



NEWS

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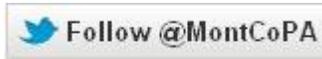
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Montgomery County Planning Commission Will Receive 2015 Star Award for New Guidebook on Green Sustainable Parking Lots

Norristown, PA (December 3, 2015) – The Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) will receive a 2015 Star Award in the Green Infrastructure category from Communities in Motion for the recently developed *Green Sustainable Parking Lots* guidebook. The award recognizes MCPC as an exemplary leader and inspiration in sustainability planning and implementation.

Barry Jeffries, ASLA, Senior Planner and principal author of the guidebook, will accept the award for the commission on December 7 at the annual meeting of Communities in Motion in King of Prussia. Communities in Motion is a Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association Foundation, whose mission is to build awareness and support for efficient and sustainable transportation in southeastern Pennsylvania through education and community outreach.

“The best parking lot is the one that doesn’t need to be built, but many developments need them and this document strives to make our parking lots green infrastructure – designed to help keep pollution out of our streams and create attractive spaces in our community,” said Jody L. Holton, AICP, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Planning Commission.

The guidebook examines traditional parking lots and their impacts, such as urban heat island effect, stormwater, lack of community character, ineffective and invasive lighting, and driver and pedestrian safety, and encourages the reader to rethink surface parking. Almost every development in Montgomery County has a parking lot, and if they were developed greener or retrofitted, they could improve water quality, reduce the urban heat island effect, and enhance community character across the county.

A major focus of the guidebook is design elements for green and sustainable parking lots. These elements focus on maximizing shading and greening, promoting naturalized drainage, using pavements that infiltrate, designing for pedestrian and vehicular safety, using sustainable lighting and energy practices, and considering community character.

In addition to the design elements, the guidebook provides strategies, guidelines, and regulatory language to advance green parking lots, discusses the benefits of green parking lots, looks at parking demand management, and provides recommended plant lists.

This informative publication successfully demonstrates how to design or retrofit parking lots to transform them into green infrastructure that helps to keep pollution out of streams and create attractive spaces in communities. It engages the reader through detailed information that is supported with appealing images, illustrations, and infographics.

The guidebook, which was released at a September 30 green parking lots event at Arborcrest in Whitpain Township, is available under “Plans” at www.montcopa.org/MCPCPublications. For further information, please contact Rita McKelvey at rmckelvey@montcopa.org or 610-278-3753.