

## Falls Run NHA

This site is designated around a stretch of Falls Run (also known, apparently erroneously, as Falk Run) that supports **two species of concern** that cannot be named here at the request of the jurisdictional agency overseeing their protection. These species rely on good quality water. The extent of the habitat occupied by these species is unknown; their habitat may extend further upstream and downstream from the NHA.

Species or natural communities of concern that can be found in this NHA include the following:

Species or Natural Community Name	PNHP Rank <sup>1</sup>		PA Legal	Last Seen	Quality <sup>2</sup>
	Global	State	Status <sup>1</sup>		
Sensitive species of concern A <sup>3</sup>	<b>S</b>	---	---	2011-08-01	E
Sensitive species of concern B <sup>3</sup>	<b>S</b>	---	---	2011-08-01	E

1 = Please refer to the PNHP website (<http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/RankStatusDef.aspx>) for an explanation of PNHP ranks and legal status. A legal status in parentheses is a status change recommended by the Pennsylvania Biological Survey.

2 = Please refer to the NatureServe website (<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/eorankguide.htm>) for an explanation of quality ranks.

3 = This species is not named by request of the jurisdictional agency responsible for its protection.

## Threats and Stresses

Maintaining suitable aquatic habitat is key to the continued success of the species of concern. Runoff from dirt and gravel roads in close proximity to waterways can contribute to physical degradation of their channels and erosion and sediment pollution in streams and rivers. Loss of forest cover within the core areas may also result in increased water temperatures and disruption of natural nutrient cycling linked to the river. If forest cover is substantially reduced within the watersheds, water quality is likely to decline from increased sediment loads. Removal of forest cover on steep slopes is especially problematic because of the potential for increased runoff and erosion following storm events.

The Core Habitat is nearly all forested, with one road crossing. Within the Supporting Landscape, however, some agriculture abuts the creek.

## Conservation Recommendations

Conserve and expand the forested riparian buffers of Falls Run and its tributaries. Streams through forested areas should be considered high priority for conservation. The forested riparian corridor helps to regulate the temperature of the stream and creates streamside conditions that contribute to improved water quality and aquatic habitat. Streams through non-forested areas should be restored with native trees and shrubs appropriate to the habitat. Establish at least a 100 foot (30 meter) buffer of woody vegetation along the creek and its tributaries to help reduce erosion, sedimentation, and pollution. Additionally, best management practices (BMPs) that focus on limiting the introduction of non-point sources of pollution into surface and groundwater should be applied to the surrounding area

## Location and Additional Information

Municipalities: *Franklin Township*

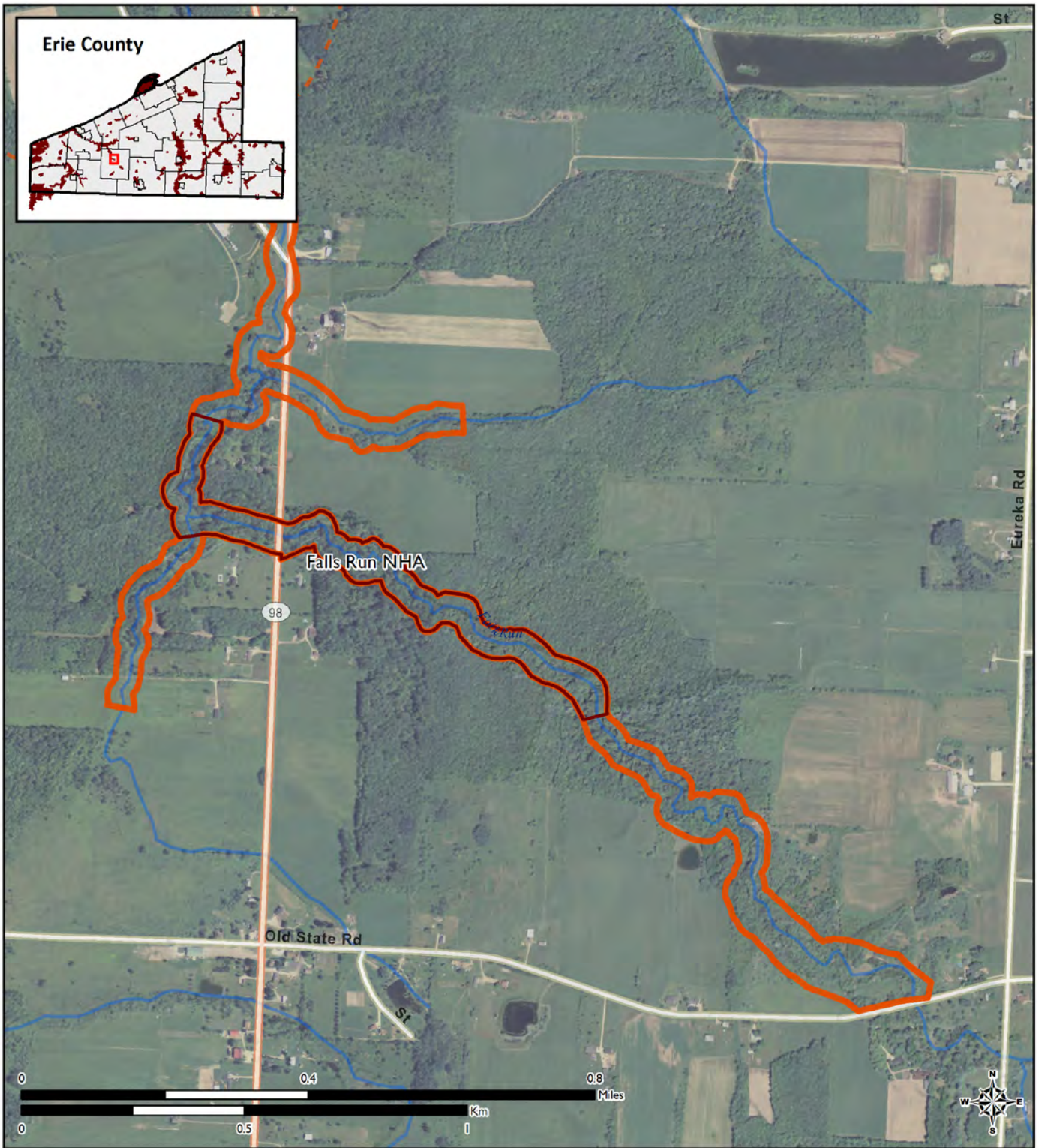
USGS quads: *Edinboro North*

1993 Erie CNHI reference: *Devil's Backbone BDA*

Associated NHAs: *Falls Run Gorge NHA, Falls Run - Shenango Creek Headwaters NHA*

Overlapping Protected Lands: *None*

PNHP Significance Rank: *State*



## Falls Run Natural Heritage Area

The waters of Falls Run support two sensitive species of concern.

**Significance Rank:**  
**STATE**



**Pennsylvania  
Natural Heritage Areas**

-  Core Habitat
-  Supporting Landscape
-  Other Core Habitat
-  Other Supporting Landscape
-  Conservation Lands