

5.0 Study Area Inventory & Trail Alternatives

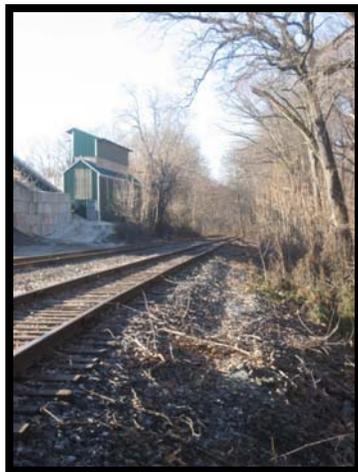
Previous sections of this study contain physical, social, and regulatory information for the Crosswicks Creek/Doctors Creek watershed and the smaller Doctors Creek-Assunpink Creek Trail Feasibility Study area. This section provides additional information about the project area and at a scale where different trail alternatives may begin to be explored.

The project maps presented in this section (West/Central/East/North Study Area, Maps 4-7) are prepared at a different scale (1"=1,375 feet) and illustrate parcel information as well as parcel ownership information (public and private land, public parcel use). Photographs are provided to further provide a sense of place and may be used along with the project maps.

5.1 Photographic Overview of Study Area

Hamilton Township Portion of Study Area

The Hamilton Township portion of the study area (See Study Area West, Map 4) begins at the D&R canal land just west of Route 130 where it is bisected by the CSX rail line and some industrial land use (See Photos # 1 & #2). This region of the study area has the potential for providing a trail linkage to the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park Trail as well as the Crosswicks Creek Greenway and proposed Crosswicks Creek Trail (See Section 5.2, Trail Linkages).



**Photo 5-1: CSK Rail Line,
Hamilton Township
Proximate to Martin Street
Photo: Forbes Environmental**



**Photo 5-2: Doctors Creek,
Hamilton Township
Proximate to State Highway 156.
Photo: Forbes Environmental**

The Doctors Creek meanders and crosses Highway #156 (Photo #2), Route #130, and Church and Broad Streets soon after (Photos #3 – #5) where the land use becomes less urban and more residential.



Photo 5-3: Doctors Creek, Hamilton Township. Proximate to Route #130
Photo: Forbes Environmental



Photo 5-4: Doctors Creek, Hamilton Township. Proximate to Church Street.
Photo: Forbes Environmental



Photo 5-5: Doctors Creek, Hamilton Township. Proximate to Broad Street.
Photo: Forbes Environmental

As the Doctors Creek continues to meander through Hamilton Township, in the area bounded by Yardville-Allentown Road, Broad Street and the New Jersey Turnpike, it is characterized by small residential parcels before it reaches Groveville-Allentown Road and larger, more open parcels.

Thereafter, the Doctors Creek crosses Groveville-Allentown Road (Photo #6) and larger parcels such as land owned by Public Service Electric and Gas Company and Crosswicks Creek Farm (Photos #7 & #8).



Photo 5-6: Doctors Creek, Hamilton Township, Proximate to Groveville-Allentown Road.
Photo: Forbes Environmental



Photo 5-7: Doctors Creek, Hamilton Township, Proximate to Broad Street & Public Service Electric Gas.
Photo: Forbes Environmental



Photo 5- 8: Doctors Creek, Hamilton Township, Proximate to Crosswicks Tree Farm
Photo: Forbes Environmental

In the Hamilton Township portion of the study area east of the New Jersey Turnpike, the Doctors Creek is primarily surrounded by large farm parcels (Photos #9 & #10) on both the north and south sides.

Farmland preserved parcels are intermixed small residential parcels (Photo #11) on the south side of Doctors Creek just beyond Tattletown Road.



Photo 5-9: Doctors Creek, Hamilton Township, Proximate to Evergreen Farm. Photo: Forbes Environmental



Photo 5-10: Doctors Creek, Hamilton Township, Proximate to Tattletown Road and Samu Farm. Photo: Forbes Environmental



Photo 5-11: Doctors Creek, Hamilton Township, Proximate to Old York Road. Photo: Forbes Environmental

Weatherfield Estates is a new development (Photo #12) located on the south side of the Doctors Creek and in the vicinity of Extonville Road. There are a number of residential and commercial properties abutting the Doctors Creek proximate to Route 524 (Photo #13), and in the land area just west of Breza Road and the Allentown Borough municipal border.



**Photo 5-12: Doctors Creek,
Hamilton Township
Proximate to Old York Road**
Photo: Forbes Environmental



**Photo 5-13: Doctors Creek,
Hamilton Township
Proximate to Hidden Hollow Drive.**
Photo: Forbes Environmental

Just east of Extonville Road and in the vicinity of the Allentown Borough municipal line, the residential parcels become smaller and more intermixed with commercial properties (Photos # 14 & #15).



**Photo 5-14: Doctors Creek,
Hamilton Township, Proximate to
Route 524.**
Photo: Forbes Environmental



**Photo 5-15: Doctors Creek,
Hamilton Township
Proximate to Route 524.**
Photo: Forbes Environmental

Allentown Borough Portion of Study Area

As the Doctors Creek meanders from a small portion of Hamilton Township and then through historic Allentown Borough, the adjacent land is a mixture of residential, commercial and public. The Creek crosses Route 524, Breza Road and the southern perimeter of Heritage Park (Photos #16 & #17) and then Main Street before reaching Allentown Lake at Pete Sensi Park (Photos #18 & #19).



Photo 5-16: Doctors Creek, Allentown Borough, Proximate to Breza Road & Western Portion of Heritage Park
Photo: Forbes Environmental



Photo 5-17: Doctors Creek, Allentown Borough, Proximate to Southern Perimeter Heritage Park.
Photo: Walter Helfrecht



Photo 5-18: Doctors Creek, Allentown Borough, Proximate to Main Street
Photo: Forbes Environmental



Photo 5-19: Doctors Creek, Allentown Borough, Proximate to Pete Sensi Park & Allentown Lake
Photo: Forbes Environmental

Upper Freehold Township Portion of Study Area

The majority of land adjacent to the Doctors & Assunpink Creek study area is within Upper Freehold Township. The portion of the study area west of Sharon Station Road is interspersed with residential properties and large farms on the north side of Doctors Creek and along Route 526 (Photos #20 & #21).



Photo 5-20: Doctors Creek, Upper Freehold Township, Proximate to route 526 & SL Reed Sod Farm
Photo: Forbes Environmental



Photo 5-21: Doctors Creek, Upper Freehold Township, Proximate to Sleepy Hollow Court & Sharon Station Road
Photo: Forbes Environmental

Smaller farmsteads and residential properties about the south side of Doctors Creek along Route 539 (Photos #22 & #24).



Photo 5-22: Doctors Creek, Upper Freehold Township, Proximate to Route 539.
Photo: Forbes Environmental



Photo 5-23: Doctors Creek, Upper Freehold Township, Proximate to Route 539 & Cream Ridge Winery.
Photo: Forbes Environmental

In the portion of the study area east of Sharon Station Road, the Doctors Creek begins branching out in a number of directions and several tributaries meander through large farm parcels. There are several large farms adjacent to Doctors Creek and along Route 526 and Davis Station Road (Photo # 24).



Photo 5-24: Doctors Creek, Upper Freehold Township, Farm Proximate to Davis Station Road
Photo: Forbes Environmental

Imlaystown Historic District, Imlaystown Lake (Photo # 25 & #26) and Clayton County Park (Photo #27) are also in this portion of the study area



Photo 5-25: Doctors Creek, Upper Freehold Township, Proximate to Municipal Building in Imlaystown, Davis Station Road.
Photo: Forbes Environmental



Photo 5-26: Doctors Creek, Upper Freehold Township, Proximate to Imlaystown Lake Dam & Davis Station Road.
Photo: Forbes Environmental



Photo 5-27: Doctors Creek, Upper Freehold Township, Proximate to Emly's Hill Road & Clayton Park
Photo: Forbes Environmental

The Main Stem Doctors Creek runs parallel to Route 526 in Upper Freehold meandering through state, residential, Monmouth County land, and several farms (Photos #28 & #29). The Creek crosses Route 526 in the vicinity of Red Valley Road and the Millstone Township municipal boundary. It is in this portion of the project area that the main stem Doctors Creek has two major tributaries.



Photo 5-28: Doctors Creek, Upper Freehold Township, Proximate to Route 526 & Red Valley Road.
Photo: Forbes Environmental



Photo 5-29: Doctors Creek, Upper Freehold Township, Proximate to Route 526 & Red Valley Lake.
Photo: Dillon Torno

Millstone Township Portion of Study Area

Within the Millstone Township portion of the feasibility study, the Main Stem Doctors Creek becomes two major tributaries traveling northeast, eventually meeting headwater tributaries of the Assunpink Creek. It is in this portion of the study area that a portion of the proposed Millstone Township Greenway (“Assunpink Trail”) is planned (See Section 5.2, Trail Linkages). The more western tributary travels through a number of farms and residential parcels, crossing Fern Drive, Interstate 195, Havens Hollow, Yellow Meeting House and Spring Roads. (Photos #30 & #31). The more western tributary continues to travel northeast ending south of Clarksburg Road.



Photo 5-30: Western Tributary Doctors Creek, Millstone Township, Proximate to Olde Noah Hunt Road & Interstate 195. Photo: Dillon Torno



Photo 5-31: Western Tributary Doctors Creek, Millstone Township, Proximate to Olde Noah Hunt Road & Interstate 195. Photo: Dillon Torno

The more eastern tributary meanders through farms and residential parcels along Route 526, and crosses Old Noah Hunt Road, Interstate 195, Red Valley and Spring Roads. The more eastern tributary ends at the headwaters just west of Route 571 and Millstone Roads (Photos #32 & #33).



Photo 5-32: Eastern Tributary Doctors Creek, Millstone Township, Proximate to Olde Noah Hunt Road & Route 526. Photo: Dillon Torno



Photo 5-33: Eastern Tributary Doctors Creek, Millstone Township, Proximate to Red Valley Road & Red Valley Lake. Photo: Dillon Torno

The two watersheds and tributaries of the Doctors and Assunpink meet in the vicinity of Stage Coach Road and Cheryl Lane just south of the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The Main Stem Assunpink Creek, its tributaries and several ponds and lakes are within the WMA.

The Millstone Township Greenway Loop (“Assunpink Trail”) crosses Stagecoach Road and into the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area where they eventually link at Mitchell Road. The proposed trail continues in a northwesterly direction eventually crossing Route 571. Photographs within the Assunpink WMA are illustrated below (Photos #35 & #36)



Photo 5-34: Assunpink Creek, Millstone Township, Proximate to Route 571/Roosevelt Boulevard in Assunpink WMA.
Photo: Forbes Environmental



Photo 5-35: Assunpink Creek, Millstone Township, Proximate to Route 571/Roosevelt Boulevard in Assunpink WMA.
Photo: Forbes Environmental



Photo 5-36: Assunpink Creek, Millstone Township, Proximate to Assunpink Lake, Assunpink WMA.
Photo: Forbes Environmental