## 11: C1 STREAMS AND BUFFER REQUIREMENTS

In the beginning of 2004, new Stormwater Quality rules were adopted, as mandated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. NJDEP took additional steps to identify and protect high quality water resources. These special water resource protection areas are established along all waters designated Category One (C1), and perennial or intermittent streams that drain into or upstream of C1 waters. These areas are established for the protection of water quality, aesthetic value, exceptional ecological significance, exceptional recreational significance, exceptional water supply significance, and exceptional fisheries. The most notable regulation is the implementation of a 300 foot buffer zone on each bank of a C1 stream. Other rules deal with designated areas for future development, the creation of a stream corridor protection plan, and cleaner stormwater discharge into the special water protection area, or the C1 stream itself. For the official rules regarding the special water resources protection areas, please reference Register the New Jersey (N.J.A.C. 7:8-5.5(h), (http://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/adoptions/2004\_0202\_watershed.pdf).

In addition, all streams located within the Highlands Preservation Area, are afforded 300 foot buffers per the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act. Route 57/ Morris Turnpike bisects the Township and delineates the boundary between the Highlands Planning and Preservation Areas. Therefore, all stream segments north of Route 57 within the Township are protected by 300 foot buffers because they lie within the Highlands Preservation Area. Portions of the Musconetcong River also serve as a Highlands Preservation/Planning Area border in the southern section of the Township. Thus, the sections of the Musconetcong River that delineate this line, the western and eastern stretches within the Township, are protected by 300 foot buffers. The tributaries that flow through the central portion of the Township that are not classified as C1 waters and that lie within the Highlands Planning Area are not protected by 300 foot buffers. For more information on the Highlands Act, please refer to Section 16 and http://www.state.nj.us/dep/highlands and http://www.highlands.state.nj.us.

Approximately 19.45 stream miles are protected by the C1/300 stream buffer requirement within Franklin Township. (Figure 10). The C1 streams include: Halfway House Brook, Montana Brook, Mill Brook, one tributary to the Musconetcong River, and Pohatcong Creek and all its tributaries. All stream segments that are included in the Highlands Preservation Area are afforded 300 foot buffers and include: Halfway House Brook, Montana Brook, Mill Brook and the eastern and western stretches of the Musconetcong River.

