

Regional Greenway Planning Group Notes Numerous Incentives for Land Conservation!

The *Crosswicks Creek/Doctors Creek Regional Greenway Planning Group (CCDC Greenway Planning Group)*, a consortium of representatives from six municipalities, has completed a comprehensive regional greenway plan and is now working on a greenway feasibility project with numerous benefits to landowners interested in land conservation.

The project, entitled *The Doctors Creek-Assunpink Trail Feasibility Study* contains a number of informational gathering and mapping tasks that will determine if developing a greenway in the project area is “feasible”. A greenway is a linear open space area, often established along a natural corridor such as creeks. Greenways are “open space connectors” linking parks, natural preserves, and historic sites with each other. They are natural corridors criss-crossing a landscape that will otherwise be negatively impacted by development.

According to Suzanne Forbes, AICP, project consultant with Forbes Environmental and Land Use Planning, “*feasibility* study means we will be collecting information to determine if a greenway is something that is *possible* and beneficial to landowners living along the Doctors and Assunpink Creeks. In a time where natural communities are disappearing, people are having a harder time experiencing the outdoors and obtaining the numerous benefits associated with communing with nature. We are looking for ways to preserve the natural and cultural features in the project area”.

Betsy Poinsett, CCDC Planning Group Chair agrees and has worked hard with the CCDC Planning Group to educate landowners and elected officials about the ecological, social and economic benefits associated with greenway conservation. According to Poinsett, “there are so many ecological, economic and social benefits associated with conserving greenways. Our goal is to identify the conservation efforts that are most beneficial to our local landowners”.



**Red Valley Road, Doctors Creek,
Millstone Township
Photo: Millstone Township Resident
Dillon Torno, Age 14**

Landowner benefits to conserving land and creating protected greenway corridors are numerous and may include:

- ✓ *Lucrative fees from fee simple acquisition programs,*
- ✓ *Easements,*
- ✓ *State tax & federal tax deductions,*
- ✓ *Title donations/bargain sales, and*
- ✓ *Subdivision donations*

For more information about the Doctors-Assunpink Greenway Feasibility Study, to attend monthly meetings, or to obtain information about local land conservation programs, please contact Betsy Poinsett, Regional Greenway Planning Group Chair at (609) 259-7502 betsypoinsett@verizon.net. Additional information may be obtained from the CCDC website at www.ccdcgreenway.org.