

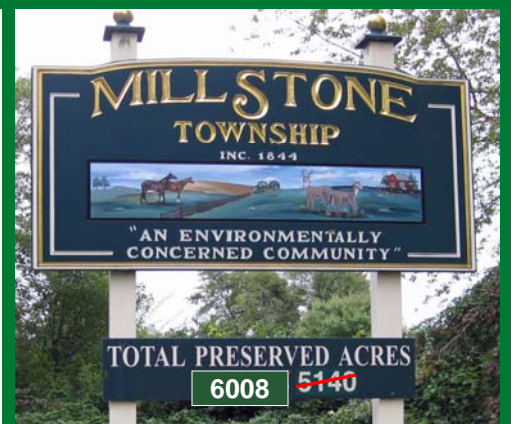
Millstone Township

Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council

Fall 2008

LAND PRESERVATION IN MILLSTONE TOPS 6,000 ACRES

Millstone Township now has more than 6,000 acres of preserved land. The preserved acreage signs throughout the Township will soon be updated with the new total of 6,008 acres. Since the last sign update in 2006, 868 acres have been preserved which includes the preservation of 6 farms totaling 390 acres, additions to Perrineville Lake Park of 250 acres and over 200 acres of Township open space acquisitions including the former Lee property, which has been acquired for future recreation needs.



COMMUNITY PARK

Signs have been posted on the future site of a 160+ acre Millstone Township community park notifying the public of activities that will take place at the park. The former Lee property, located on Red Valley Road and Route 526, was preserved in April 2008. A recreation ad-hoc committee has been formed to plan the future of the park.

MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP FARMERS MARKET

Every Saturday, beginning July 12th, residents have supported their neighbors and the community by shopping at the Millstone Township Farmers Market. Each week, 5 farmers have set up tables and tents at Wagner Farm Park to sell goods that they have grown and made.

Farm markets have been popping up all over the state in recent years. In fact, NJ now has over 100 community farm markets according to the NJ Department of Agriculture. Reasons for their surge in popularity are varied, but center around consumers choosing to live a healthier lifestyle and helping the environment. Seasonal, locally grown food is fresher, as it's often picked hours before the market opens. This also means that less fuel and energy was used to bring it to market, since it did not need to be shipped across country in refrigerated freight cars.



Some visitors to the market cited that they enjoyed meeting the people that grow the food they eat. They were able to ask questions about how the items were grown as well as how to prepare and eat them. Farm markets also often have a greater variety of organically grown and heirloom vegetables and fruits available, providing something different than what is found on the super market shelves, and the Millstone market is no different.

On a typical Saturday, residents were able to find not only fruits and vegetables grown here in town, but also locally sourced honey, dried chilies, flowers and in the fall, pumpkins and ornamental items such as gourds, Indian corn and cornstalks.

Sponsored by the Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council, the Farmer's Market will be closing after October 25th, so hurry over to Wagner Farm Park before it's too late!

All photos on this page by Steve Morelli

WATERSHED ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES INCORPORATION AS A NON-PROFIT AND MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Crosswicks-Doctors Creek Watershed Association, Inc. announced its incorporation as a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. Formerly known as the Crosswicks and Doctors Creek Watershed Greenway Group, the new organization seeks to continue to advance the mission goals of the Greenway Group: to protect surface and ground water quality; preserve historic sites and vistas; and develop a system of land and water trails throughout the watershed. The Association has worked with governmental bodies in many of the 15 towns within the watershed including the clearing of the Crosswicks Creek for canoeing/kayaking in New Egypt; and a clean-up of the Indian Run on the newly preserved Breza Road tract in Upper Freehold Township. The watershed runs through the Southwest section of Millstone Township. (Refer to the Summer 2008 OSFP Newsletter for additional information on the watersheds located in Millstone Township.)

Future projects include but are not limited to: additional clearing of the Crosswicks Creek for canoeing; assisting local governmental bodies in land acquisitions along the Doctors Creek for trail access; nature hikes along the Crosswicks Creek; water quality monitoring and testing of creeks and streams in the watershed; providing educational programs on septic system care and well water testing. The Association invites the public to take an on-line well water testing survey to help them gauge interest in its proposed well water testing service program.

The Watershed Association offers tax-deductible annual memberships. Several levels are available beginning at \$20. Members receive a T-shirt, a subscription to the Association's quarterly newsletter, and discounts on all activities and programs hosted by the Association. Those interested may join on-line via the Association's web site or by mail.

You may also visit their Walnford Day display on October 5 at Historic Walnford, in Upper Freehold Township, right on the Crosswicks Creek!

For more information on the Watershed Association, the watershed, meeting dates and times and volunteering to help, or how to become a member, please visit their web site (www.ccdcgreenway.org), or call Marc Covitz at 609-752-1832 or Greg Westfall at 609-259-6344.



MILLSTONE DAY 2008



What a fantastic way to spend the last day of summer, Millstone Day at Frogbridge Day Camp! The sun was shining, the temperature was perfect. Everyone had smiles on their faces.

The money booth operated by the Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council was hopping. Millstone Township residents couldn't get enough of the mechanical bull. There was a line all day with some wanting a repeat performance. We thank all who participated in these events as we raised over \$600 to help preserve farmland and



Millstone Day photos by Steve Morelli

The money booth was a big hit at Millstone Day where the Open Space bucks never stopped flying



Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council member Charlie Denardo with the mechanical bull that was donated for the day by Frank Drift of Duabe Farms

open space in our community.

Thanks to Millstone Township Department of Public Works who provided the transportation of the bull. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make this day a success.

A big thank you to all of our sponsors who donated prizes or gave us financial support. We couldn't have done this without you and we greatly appreciate it.

Sponsors of the money booth and mechanical bull ride include:

Applebee's

Burger King

The Clarksburg Inn

Cornerstone Music Studios

Frank Drift & Duabe Farms

The Franklin Institute

Science Museum

Garden State

Discovery Museum

Kiddie Academy of

Upper Freehold

Lakewood BlueClaws

Moore's Tavern (Freehold)

McDonald's of Millstone

Norkus Foodtown

Panera Bread

Saker ShopRites, Inc.

Sesame Place

Trenton Thunder

Vesuvio's Pizza

Wendy's (Anthony Palagano Enterprises, Inc.)

TRAILS OPEN IN PERRINEVILLE LAKE PARK

One of the best kept secrets in town is about to be revealed. The 897 acre Perrineville Lake Park has two trails open for citizens to use and enjoy. These unpaved trails are open for walking, running and hiking, pedal bikes and horse back riding. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the trails. Leashed pets are allowed, but you must clean up after them. The trails are open from dawn until dusk.

The first and slightly shorter trail is the Pine Creek Trail. The Monmouth County Park System describes this trail as a moderately difficult 1-mile walk through fields and tall pines. Parking is available in a lot located off of Baird Road.

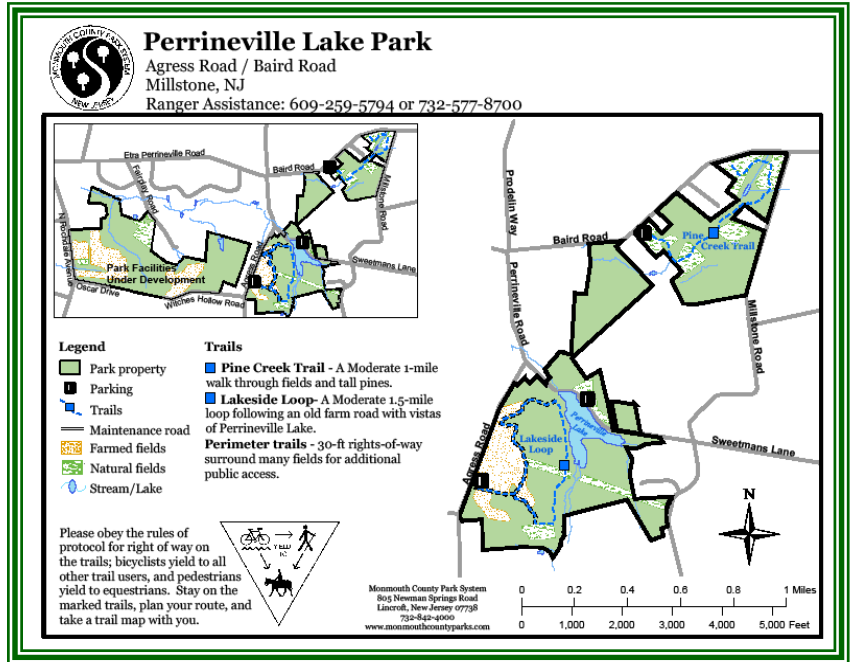
The second trail is the Lakeside Loop. The Park System also describes this as a moderately difficult 1.5-mile trail following an old farm road with vistas of Perrineville Lake. The parking lot for this trail is located on Agress Road.

Canoeing, kayaking and electric powered fishing boats are allowed on Perrineville Lake, with a launch site located off of Perrineville Road/Sweetmans Lane.

Take note, bow hunting for deer is allowed within the park from October 1 until February 14, 2009.

Perrineville Lake Park is considered a regional park, which means that the park serves as both a conservation area (at least 80% of the park land remains in a natural state) and as a recreation area. Therefore, it is important to note that within the park and surrounding the trails are farmed fields which the county leases to local farmers. These fields are not open to the public and anyone using the trails should respect the crops and remain at least 30 feet away from the fields.

Copies of trail maps are available at the municipal buildings located at 470 Stage Coach Road and at 215 Millstone Road as well as the Monmouth County Park System website: www.monmouthcountyparks.com



LONG-TERM OPEN SPACE FUNDING NEEDED

By Michele S. Byers, Executive Director
 New Jersey Conservation Foundation

The last of New Jersey's farmland preservation funding was allocated this past summer. The remaining open space and historic preservation funds will be officially committed to projects this fall. The preservation pipeline will then run dry, unless the state Legislature acts quickly to replenish funding for the Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT).

It is hard to imagine New Jersey without a pool of money for buying parks, keeping farmland in agricultural production, protecting woodlands and wetlands, and saving historic places. Since 1961, residents of the nation's most densely populated state have voted again and again to make open space a top priority. The most recent vote was last November, when voters endorsed \$200 million in stopgap preservation funding. This money is being quickly allocated because of the long waiting list of projects.

Governor Corzine and our state legislators must identify a long-term, stable source of funding to replenish the Garden State Preservation Trust. A poll conducted last spring showed that a solid majority of New Jersey voters support preservation funding: 61 percent said they would support an \$800 million bond act, 58 percent said they would support a water user fee to raise \$150 million a year, and 54 percent said they would support dedicating \$175 million in existing annual sales tax revenues.

Please contact the governor and your legislators and urge them to renew the Garden State Preservation Trust.

GOVERNOR
Hon. Jon Corzine
 P. O. Box 001
 Trenton, NJ 08625
Telephone: 609-292-6000
www.state.nj.us/governor/

N.J. District 12
 State Senator
Hon. Jennifer Beck
 32 Monmouth Road, 3rd Floor
 Red Bank, NJ
Telephone: 732-772-1571
www.njleg.state.nj.us

N.J. District 12
 Assemblyman
Hon. Declan O'Scanlon Jr.
 32 Monmouth Street, 3rd Floor
 Red Bank, NJ 07701
Telephone: 732-933-1591
www.njleg.state.nj.us

N.J. District 12
 Assemblywoman
Hon. Caroline Casagrande
 71 West Main Street, Suite 101
 Freehold, NJ 07728
Telephone: 732-866-1695
www.njleg.state.nj.us

Resident
Millstone Township, NJ 08535

Millstone Township, NJ 08510
470 Stage Coach Road
Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council
Township of Millstone

The Millstone Township
Agricultural Advisory
Council would like to thank
the Farm Market vendors
and customers for a
wonderful first season.



White-breasted Nuthatch

Photo by Steve Beal

The White-breasted Nuthatch is about five to six inches in length, the upper parts are bluish gray and the under parts are white. They are found in Millstone the year round and are commonly called the “upside-down bird” as it is quite as likely to be upside down as right side up. The nuthatch does not harm the tree as it explores the trunk and branches but in fact, the work it does is highly useful since it consists of ridding trees of injurious insects and larvae. For these it searches the crevices of the bark with its slender sharp bill.

One of the nuthatches most engaging qualities is his friendly curiosity. Stand or sit motionless near the base of the tree in which the bird is working and he is almost certain to come hitching down the trunk, head first, to gaze squarely into your face with his beady little black eyes.

Insects and spiders make up more than fifty percent of the nuthatch’s diet. The other half is mostly acorns or other nuts and large seeds. So of course they visit the feeder and are a delight to watch.

Article submitted by El Adams

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

*Tony Romano, Chairperson
Shirley Pinhas, Vice Chairperson
George Asprocolas
Pat Butch
Chet Halka*

We're on the web at
www.millstone.nj.us/openspace.html
or for more information contact
Lori Maher at
L-Maher@millstone.nj.us or
732-446-4249 x 1103

Millstone Township Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council

*Pat Butch, Chairperson
Merrill Siedman, Vice Chairperson
Tony Alves
Manny Blanco
Charlie Denardo
Christopher Kau
Michael Kuczinski
Diane Morelli
Tony Romano
Kristin Schloss*

Millstone Township Committee

*Nancy A. Grbelja, Mayor
Bob Kinsey, Deputy Mayor
Elias Abilheira
Michael Kuczinski
Steven Sico*

Register to receive
Millstone Township
e-Bulletins by e-mail at
www.millstone.nj.us