

## 21: NJDEP WETLANDS

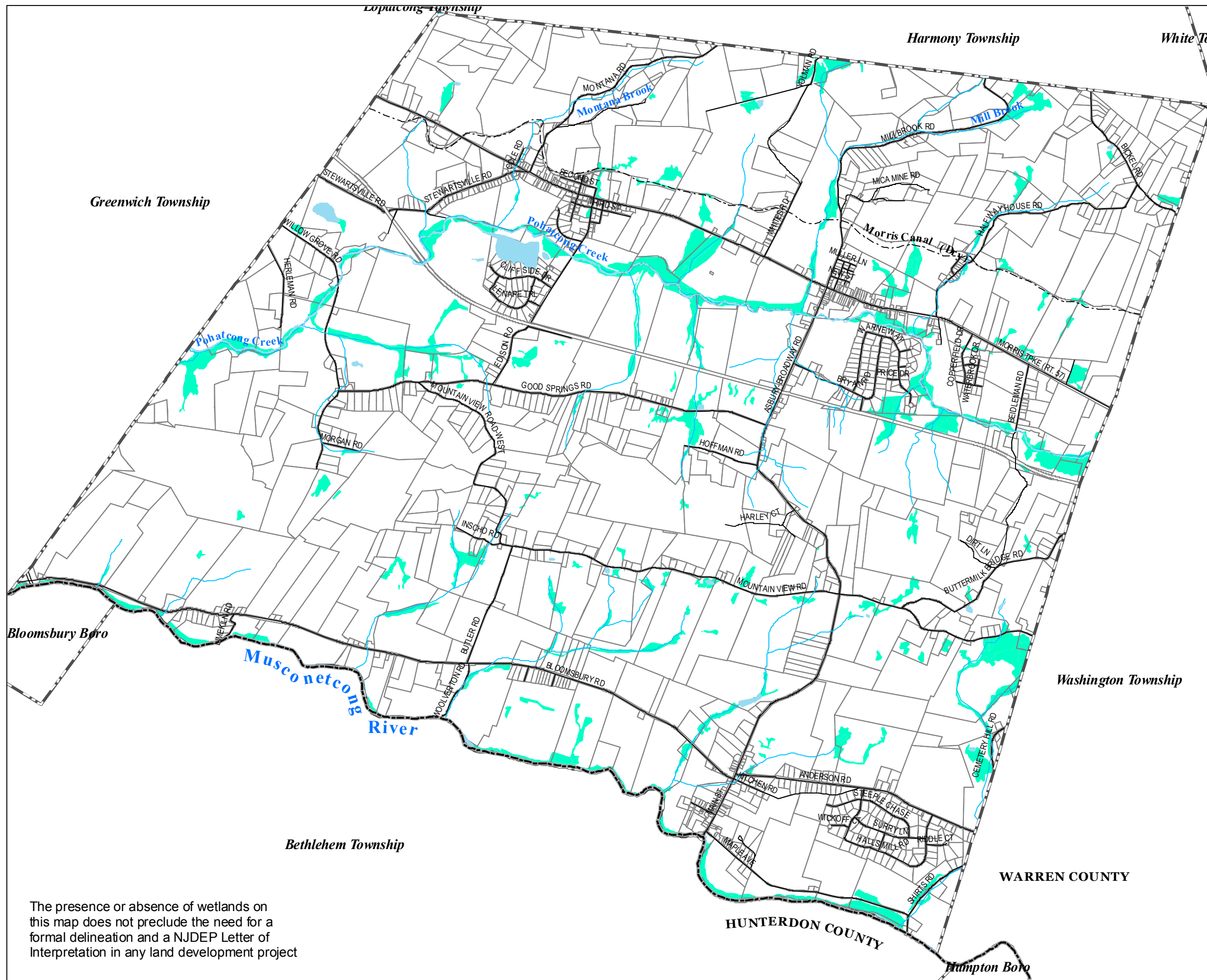
Legal classifications of wetlands are based on a functional definition of wetlands that is commonly called the three-parameter approach and is outlined in the *Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands*. The three parameters defining wetlands are hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation that is typically adapted for life in saturated conditions, and area hydrology that is inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration to support hydrophytic vegetation. All three parameters must be met to qualify as a wetland. Therefore, areas with hydric soils are not wetlands if they do not meet hydrology and vegetation standards. Wetlands use in New Jersey is regulated by the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act, N.J.S.A 13:9B-1 et seq ([http://www.state.nj.us/dep/landuse/13\\_9b.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/landuse/13_9b.pdf)).

Formerly regarded as wastelands, wetlands are now recognized as important features of the landscape and provide many functions that are beneficial to people and wildlife. Wetlands are an important component of regional hydrology, storing excess stormwater runoff and serving as a link with groundwater resources. The ability to mitigate runoff quantity is mirrored in the ability to improve runoff quality. Wetlands improve water quality by trapping sediments, nutrients, and other pollutants released in the watershed; these contaminants are generally associated with agricultural, commercial, and residential development. This process is accomplished by plant and microorganism uptake, adsorption to soil particles, and physical filtering created by vegetation.

Wetlands are also critical to biological productivity. Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems in the world, as evidenced by the wide variety of flora and fauna that they host. Wetland plants provide breeding and nursery sites and resting areas for migratory species. Wetlands are also the permanent home to some of New Jersey's threatened and endangered species. Decomposition of vegetation within wetlands plays an important role in many food webs, as decomposed organic matter forms the base of the aquatic and terrestrial food web.

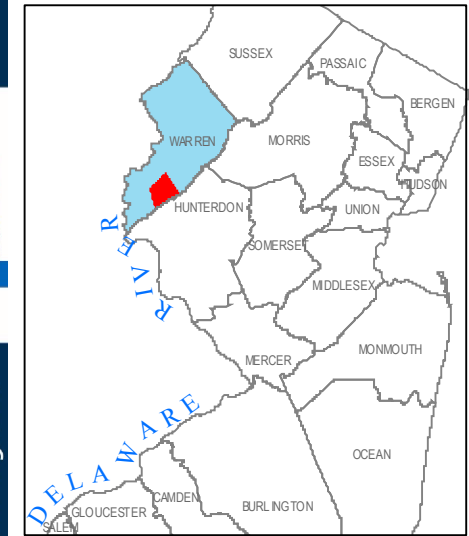
The data source for the wetlands Figure is NJDEP. In 1986, NJDEP utilized local data and their new, larger scale aerial photographs to produce the wetland data utilized herein, which were updated again in 1995/1997. It is important to note that this data is not field verified and may significantly underestimate wetland area. In addition, the wetlands defined here are based on photographic interpretation, not on field verified surveys, which would follow the three-parameter approach of wetland definition and more accurately define wetland bounds. As such, the wetland boundaries displayed on this Figure are general and DO NOT preclude the need for formal delineation as part of any development, disturbance, or regulated activity.

Wetlands are estimated to comprise 727 acres of Franklin Township ([Figure 20](#)). The extent of wetlands is limited largely by the relatively steep topography of the Township. Wetlands are largely confined to riparian corridors and plateaus in the eastern portion of the Township. Deciduous wooded wetlands are the predominant wetland type in Franklin Township, accounting for 50% of all documented wetlands. Agricultural wetlands, the second most common wetland type, account for 38% of wetlands.

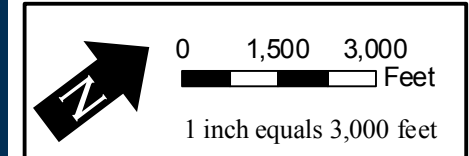


The presence or absence of wetlands on this map does not preclude the need for a formal delineation and a NJDEP Letter of Interpretation in any land development project

NEW JERSEY COUNTY MAP



PRINCETON HYDRO, LLC.  
1108 OLD YORK ROAD, SUITE 1  
RINGOES, NEW JERSEY, 08551



- SOURCES:
1. Parcel, roads and the Franklin Township Boundary data obtained from Warren County Planning Dept. "This map was developed using the Warren County New Jersey, Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified by Warren County and is not county-authorized."
  2. Surface water data obtained from the NJDEP, Division of GIS.
  3. Wetlands data is a sub-set of the 2002 Land Use/Land Cover data obtained from the NJDEP, Division of GIS.

**FIGURE 20**  
**NJDEP WETLANDS**

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY  
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP  
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**Legend**

- County Boundary
- Municipal Boundaries
- Roads
- Parcels
- NJDEP Wetlands (726.9 Ac.)
- Ponds/Lakes

**Streams**

- Streams
- Morris Canal (Dry)

