= Shickshinny Creek =

Shickshinny Creek (historically known as Shickohinna) is a tributary of the Susquehanna River in the Wyoming Valley in Luzerne County , Pennsylvania , in the United States . It is approximately 10 @.@ 1 miles (16 @.@ 3 km) long and flows through Ross Township , Union Township , and Shickshinny . Its watershed has an area of 35 @.@ 0 square miles (91 km2) and its tributaries include Culver Creek , Reyburn Creek , and Little Shickshinny Creek . The creek is designated as a Coldwater Fishery and a Migratory Fishery . A sawmill and a gristmill were built on the creek in 1802 and 1804 , respectively . Several bridges have also been constructed over it . The creek was historically polluted by culm near its mouth , but agriculture was the main industry in the watershed in the early 1900s . It was historically used as a water supply .

The surficial geology near Shickshinny Creek mainly consists of urban land , fill , alluvium , alluvial terrace , alluvial fan , Wisconsinan Ice @-@ Contact Stratified Drift , Wisconsinan Ice @-@ Contact Delta , Wisconsinan Bouldery Till , Wisconsinan Till , lakes , and wetlands . The lower reaches of the creek are in a water gap between Huntington Mountain and Shickshinny Mountain . A lake known as Shickshinny Lake is in the watershed and is dammed by the Shickshinny Lake Dam .

= = Course = =

Shickshinny Creek begins in a valley in Ross Township , northwest of Sylvan Lake . It flows south for a few miles , crossing State Route 4024 and passing through two ponds . It then turns south @-@ southwest for more than a mile , entering Union Township . At this point , the creek turns south for a short distance before turning south @-@ southwest again and flowing through a valley known as Nevel Hollow , crossing State Route 4016 along the way . At the end of Nevel Hollow , the creek enters Shickshinny Lake , where it receives its first named tributary , Culver Creek , from the right . At the southeastern end of Shickshinny Lake , the creek flows southeast for a few miles in a valley , crossing State Route 4007 . It eventually turns south for nearly a mile before turning east for a short distance . It then receives the tributary Reyburn Creek from the left and turns south , passing through the village of Koonsville and crossing Pennsylvania Route 239 . The creek then turns south @-@ southeast for approximately a mile , flowing alongside Pennsylvania Route 239 in a water gap between Huntington Mountain and Shickshinny Mountain . It enters Shickshinny and receives the tributary Little Shickshinny Creek from the right before turning east @-@ southeast for several tenths of a mile . The creek flows through Shickshinny and crosses US Route 11 before reaching its confluence with the Susquehanna River .

Shickshinny Creek joins the Susquehanna River 172 @.@ 34 miles (277 @.@ 35 km) upriver of its mouth .

= = = Tributaries = = =

Shickshinny Creek has three named tributaries , which are known as Little Shickshinny Creek , Reyburn Creek , and Culver Creek . Little Shickshinny Creek joins Shickshinny Creek 0 @.@ 46 miles (0 @.@ 74 km) upstream of its mouth . Its watershed has an area of 9 @.@ 80 square miles (25 @.@ 4 km2) . Reyburn Creek joins Shickshinny Creek 1 @.@ 68 miles (2 @.@ 70 km) upstream of its mouth . Its watershed has an area of 9 @.@ 52 square miles (24 @.@ 7 km2) . Culver Creek joins Shickshinny Creek 6 @.@ 72 miles (10 @.@ 81 km) upstream of its mouth . Its watershed has an area of 1 @.@ 10 square miles (2 @.@ 8 km2) .

= = Hydrology and climate = =

Shickshinny Creek has a low level of alkalinity . The discharge of the creek at Shickshinny was measured to be 65 cubic feet per second in April 1965 . The specific conductance of the creek at that time was measured to be 60 micro @-@ siemens per centimeter at 25 ° C (77 ° F) . The pH was 6 @.@ 2 and the concentration of water hardness was 23 milligrams per liter .

In the early 1900s , Shickshinny Creek was a clear stream until 200 feet (61 m) from its mouth . At this location , the Salem Breaker of the E.S. Stackhouse Coal Company drained into it via the abandoned Pennsylvania Canal . The creek contributed some culm to the Susquehanna River .

In April 1965 , the concentration of carbon dioxide in the waters of Shickshinny Creek was once measured to be 7 @.@ 2 milligrams per liter (0 @.@ 0072 oz / cu ft) milligrams per liter . The concentration of bicarbonate was 7 milligrams per liter (0 @.@ 0070 oz / cu ft) and the concentration of nitrogen in the form of nitrates was 0 @.@ 158 milligrams per liter (0 @.@ 000158 oz / cu ft) . The nitrate concentration was 0 @.@ 700 milligrams per liter (0 @.@ 000699 oz / cu ft) , the concentration of sulfate was 15 @.@ 0 milligrams per liter (0 @.@ 0150 oz / cu ft) , and the chloride concentration was 3 @.@ 5 milligrams per liter (0 @.@ 0035 oz / cu ft) . The concentration of sodium was measured to be 1 @.@ 60 milligrams per liter (0 @.@ 00160 oz / cu ft) .

At the border between Union Township and Shickshinny , the peak annual discharge of Shickshinny Creek has a 10 percent chance of reaching 2 @,@ 500 cubic feet per second (71 m3 / s) . It has a 2 percent chance of reaching 4 @,@ 800 cubic feet per second (140 m3 / s) and a 1 percent chance of reaching 6 @,@ 200 cubic feet per second (180 m3 / s) . The peak annual discharge has a 0 @.@ 2 percent chance of reaching 10 @,@ 800 cubic feet per second (310 m3 / s) .

Upstream of Reyburn Creek , the peak annual discharge of Shickshinny Creek has a 10 percent chance of reaching 1 @,@ 270 cubic feet per second (36 m3 / s) . It has a 2 percent chance of reaching 2 @,@ 030 cubic feet per second (57 m3 / s) and a 1 percent chance of reaching 2 @,@ 440 cubic feet per second (69 m3 / s) . The peak annual discharge has a 0 @.@ 2 percent chance of reaching 4 @,@ 160 cubic feet per second (118 m3 / s) .

Upstream of one of its unnamed tributaries , the peak annual discharge of Shickshinny Creek has a 10 percent chance of reaching 650 cubic feet per second (18 m3 / s) . It has a 2 percent chance of reaching 950 cubic feet per second (27 m3 / s) and a 1 percent chance of reaching 1 @,@ 120 cubic feet per second (32 m3 / s) . The peak annual discharge has a 0 @.@ 2 percent chance of reaching 2 @,@ 390 cubic feet per second (68 m3 / s) .

The average annual rainfall is between 35 inches (89 cm) and 45 inches (110 cm) . In late April 1965 , the water temperature of the creek was measured to be 11 @.@ 0 ° C (51 @.@ 8 ° F) .

= = Geology and geography = =

The elevation near the mouth of Shickshinny Creek is 499 feet (152 m) above sea level . The elevation of the creek 's source is between 1 @,@ 200 and 1 @,@ 220 feet (370 and 370 m) above sea level . In its first mile , the elevation of the creek decreases by 160 feet (49 m) . From this point to its mouth , its elevation decreases at a rate of 67 @.@ 1 feet per mile (12 @.@ 71 m / km) .

The course of Shickshinny Creek has been described as " sinuous " . The creek flows through rock formations consisting of sandstone and shale . It is situated in a gorge for a mile in its lower reaches .

The Pocono Beds are found near Shickshinny Creek , on Shickshinny Mountain . The Pocono Beds are found at the same level as the creek slightly north of Shickshinny . This rock formation consists of 200 feet (61 m) of gray sandstone and brownish sandy shales . Approximately 400 feet (120 m) below the Pocono Beds is a layer of rock approximately 50 feet (15 m) thick and composed of pebbly sandstone . This may be the Mount Pleasant Formation . The Mauch Chunk Formation is also found in the watershed . Additionally , the Chemung Beds are found on parts of the creek .

In its lower reaches , the surficial geology in the vicinity of Shickshinny Creek consists of urban land highly disrupted by cut and fill , alluvium , alluvial terrace , fill , Wisconsinan Ice @-@ Contact Stratified Drift containing stratified sand and gravel , Wisconsinan Ice @-@ Contact Delta containing sand and gravel , Wisconsinan Bouldery Till (a glaicial or resedimented till containing boulders , and bedrock consisting of sandstone and shale . The bedrock mainly occurs on the mountains in this part of the watershed . In the middle reaches of the creek , the surficial geology mainly features

bedrock consisting of sandstone and shale , alluvium , and a glacial or resedimented till known as Wisconsinan Till . Some Wisconsinan Outwash and alluvial terrace is also present near Koonsville . Some patches of Wisconsinan Bouldery Till and wetlands are also present . In its upper reaches , the creek is almost entirely dominated by Wisconsinan Till , bedrock , and some lakes . However , there is a patch of alluvial fan immediately north of Shickshinny Lake and some Wisconsinan Bouldery Till and Wisconsinan Outwash not far from the creek 's source .

The watershed of the tributary Little Shickshinny Creek is located in the Wyoming Coal Basin . Little Shickshinny Creek flows between Huntington Mountain and Lee Mountain . The Watsontown Axis crosses Shickshinny Creek .

The Shickshinny Creek watershed is in the Wyoming Valley . The creek is in the vicinity of Shickshinny Mountain . Glacial deposits along the lower reaches of the creek can be up to 30 feet (9 @.@ 1 m) deep .

A 62 @-@ foot @-@ deep well in the Shickshinny Creek water gap was once noted by Newport to produce 40 US gallons (150 l) of water per minute .

= = Watershed = =

The watershed of Shickshinny Creek has an area of 35 @.@ 0 square miles (91 km2) . It is located in the northwestern part of Luzerne County and the northeastern part of Columbia County . The area of the portion of the watershed that is upstream of Reyburn Creek has an area of 11 @.@ 97 square miles (31 @.@ 0 km2) . The mouth of the creek is in the United States Geological Survey quadrangle of Shickshinny . However , its source is in the quadrangle of Sweet Valley .

The lower reaches of the watershed of Shickshinny Creek mostly consist of mountains . The upper reaches of the watershed consist of hills , swamps , and lakes . The communities of Muhlenburg and Shickshinny are in the creek 's watershed .

A lake known as Shickshinny Lake is in the watershed of Shickshinny Creek . It has an area of approximately 129 acres (52 ha) . The lake is dammed by the Shickshinny Lake Dam . The dam is 365 feet (111 m) long and 33 feet (10 m) high , with a width of 17 feet (5 @.@ 2 m) at its crest . It is covered in grass on both sides , with some riprapa also occurring on its north side . A 1980 inspection found its spillway to be " inadequate " , but lacking " major deficiencies " . However , there was some seepage and erosion .

Shickshinny Creek is the main source of flooding in Union Township and one of the main sources of flooding in Shickshinny . During the largest flood in Union Township , which occurred in June 1972 , the creek 's floodwaters reached a depth of 2 feet (0 @.@ 61 m) above McKendree Road in Koonsville . The creek 's discharge in southern Union Township approached 8 @,@ 300 cubic feet per second (240 m3 / s) .

= = History and etymology = =

Shickshinny Creek was entered into the Geographic Names Information System on August 2 , 1979 . Its identifier in the Geographic Names Information System is 1187507 . The origin of the creek 's name is unknown , but it may be an Anglicized corruption of the word Schigi @-@ hanna , which is itself a rough translation of " fine creek " .

The first sawmill in Union Township , Luzerne County was built by Isaac Benscotter in 1802 . The first gristmill in the township was built on the creek by George Gregory in 1804 . The Search brothers built a number of mills on Shickshinny Creek in 1858 . They included a sawmill , a flour mill , a plaster mill , and a brickyard and were collectively known as the Shickshinny Mills or Search 's Mills .

A turnpike was built through the Shickshinny Creek gap in 1877 . A number of bridges have been constructed over the creek . A masonry arch bridge carrying Glen Ave over the creek is 32 @.@ 2 feet (9 @.@ 8 m) long . A concrete tee beam bridge carrying Pennsylvania Route 239 over the creek was constructed in 1925 . It is 33 @.@ 1 feet (10 @.@ 1 m) long and is situated in Union Township . A steel stringer / multi @-@ beam or girder bridge was built over the creek in 1930 and

renovated in the 2010s . It is 46 @.@ 9 feet (14 @.@ 3 m) long and carries Bartoli Lane . A bridge of the same type , but carrying State Route 4007 , was built in Union Township in 1940 . This bridge is 51 @.@ 8 feet (15 @.@ 8 m) long . A concrete tee beam bridge carrying that road over the creek was built in 1965 . It is 35 @.@ 1 feet (10 @.@ 7 m) long and is also situated in Union Township .

The Shickshinny Water Company used a stream in the Shickshinny Creek watershed as a water supply in the early 1900s . Little Shickshinny Creek has been used as a water supply for Shickshinny , as well as Mocanaqua . Agriculture has been a significant industry in the watershed in the past . The streams of the watershed also power small mills .

In 1996 , 3 @,@ 000 US gallons (11 @,@ 000 l) of oil leaked from a pipe into Shickshinny Creek , but there was no major environmental damage .

= = Biology = =

The main stem of Shickshinny Creek is designated as a Coldwater Fishery and a Migratory Fishery . The tributaries Reyburn Creek and Culver Creek , as well as several unnamed streams in the watershed , also hold these designations . However , the tributary Little Shickshinny Creek is designated as a High @-@ Quality Coldwater Fishery and a Migratory Fishery . Wild trout naturally reproduce in Shickshinny Creek from its headwaters downstream to its mouth .

The tributary Little Shickshinny Creek is listed on the Columbia County Natural Areas Inventory . The area in its vicinity contains habitats such as a Hemlock Palustrine Forest Natural Community , a red maple swamp , a dry oak @-@ heath forest , a highbush blueberry shrub swamp , and a reservoir .