

The Crosswicks Creek/Doctors Creek Watershed Greenway Group



Public Meeting #1

A Presentation to
Interested Public
&
Municipal Officials

September 5, 2006

Crosswicks/Doctors Creek
Watershed Greenway Group



Our Agenda For This Evening ~



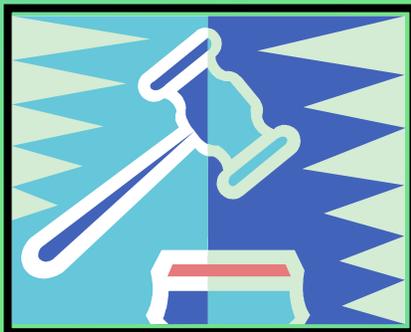
- ✓ Sign In
- ✓ Introductions
- ✓ Greenway Group
- ✓ Overview of the Greenway Plan
- ✓ Overview of the Doctors Creek/Assunpink Creek Feasibility Project
- ✓ Questions & Comments

Introductions ~



- ✓ **Betsy Poinsett, Chair,
Crosswicks/Doctors Creek
Watershed Greenway
Group**
- ✓ **Greenway Group
Members**
- ✓ **Consultants**
- ✓ **Municipal Officials**
- ✓ **General Public**

A Note About Questions & Comments ~



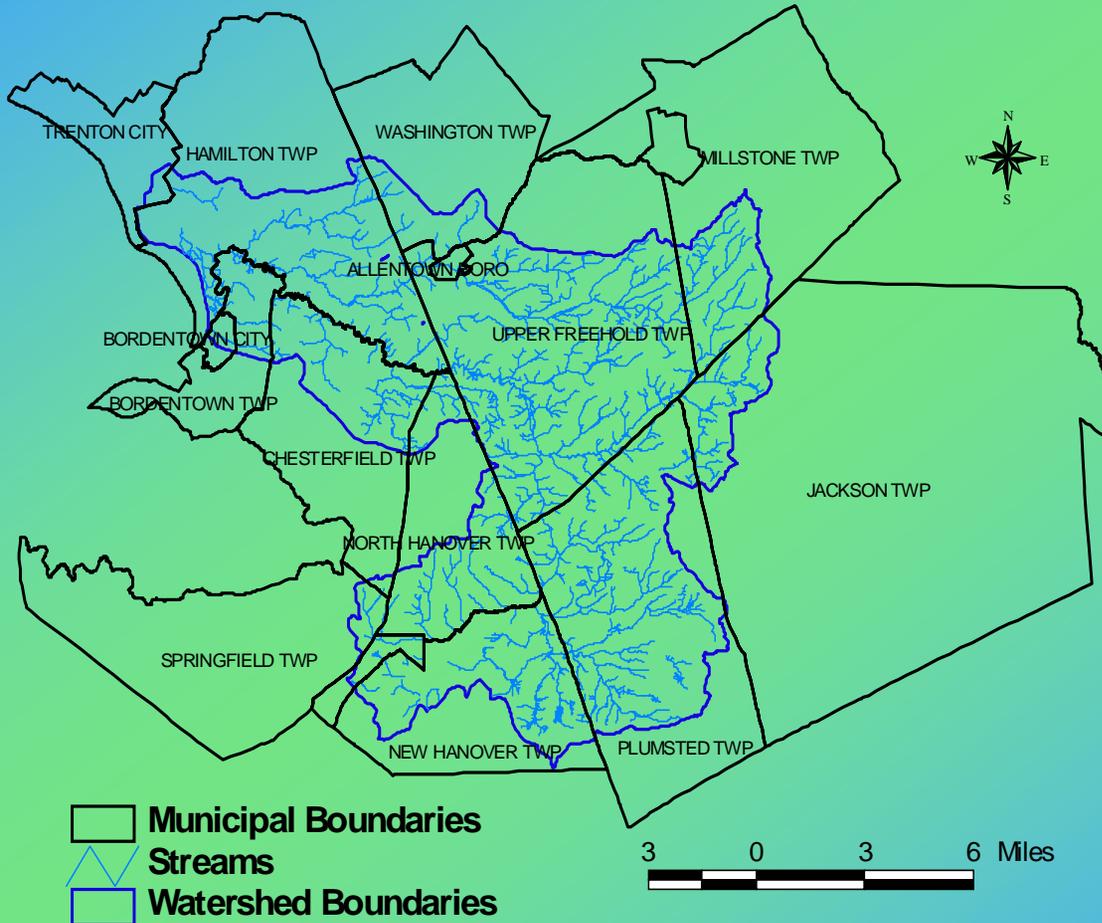
- ✓ **Please Hold Questions & Comments Until the End of the Presentation**
- ✓ **People Have Different Opinions & Want to Be Heard, So Please Be Brief & Polite**
- ✓ **If We Do Not have An Answer Tonight, We Will Get One For You!**

Greenway Group (History) ~



- ✓ **Panhandle Regional Environmental Council, Mid 1990's**
- ✓ **Greenway Group, 2001**
- ✓ **OES Grant for Greenway Plan, 2004**
- ✓ **ANJEC Environmental Achievement Award, 2004**
- ✓ **Greenway Plan, 2005**
- ✓ **Washington to Walnford Trail Study, 2006**
- ✓ **Trail Feasibility Study, 2006**

The Crosswicks/Doctors Creek Watershed Greenway Study Area~



Note

The Greenway Plan is available at www.ccdcgreenway.org

The Crosswicks/Doctors Creek Watershed Greenway Group ~



✓ Greenway Group Member Municipalities

- ✓ **Original Six-** Allentown Borough, Hamilton, Millstone, Plumsted, Washington and Upper Freehold Townships.
- ✓ **Recently Joined-** Bordentown and Trenton Cities, Bordentown, Chesterfield and New Hanover Townships, and Wrightstown Borough.

The Crosswicks/Doctors Creek Watershed Greenway Group ~



The Greenway Group's Vision ~

Implementation of the regional greenway plan which envisions a continuous preserved historic, cultural, scenic, recreational trail and navigation system stretching from the Delaware River inland and connecting with other regional greenways.

The Crosswicks/Doctors Creek Greenway Plan ~



Greenway Plan Defined:

*A **greenway plan** is a useful planning tool for land preservation. A **greenway** is a linear open space that connects points of interest. A **greenway** can be used for recreation, transportation, or preservation and can include publicly and privately owned land. **Greenways** that allow public access can provide an opportunity for people to interact with the outdoors.*

The Crosswicks/Doctors Creek Greenway Plan ~

Crosswicks Creek/Doctors Creek Watershed Greenway Plan



Crosswicks Creek/Doctors Creek Watershed Regional Greenway
Planning Group
and
F. X. Browne, Inc.

April 2004

The Crosswicks
Creek/Doctors Creek
Watershed Greenway
Plan is focused on three
primary objectives:

- To protect water quality,
- To preserve historic vistas and sites, and
- To develop a system of trails.

The Crosswicks/Doctors Creek Greenway Plan ~



The Greenway Plan contains:

- **Planning Information-** Designed to initiate greenway trail conservation partnerships with local landowners and develop a system of greenway plans.
- **Identified Needs-**
 - **Protection of Identified Ecological Features-** Areas of Significance including: Headwater Areas, 35' Buffer, Steep Slopes, Water Quality Protection Zones
 - **Preservation of Identified Historic Vistas & Sites-** Preserve historic attributes in corridor and watershed.
 - **Development of Identified Trail Areas-** Identified trails and connector trails for ecological protection and recreation.

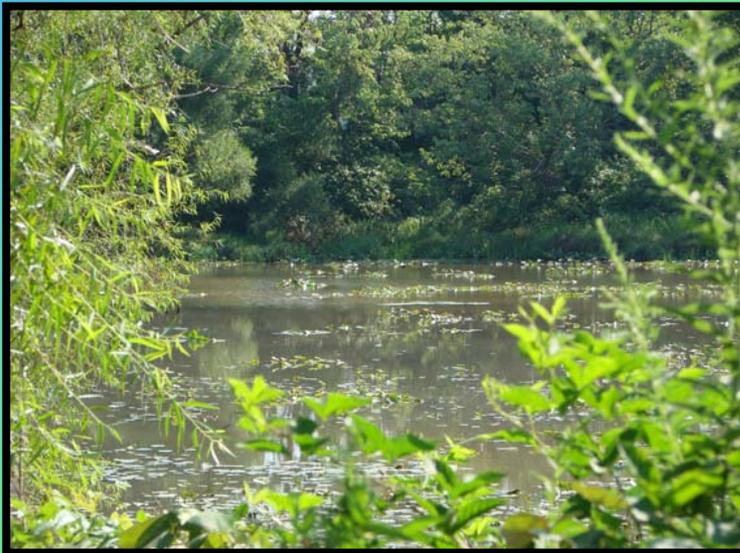
The Crosswicks/Doctors Creek Greenway Plan ~



The Greenway Plan contains:

- Management Plan Recommendations- Additional public outreach, conservation of stream corridors and headwater areas in their natural state, restoration of negatively impacted areas, acquisition of easements, adoption of more stringent local ordinances to address land development and resource impacts associated with land development & *additional feasibility studies for specific greenway trails.*

The Doctors/Assunpink Creek Trail Feasibility Study ~

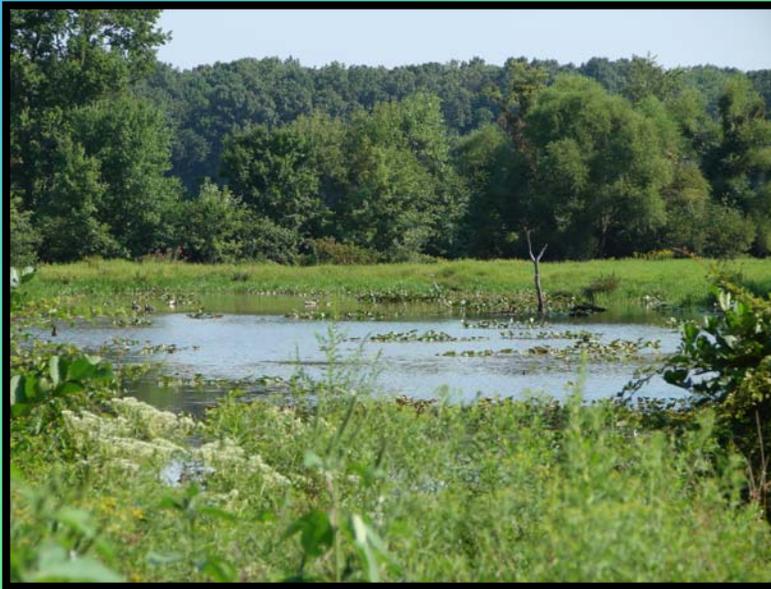


*Photo: Jeff Torno
Doctors Creek, County Road #526,
Millstone Township*

Project Selection Process

- **Several Projects Brought to the Table**
- **Six Municipal Representatives to the Committee Voted**
- **Doctors/Assunpink Creek Trail Feasibility Project Selected**
- **Project Area Serving as Spur to the Capital to Coast Trail and involving four represented municipalities (Allentown Borough, Hamilton, Millstone and Upper Freehold Townships)**

The Doctors/Assunpink Creek Trail Feasibility Study ~



*Photo: Jeff Torno
Doctors Creek, Red Valley Road,
Millstone Township*

Funding Sources

- NJDEP, Office of Environmental Services Grant (ESP) - **\$10K**
- Municipal Match (\$2,500.00 each) from Allentown Borough and Hamilton, Millstone and Upper Freehold Townships-**\$10K**

The Doctors/Assunpink Creek Trail Feasibility Study ~

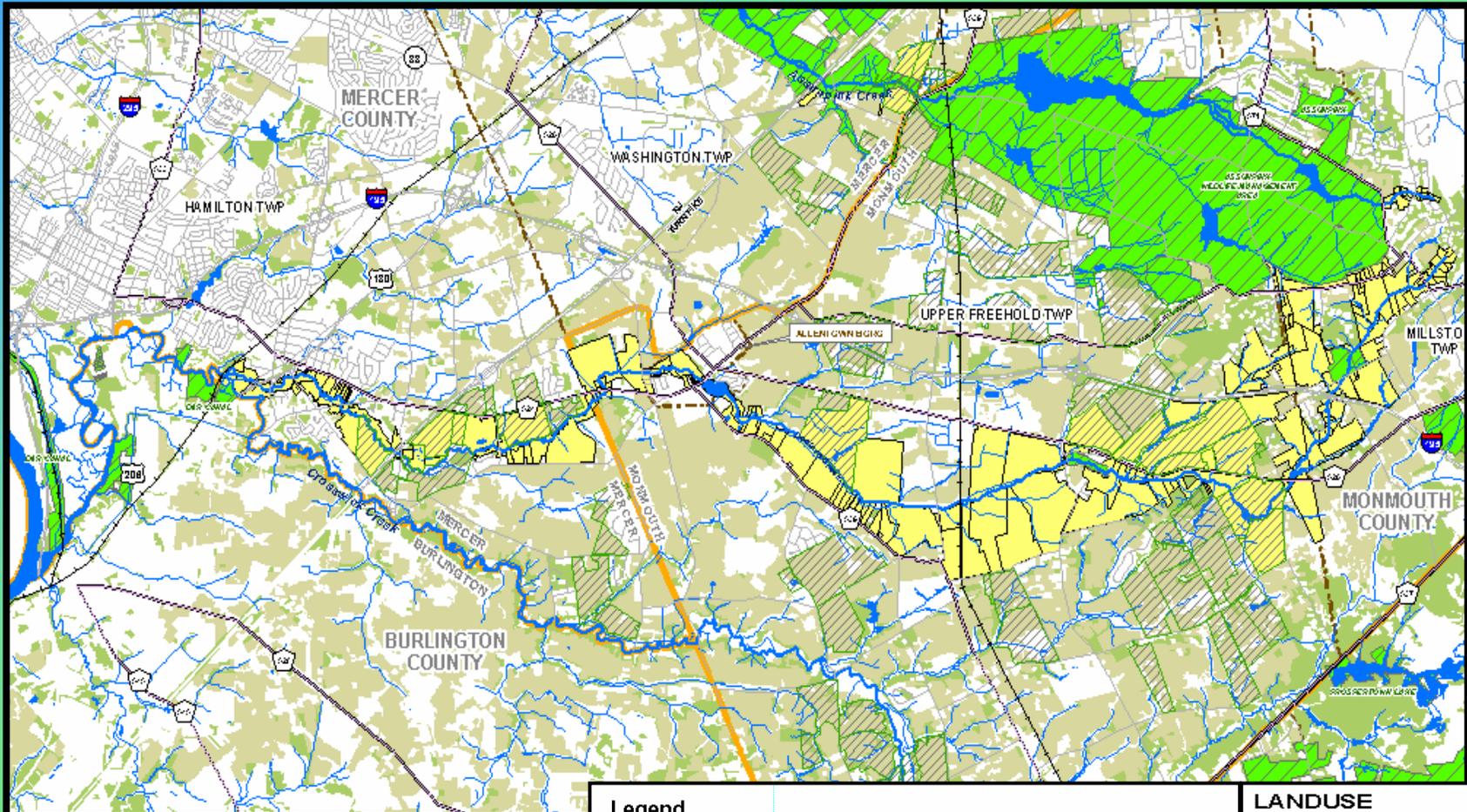
Project Goal

Determine the feasibility of a trail system. Area of Study beginning at the confluence of the Doctors and Crosswicks Creeks in Hamilton Township and connecting to the existing trail system in the southwestern portion of the Assunpink WMA.



*Photo: Walter Helfrecht
Groveville Stream Access
(Hamilton Township)*

The Project Study Area ~



Legend

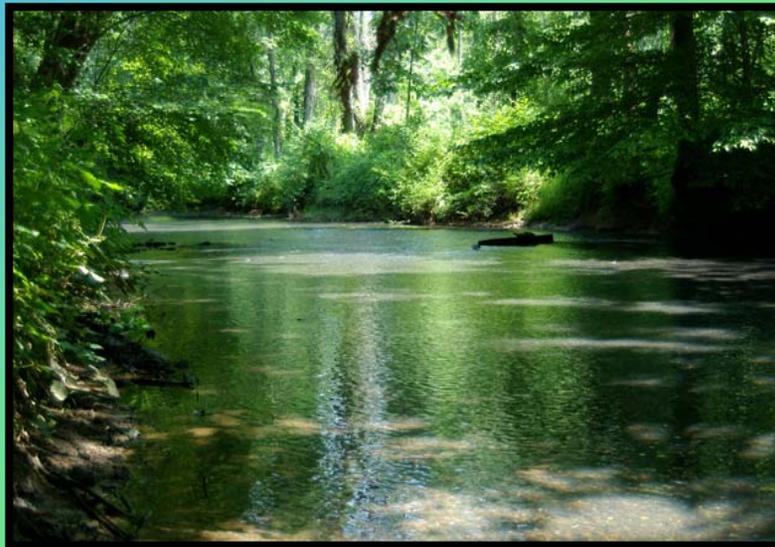
- Streams
- Water Bodies
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary
- Parcels in Proximity of Doctors Creek
- Preserved Farmland Parcels (FX Browne)
- NJ Turnpike
- Interstates
- U.S. Highways
- State Routes
- County Highways
- Railroads

LANDUSE

- Agricultural
- Forest/Brush
- Open Space

**Crosswicks/Doctors Creek
Watershed Greenway Group**

The Doctors/Assunpink Creek Trail Feasibility Study ~

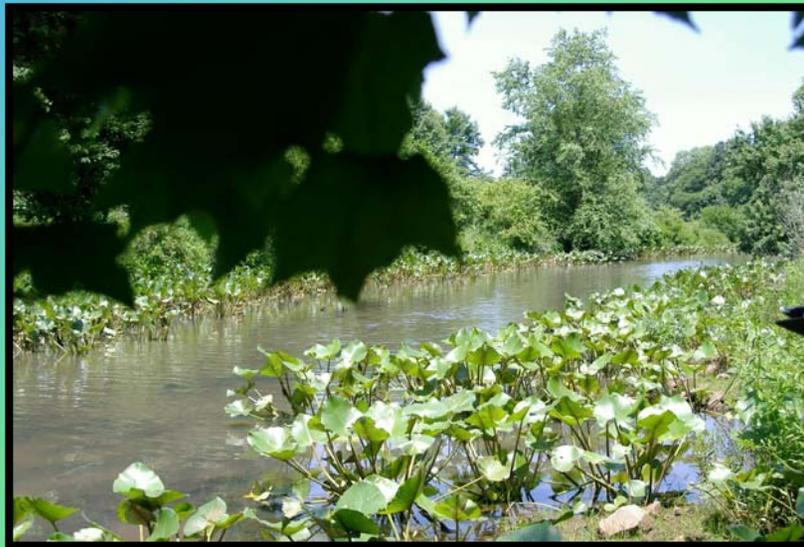


*Photo: Walter Helfrecht
Doctors Creek, Southern Perimeter
Heritage Park (Allentown Borough)*

Project Focus Areas

- Public Education
- Landowner Outreach
- Research
- Report

The Doctors/Assunpink Creek Trail Feasibility Project ~



*Photo: Walter Helfrecht
Doctors Creek, Rear of Galloping
Brook Development (Upper Freehold
Township)*

Project Tasks

- Monthly Meetings
- Public Meetings (3)
- PR
- Landowner Meetings
- Field Work & Research
- Public Questionnaire
- GIS Mapping
- Draft & Final Feasibility Report

The Doctors/Assunpink Creek Trail Feasibility Project ~



Project Update, Citizen Survey

Surveys Sent to Approximately 300 Landowners on Parcels Bordering Doctors & Crosswicks Creek. Surveys Important for Following Reasons:

- ✓ Random sample survey of a community's citizens is an effective way to gather valid input and opinions from all segments of the community.
- ✓ Often the only means of collecting data and opinions representing all residents.
- ✓ Even with a low response rate, you hear from more residents than any other method; particularly public meetings where typically less than 50 people attend.
- ✓ Results can be more accurate and powerful than other methods.

The Doctors/Assunpink Creek Trail Feasibility Project ~



Project Update, Citizen Survey

Some Findings From the Citizen Survey:

- ✓ Feedback was limited (17 responses),
- ✓ Respondents from Allentown Borough (4); Hamilton Township (4); Upper Freehold Township (7), and Washington Township (1).
- ✓ Most respondents (7) were in the 51-60 year old age range,
- ✓ The majority (10) of respondents lived in single-family detached homes,
- ✓ The majority of our respondents (9) lived in their home for more than 20 years, and
- ✓ Ten (10) landowners expressed interest in study & land conservation options and were invited to tonight's meeting.

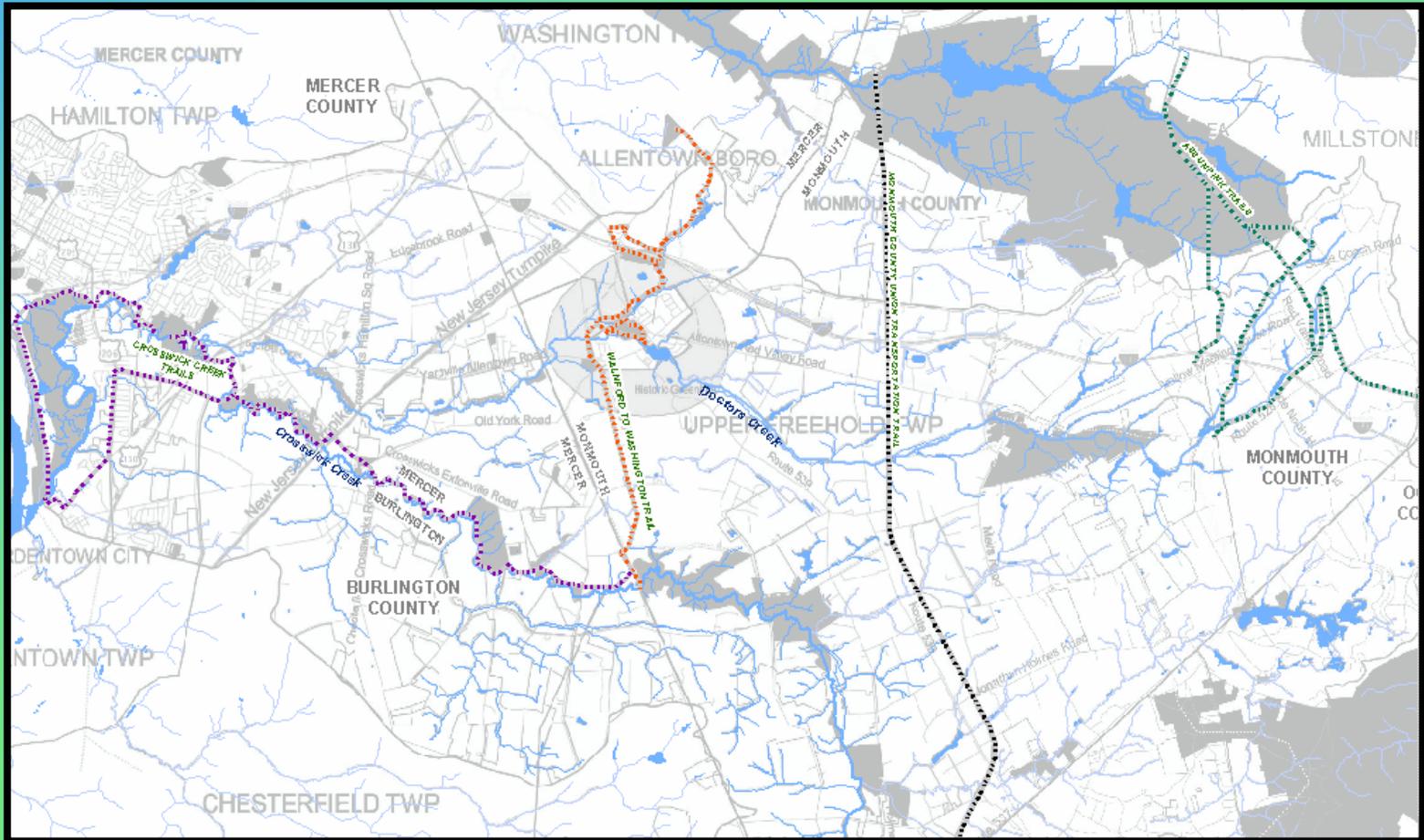
The Doctors/Assunpink Creek Trail Feasibility Project ~



Other On-Going Research Tasks

- ✓ GIS Mapping
- ✓ Field Assessment
- ✓ Municipal Master Plans
- ✓ Municipal Zoning and Subdivision Plans
- ✓ Research into Existing Trail Development

Current Trail Initiatives in Project Area ~



Crosswicks/Doctors Creek
Watershed Greenway Group



The Union Transportation Trail ~



monmouthcounty
Park System

- **Monmouth County Open Space Plan, 2005**
- **Goal:** Act to preserve open space before the opportunity is lost forever.
- **Recommendation:** Encourage municipalities to develop open space plans that address local issues of redevelopment, resource protection, recreation opportunities, preservation of community character and green infrastructure.
- **Action:** Create parking access areas, activity nodes and linkages on county easement for Union Transportation Trail (40 acres), Upper Freehold, NJ.

The Washington to Walnford Trail ~



Crosswicks/Doctors Creek Watershed Greenway Group



Questions & Comments ~



Thank You!

Please Note: More Specific Information on Research Findings Will Be Presented at the Next Public Meeting (November 14, 2006). This PowerPoint Presentation and All Project Updates Will be Available on the Greenway's Website- www.ccecgreenway.org.