



NEWS

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Fifteen Projects Receive Montco 2040 Implementation Grants from Montgomery County

Norristown, PA (May 17, 2019) – The Montgomery County Commissioners announced Thursday that fifteen projects in the county will receive Montco 2040 Implementation Grants. The new grants continue an exciting program aimed at implementing the county comprehensive plan, Montco 2040: A Shared Vision. The program is intended to assist municipalities in making targeted physical improvements that achieve real progress toward the goals of the plan and the plan’s themes of Connected Communities, Sustainable Places, and Vibrant Economy.

Today’s grant awards account for over \$1,600,000 across fifteen municipalities. The county received a total of 25 applications from municipalities totaling \$3.1 million in requests. Projects were evaluated in terms of impact, county and local planning consistency, project readiness, and funding attributes by a committee consisting of Montgomery County Planning Commission Board Members and interdepartmental county staff. Projects were also given heightened consideration when addressing one of three focus categories for 2019: Walk/Bike Montco – Trails, Paths, Sidewalk Connections and Bike Facilities; Downtown and Community Destination Support; and Adaptation and Resiliency.

“It has been very gratifying to see how municipalities have used the Montco 2040 grant program to lift local projects off the ground while contributing to the countywide goals of the Montco 2040 comprehensive plan. Pedestrian and bicycle mobility projects have been very popular, but we’re also seeing some great downtown improvements and environmental projects that improve water quality and reduce flooding in urbanized watersheds,” said Dr. Val Arkoosh, Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

Since the initiation of the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program in 2016, 56 grants totaling \$5.5 million has been awarded to benefit 38 municipalities in the county. The fifteen projects that received grants in 2019 are highlighted below:

Cheltenham – Green Stormwater Improvements: Glenside Library, Renninger Park, Curtis Arboretum

Cheltenham Township, with the help and expertise of the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF), will install stormwater BMPs at three locations in Cheltenham—Glenside Library, Renninger Park, and Curtis Arboretum—to include raingardens, bioswales, vegetated curb bump-outs, converted meadows, and restored streambanks. These projects expand Cheltenham’s collaboration with TTF and build on the work being done in other parts of the municipality to mitigate changing stormwater conditions, such as the Jenkintown Creek Restoration project at Conklin Recreation Center.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$90,000

Collegeville – West Third Avenue Sidewalk Connection Project

Collegeville Borough will install a new sidewalk connection on W. Third Avenue that will connect existing sidewalk adjacent to Collegeville Park with sidewalk closer to E. Main Street. The new sidewalk will replace part of the roadway, so it also reduces the road’s width and provides traffic calming. This project will provide a safer connection to points west of the Main Street area and close a gap within the borough’s sidewalk network.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$93,852

Hatboro – Miller Meadow Park Project

Hatboro Borough will establish Miller Meadow as an attractive community park that retains and improves a quality natural environment. The grant, which will cover the first phase of improvements, includes installing a new sidewalk and buffer between pedestrians and York Road, adding a hard-surface trail throughout the park, installing a gazebo, planting a new wildflower meadow, and adding street trees. A future phase will add interpretative signage, trailheads, and new parking constructed to enhance the site. Miller Meadow Park’s future has been a priority focus of recent local planning efforts and a park master plan was created in 2018.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$200,000

Horsham – Pennsylvania Business Park Streetscape Lighting Project

Horsham Township will purchase and install fourteen pedestrian-scaled modern street lights along the East side of Dresher Road from New Road to the driveway at 400 Lakeside Drive. The township is implementing its first phase of a multiyear effort to update the Pennsylvania Business Campus with private and public investments that will enhance pedestrian safety and walkability in accordance with the Horsham Business Parks Master Plan.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$120,000

Jenkintown – Cedar Street Park Project

Jenkintown Borough will install a new 0.36-acre community pocket park in the Cedar Street neighborhood. The grant will cover the first phase of improvements, including site preparation, demolition, walkways, parking, fencing, stormwater management, utilities, and lawn and landscaping features. The new park will provide public open space and recreation in a dense and close-knit residential area of the borough.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$99,850

Lower Frederick – Goshen Road Sidewalk Project

Lower Frederick Township will install a 5-foot-wide sidewalk to connect a neighborhood of townhomes to an existing sidewalk network, including a school bus stop and playground, in order to reduce conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians. This sidewalk will allow for greater connectivity between two halves of a large, dense townhome development within the Spring Mount area. There is potential for a future link to a local nature trail as well.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$102,533

Lower Merion – Wynnewood Valley Park Stream Restoration Project

Lower Merion Township will restore 1,550 linear feet of stream in Wynnewood Valley Park, including the implementation of flood mitigation and sediment reduction measures. Wynnewood Valley Park is a highly utilized open space in the Penn Wynne neighborhood of the township, and it also includes a number of different areas for recreation such as basketball and tennis courts, a playground, a sensory garden, and walking trails. The stream restoration will help to reduce erosion, improve water quality, and enhance access to the stream for local residents.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$150,000

Lower Providence – Creating Connections in Park Pointe Phase 2 Project

Lower Providence Township will continue the installation of sidewalks to complete the pedestrian gaps in its Park Pointe business park along Eisenhower, Adams, and Jefferson Avenues. A crosswalk will also be installed to improve access to an existing pathway that connects the business park to nearby retail development, including a Wawa and several restaurants. The project, identified in the master plan for the business park, will improve pedestrian safety, encourage healthy lifestyles, and improve connections to surrounding developments and destinations.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$65,445

Narberth – Bicycling Infrastructure Project

Narberth Borough will purchase and install bicycling infrastructure in its downtown to support multimodal transportation options. Improvements include signage, bicycle parking, a public repair station, and drinking water fountain in the town center. The area in which these improvements are placed will help to support the strong community of bicycle riders in and around Narberth and supplement recent bicycling improvements in the region, including the Cynwyd Heritage Trail.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$27,400

Pennsburg – Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center Expansion and Renovation Project

The Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center is undergoing a major expansion that will increase the facility's size by a third. This cultural institution provides important context to the history of the western side of Montgomery County and is a unique asset to the Upper Perkiomen Valley. Parts of the existing 25,000-square-foot facility will be renovated, and a nineteenth century Pennsylvania German-style bank barn will be brought onto the 2.8-acre site and converted into exhibition and storage space.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$100,000

Red Hill – Bioretention Garden and Nature Area Project

Red Hill Borough will install a bioretention garden on vacant county land in close proximity to the Green Lane Reservoir and Park and its day use area. The project will repair eroded embankments, reduce sediment runoff, restabilize soils with deep-rooted plantings, improve the quality of stormwater, and serve as an educational demonstration project. The project provides tremendous benefit to the local community in the form of an educational, recreational, and aesthetic amenity. Any future trails constructed through Green Lane Reservoir and Park could utilize the site as a trailhead.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$122,740

Royersford – Riverfront Park and Trail Phase IV Project

Royersford Borough will install a new segment of the existing Royersford Riverfront Trail on a section of the riverfront from Main Street to the railroad trestle bridge. The project includes a 10-foot-wide ADA-accessible multiuse trail in addition to including a pavilion, picnic tables, benches, signage, lighting, waste receptacles, stone wall restoration, rain gardens, and riparian buffer enhancement.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$125,000

Schwenksville – Schwenksville Plaza Greenscapes and Lighting Project

Schwenksville Borough will install additional plantings and lighting to the newly constructed plaza in front of the future borough hall. The project includes ornamental street lighting, self-watering planters, and a small pavilion to complement the street furniture and trees planted in 2018 and add more greenery.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$66,180

Upper Dublin – Twining Valley Multipurpose Trails Project

Upper Dublin Township is converting a township-owned golf course into a public park/preserve and will construct 5 miles of multipurpose trails within the site. The trails will create access, provide recreation, and establish a key infrastructure element that connects the two bisected parcels which make up the property. This project is a unique opportunity for Upper Dublin to increase its public open space by a significant percentage and provide a safe haven for local residents to ride their bicycles, run, or walk on a comprehensive trail network.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$200,000

Upper Moreland – Signage and Wayfinding Implementation Project

Upper Moreland Township will install town center gateway elements, pedestrian wayfinding, and interpretive signage as recommended in the township's 2013 signage and wayfinding master plan. The project builds on previous studies and improvements to create a more cohesive, safe, and active Willow Grove Town Center. The area surrounding Willow Grove Mall has been the focus of new development over the last few years with the addition of a new apartment complex and plans for redesigning the Willow Grove Septa Station. New wayfinding and cultural signage can help solidify the area's historical significance and spur additional development.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$72,000

Visit www.montcopa.org/Montco2040GrantProgram for more on the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program. For questions, contact Scott France at 610-278-3747 or sfrance@montcopa.org.