

Youghiogheny River Band of Shawnee



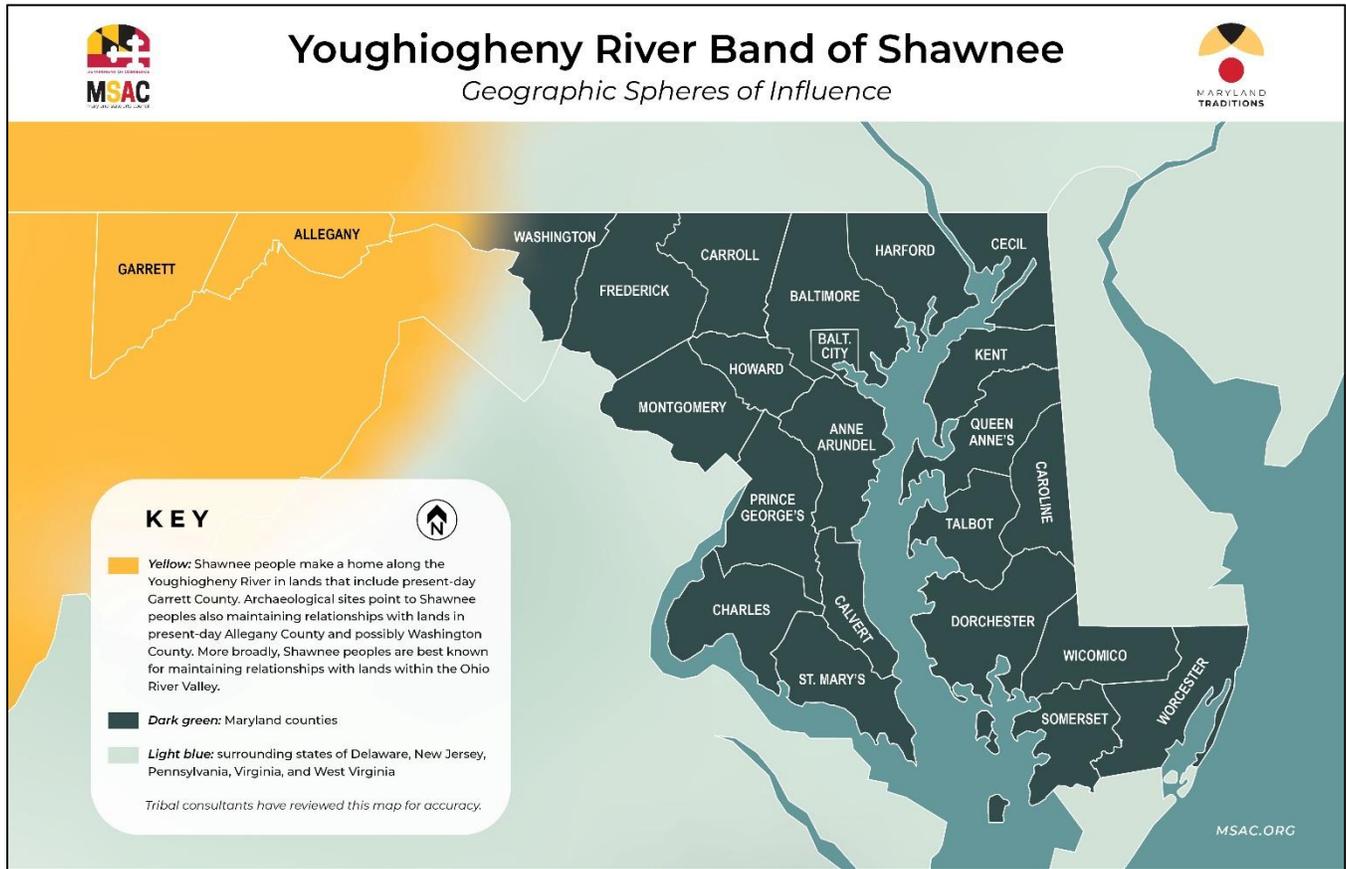
A stretch of the Youghiogheny River near Friendsville. Photo by an elder of the Youghiogheny River Band of Shawnee and used with permission.

Tribal Background

Shawnee peoples are part of the Algonquian culture group and language family. The Youghiogheny River Band of Shawnee includes members of three distinct clans (Eagle, Hawk, and Sycamore) of Shawnee. Historically the tribe has twelve total clans and five separate septs that carry out key areas of governance. Perhaps best known for relating with lands in the Ohio River Valley, Shawnee peoples maintained a semi-migratory nomadic tradition prior to the start of European settlement. Sometimes known as the people of the south wind, they traveled across the eastern seaboard, maintaining kinship ties with Muskogee and Lenape peoples. Settlers encroaching on Shawnee lands caused additional migrations and later forced those migrations to cease. In present-day Maryland, Youghiogheny River Band members forged kinship ties especially with settlers in Friendsville, which they still maintain to this day. The Youghiogheny River Band's current ceremonial grounds lie on lands returned to the Band by a former Friendsville mayor.

Tribal Geographic Sphere of Influence

Shawnee people make a home along the Youghiogheny River in lands that include present-day Garrett County. Archaeological sites such as the Shawnee Old Fields Village point to Shawnee peoples also maintaining relationships with lands in present-day Allegany County and possibly Washington County. More broadly, Shawnee peoples are best known for maintaining relationships with lands within the Ohio River Valley.



Pronunciation Guide

“Youghiogheny:” jα-kλ-ge-ni (j as in “you;” α as in “pod;” λ as in “bud;” e as in “bay;” i as in “bead;”)

“Shawnee:” jα-ni (j as in “shy;” α as in “pod;” i as in “bead”)

Land Acknowledgment Statement

Created by MSAC staff based on information shared by Youghiogheny River Band of Shawnee tribal consultants.

I/we acknowledge that the Youghiogheny River Band of Shawnee continues to maintain relationships with the lands where we gather today. The Youghiogheny River Band of Shawnee has stewarded these lands and waters for generations. Shawnee peoples maintained a nomadic tradition prior to the start of European settlement, regularly renewing relationships with lands across the Eastern Seaboard. The Youghiogheny River Band of

Shawnee are still here and share this land with all visitors to it. With them, we uninvited visitors honor these lands, which carry the memory of joys and tears and loss. To make this statement more meaningful, I/we invite you to learn more about the Shawnee and about land acknowledgement statements via resources available at MSAC.org and elsewhere, to consider donating and making institutional resources available to tribal peoples, and to reconsider in what ways you can improve your relationship with the lands you steward.