



NEWS

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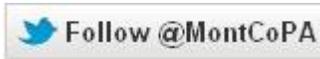
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Three Outstanding Projects and Two Exceptional Organizations Receive 2015 Montgomery Awards

Norristown, PA (November 18, 2015) – Three outstanding projects and their creators and two exceptional organizations were honored today at the annual Montgomery Awards ceremony sponsored by the Montgomery County Planning Commission. This annual program recognizes the best in planning, design, and advocacy in Montgomery County and acknowledges the high-quality work and commitment of communities, organizations, and professionals.

The three projects receiving Montgomery Awards were Cold Point Village in Plymouth Township, Dixon Meadow Preserve in Whitemarsh Township, and Lankenau Medical Center in Lower Merion Township. Planning Advocate Awards were received by the King of Prussia Business Improvement District (KOP-BID) and the Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association (GVF).

“We are proud to have such excellent examples of sustainable design and community advocacy in Montgomery County. All of our 2015 award winners exemplify the themes and goals within Montco 2040: A Shared Vision—the county’s new comprehensive plan,” said Jody L. Holton, AICP, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Planning Commission.

Cold Point Village received a 2015 Montgomery Award for extensive planning and collaboration, creative site design, and appealing village character. Cold Point Village is an outstanding mixed-use development consisting of carriage homes and commercial buildings. This project has a long history of successful collaboration. The township, developer, and neighbors worked together to create a new zoning district – the Mixed-Use Village Residential District (MUV). The development embraces many traditional neighborhood design principles, such as the placement of homes close to the street, a grid-like street layout with alleys, a connected sidewalk system, traditional architecture, and a large village green. Its compact design contributes to its human scale and sense of neighborhood. Design details,

such as attractive facades, small front yards, inviting porch entries, and alleys, contribute to the village-like atmosphere. Lighting, street trees, and landscaping enhance the streetscape. The commercial buildings, residential in scale, are placed along the street frontage. Their complementary materials and colors blend with the residential community. This project demonstrates how successful collaboration can result in an inviting neighborhood that enhances a community vision.

Dixon Meadow Preserve earned a 2015 Montgomery Award for successful community collaboration, sustainable site design, and habitat creation. Dixon Meadow Preserve is an exceptional open space preservation project located within the Angus Tract of the 450-acre preserved Erdenheim Farm. This 14-acre naturalized area was created to manage stormwater, provide natural habitat, and offer passive recreation. The preserve has returned stormwater flow to a more natural condition and provides better stormwater detention. Designed as a community amenity, a trail network that includes an extensive boardwalk over wetlands was created. Attractive signage educates visitors about the farm history, regional open space, meadow ecology, stormwater management, and wildlife. This beautiful preserve provides natural habitat and is home to a variety of birds and wildlife and has become a haven for birders, walkers, and nature enthusiasts. This project is an outstanding example of how extraordinary collaboration and partnerships can result in the creation of an invaluable recreational and environmental amenity in a community.

Lankenau Medical Center received a 2015 Montgomery Award for sensitive site planning, sustainable design, and innovative site enhancements. Lankenau Medical Center, one of the first hospitals in the Philadelphia area, is an exceptional redevelopment project. This project's site planning involved redeveloping a portion of the property and clustering all medical facilities within the existing loop road. This allowed the preservation of over 50 percent of the site in open space. The centerpiece of this project is the new, contemporary, Silver LEED, state-of-the-art Heart Pavilion. A major entrance to the Heart Pavilion was created with a landscaped boulevard, arrival/drop-off area, and enclosed pedestrian bridge that connects to a parking garage. The project has transformed the patient and visitor experience by designing a welcoming arrival sequence that includes the Lancaster Avenue entrance, enhancements of the main hospital entrances, appealing courtyards, and a healing garden. Sustainable design features include green roofs, landscaped rain gardens, and a unique organic community garden. This well-designed and appealing campus has provided a positive economic impact and is a true community asset.

King of Prussia Business Improvement District (KOP-BID) earned a 2015 Planning Advocate Award in recognition of an innovative organization that collaborates with public and private partners to advance the economic environment in King of Prussia. The KOP-BID's successful strategic program strives to make this important area more vibrant, attractive, and prosperous. The KOP-BID was

formed as a private, not-for-profit organization in 2010 by Upper Merion Township and approximately 300 commercial properties. The KOP District is approximately 1,900 acres and encompasses major retail and business and industrial parks. The organization uses a five-point program plan to fulfill its mission, including physical improvements, transportation planning, land use and zoning, marketing and communications, and tax policy. Major achievements have included gateway signage, extensive landscaping including landscaped medians, the **connector** shuttle system, grants for a linear park and road diet in the business park, a new mixed-use zoning district, and community events such as restaurant week and the King of Prussia Beer Festival. The KOP-BID's successful program involves many planning initiatives and has resulted in enhancing economic vitality, promoting King of Prussia, and enriching the quality of life of the region.

Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association (GVF) received a 2015 Planning Advocate Award for a successful regional association that advocates and promotes transportation alternatives to organizations and businesses. Guided by the core principles of advocacy, sustainability, and partnerships, GVF works to support an effective transportation network. GVF was established as a not-for-profit organization in 1990 and is celebrating their 25th anniversary. The organization's mission is to achieve a desirable quality of life and a healthy, competitive economic environment by developing multifaceted transportation strategies. They partner with over 130 public and private organizations to maximize awareness and develop support. Recent achievements include the US 422 Transportation Demand Management Study, King of Prussia Rail Project advocacy, support of the Act 89 transportation bill, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, including the Phoenixville-Mont Clare Bridge and Sullivan Bridge, shuttle system management, and extensive marketing and outreach including the annual sustainable awards program. This leading advocate for transportation and infrastructure needs has had many successes in the region.

Visit www.montcopa.org/MontgomeryAwards for more on the 2015 winners, the awards program, and a searchable database of all award recipients. For further information, please contact Rita McKelvey at rmckelve@montcopa.org or 610-278-3753.