

# *“Clean water is priceless, and we must protect our watersheds.”*

- Governor Whitman, State of the State Address, January 2000



GSWA is thrilled to announce that we will honor Christine Todd Whitman, former Governor of New Jersey and Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, at our 2017 Great Swamp Gala & Silent Auction taking place on October 12, 2017 at Brooklake Country Club in Florham Park, New Jersey.

Christine Whitman is currently the President of The Whitman Strategy Group (WSG), a consulting firm that specializes in energy and environmental issues, and which has been at the forefront of helping leading companies find innovative solutions to environmental challenges.

Christine Whitman was the 50th Governor of the State of New Jersey, serving as its first woman governor from 1994 until 2001. As Governor, Christine Whitman made a commitment to preserve a record amount of New Jersey lands as permanent green space.

She was also recognized by the Natural Resources Defense Council as having instituted the most comprehensive beach-monitoring system in the nation. Additionally, she supported legislation providing ten million dollars for the preservation of Sterling Forest. She helped increase state funding for shore protection and pushed other Republican governors to support efforts to reduce soot and smog air pollution. In 1998, Governor Whitman signed major clean-water legislation to grant up to \$100 million in loans to local governments and water authorities for clean water and drinking water projects. She strongly supported a bond program approved by New Jersey voters in 1998 to purchase open space, as well as a 1999 bill to provide funding to preserve one million acres of land in the state by 2009.

Governor Whitman opposed unfettered development that puts basic needs, such as clean water supply, at risk. The Governor favored “smart growth” to prevent sprawl, relieve traffic jams and reinvigorate our cities by steering development to areas where the infrastructure of roads, schools, and sewers are already in place.

Governor Whitman served in the cabinet of President George W. Bush as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from January of 2001 until June of 2003. Shortly after joining the Bush Administration, Governor Whitman said,

*“We have seen a significant transformation in the way we view our air, water, and land. Today, there is universal agreement that our natural resources are valuable, not just for the economic prosperity they help create, but for what they add to our quality of life. No longer do we debate about “whether” we need to act to protect our environment. Instead, we discuss “how” we can keep America green while keeping our economy growing.”*

As EPA Administrator, she promoted common-sense environmental improvements such as watershed-based water protection policies. During her tenure, the Agency was successful in passing and implementing landmark brownfields legislation to promote the redevelopment and reuse of “brownfields,” previously contaminated industrial sites.

We sincerely hope that you will join us for what promises to be our best Gala yet! Please contact us at [events@greatswamp.org](mailto:events@greatswamp.org) or call us at (973) 538-3500 for more information and to ensure that you receive an invitation to this special event.