

MS Thesis
Department of Environmental Science and Policy
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Thesis Title: A Floristic Checklist of Shenandoah River State Park (SHSP), Warren County, Virginia

Thesis Director: Dr. Andrea Weeks

Committee: Dr. James Lawrey, Dr. Cynthia Smith

ABSTRACT

Shenandoah River State Park (SHSP) in Bentonville, Virginia encompasses 665 hectares of natural ecosystems including rare inland wetlands and endemic Appalachian shale barrens. SHSP lies in Warren County which consistently ranks last in plant collection metrics among the five northern Shenandoah Valley counties. Thus, botanical exploration is warranted to create baselines of botanical knowledge for SHSP managers and increase plant distribution knowledge in Warren County. This floristic checklist of vascular plants yielded 793 collections comprising over 530 unique taxa, fifty of which represent county records of taxa not yet observed in Warren County and one state record, *Equisetum laevigatum* A. Braun.