, Coleman T. 2008. Management guidelines for barrens communities in Pennsylvania. The Nature Conservancy. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.*

|REF\_E|

## Joining, by = "TRID"

## [1] "McPherson, J. I. 2013. Conservation Assessment of Calcareous Ecosystems. Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program at Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Pittsburgh, PA. Report to Wild Resources Conservation Program, Grant #10391. 152 pg."

# Location

Please indicate whether the information below is correct. Use Word comments to flag any issues.

**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  
**Acreage:** 10 acres

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>

Do you have pictures of either the site, or the species present at the site? If so, **upload them to the NHA report folder and enter accompanying information, below, between the lines.** Add up to 3 images per site:

**Photo one**

1. Photographer Name: |P1N\_B| *Pete Woods, PNHP* |P1N\_E|
2. Photo caption: |P1C\_B| Allegheny stonecrop growing on a shale outcrop.|P1C\_E|
3. Photo file name: |P1F\_B| *TownHillBarren\_P1.jpg*|P1F\_E|