

## Regional Greenway Planning Group Finalizes Plan and Begins New Project!

The *Crosswicks Creek/Doctors Creek Regional Greenway Planning Group*, a consortium of representatives from six municipalities has completed a comprehensive regional greenway plan and is now launching a NJDEP/municipally-funded greenway trail feasibility project recommended in the plan. The plan addresses greenway preservation in a 146 square mile area!

The Crosswicks/Doctors Creek Regional Greenway Plan will protect and preserve historic and scenic vistas, protect surface water quality and provide for public recreational trail access.



The group will have a *public meeting on Tuesday September 5, 2006* to provide an overview and the watershed community is cordially invited!

The meeting will be held at *7:00 PM at the Allentown First Aid Squad Building* on Waker Avenue (Route 526) just outside of Allentown borough.

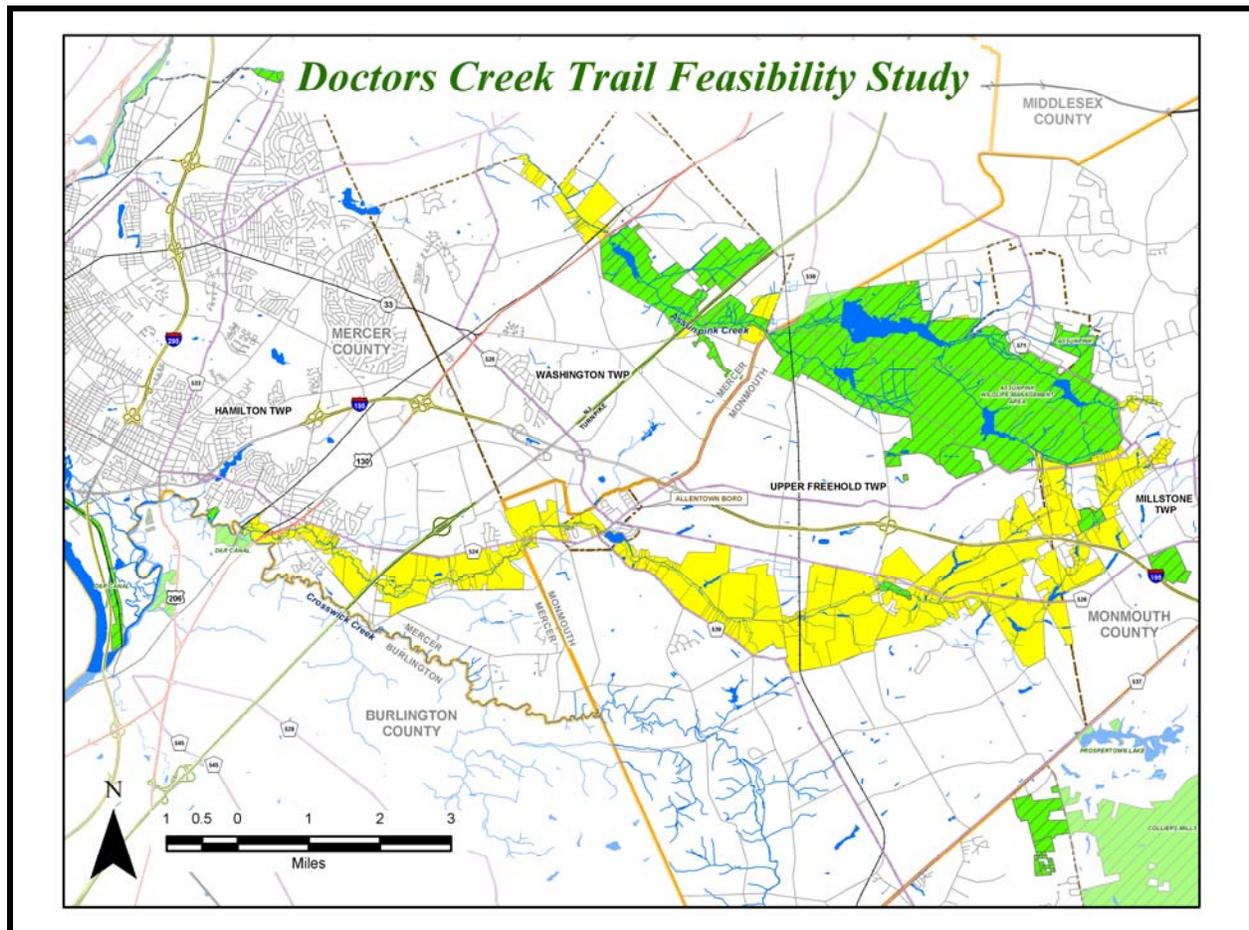
The Crosswicks Creek/Doctors Creek Regional Greenway Planning Group formed in 2002 due to a need to conserve greenways in the Crosswicks and Doctors Creek Watershed. At that point in time, the group was comprised of 6 municipalities (Allentown Borough, Hamilton, Millstone, Plumsted, Upper Freehold and Washington townships).

The group worked diligently throughout 2002-2004 to complete the Crosswicks Creek/Doctors Creek Watershed Greenway Plan. A *greenway* is most often defined as a linear open space that connects points of interest. A *greenway plan* is a useful planning tool for land preservation. The Regional Planning Group is now seeking formal municipal adoption for the plan, and urges all municipalities to do so.

All environmental plans, including the Crosswicks/Doctors Creek Regional Greenway Plan, have an associated and important *conservation management plan*. The conservation management plan contains *specific* recommendations to implement project goals. In the case of the greenway plan the overlying goal is to protect significant natural and cultural resources associated with our creeks. Therefore, an important recommendation was to obtain funding to research the feasibility of developing a passive recreational and environmental greenway trail in order to preserve those resources and provide recreational and environmental greenway areas for community enjoyment.

The Crosswicks/Doctors Creek Regional Planning Group is now comprised of eleven (11) municipalities that are actively supporting the effort. The eleven municipalities include: Allentown Borough, Bordentown City, Bordentown, Chesterfield, Hamilton, Millstone, New Hanover, North Hanover, Plumsted, Upper Freehold, and Washington Townships.

At the end of 2004, the Regional Planning Group applied for a NJ Environmental Services Program (NJ ESP) grant to research the feasibility of developing a Doctors Creek to Assunpink Creek recreational and environmental trail. This is the first implementation project based on the recommendations contained in their multi-municipal Greenway Plan (see [www.marsh-friends.org](http://www.marsh-friends.org)). The region of study (e.g., municipalities involved & creeks) for the *Doctors and Assunpink Greenway Trail Feasibility Study* is illustrated in the map below. Future articles will illustrate more specific land areas under study as well as potential trail routes.



The primary goal of this feasibility study is to develop specific information and specific tools to determine the feasibility of a recreational and environmental trail. It is important to note that the project will determine if developing a greenway trail in the project area is feasible. A variety of approaches, including public outreach, will be applied to determine feasibility.

Please join us on ***September, 5, 2006 at the Allentown First Aid Squad Building at 7:00 PM*** in the first of three public outreach meetings designed to provide the public with information about the project and to gather your input in determining the feasibility of a greenway trail in an environmentally and historically important region! For more information about the Regional Greenway Plan or the Doctors-Assunpink Trail Feasibility Study, please contact Betsy Poinsett, Regional Greenway Planning Group Chair at [betsypoinsett@verizon.net](mailto:betsypoinsett@verizon.net).