



NEWS

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
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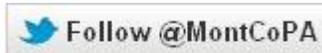
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 7, 2016

Green Lane Park Ready to Welcome Purple Martins

Green Lane, PA (April 7, 2016) – Montgomery County’s Green Lane Park recently installed a Purple Martin gourd nesting system near the park amphitheater on Green Lane Road. Purple Martins are a native bird species related to the familiar Barn Swallow and Tree Swallow. Unlike many of their relatives, martins have suffered significant population losses over the past several decades. This decline was due, in part, to a lack of suitable nesting locations. By erecting and monitoring this “apartment-type” dwelling, the county hopes to attract a colony of nesting birds to the park. Like other swallows, martins feed almost exclusively on flying insects – a very good reason to have them around!

The gourd-rack system was purchased from the Purple Martin Conservation Association, headquartered in Erie, Pennsylvania. This conservation group also provided valuable advice to the park staff on constructing, erecting, and monitoring the nesting system. The entire project was funded with proceeds from the “eco-raffle” table at last September’s Upper Perkiomen Bird and Wildlife Festival, an annual event held in the park. Generous local businesses donate merchandise to the wildlife event, so all proceeds go directly to wildlife and habitat conservation projects in Green Lane Park.

Visitors are encouraged to check out the new martin “apartment complex” the next time they visit the park. Green Lane Park is located at 2144 Snyder Road, Green Lane, PA 18054.

For more information on Green Lane Park, please contact Kevin Crilley, Environmental Educator, Parks Region II, Montgomery County Department of Assets and Infrastructure, Division of Parks, Trails, and Historic Sites, at 215-234-4528 or via email at kcrilley@montcopa.org.

Visit Green Lane Park online at www.montcopa.org/greenlanepark.