



NEWS

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Fourteen Projects Receive Montco 2040 Implementation Grants from Montgomery County

Norristown, PA (May 17, 2018) – The Montgomery County Commissioners today announced that 14 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 more than \$1,500,000 across fifteen municipalities. The county received a total of 27 applications from municipalities totaling \$3.5 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 2018: Walk/Bike Montco – Trails, Paths, Sidewalk Connections and Bike Facilities; Downtown and Community Destination Support; and Adaptation and Resiliency.

“These grants give our municipalities new opportunities to achieve the shared goals of the Montco 2040 plan. We are seeing a lot of wonderful ideas come out of this program, from expanding sidewalk gaps for pedestrians to improving water quality and reducing flooding in urbanized watersheds. These projects improve and enhance the high quality of life in the county,” said Dr. Val Arkoosh, Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

Since the initiation of the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program in 2016, more than \$3.7 million has been awarded to benefit 35 municipalities in the county. The 14 projects that received grants in 2018 are highlighted below:

Bridgeport – Town Center Parking Lot and Civic Event Area Project

Bridgeport Borough will develop municipally owned land surrounding borough hall into a town center parking lot to aid commercial growth and encourage walkability along the Fourth Street corridor. The lot will also serve as a civic event area to host events such as the Bridgeport 5K, Bridgeport Carnival, and Police/Fire/EMS Appreciation Days. Other features of the project include a rain garden, permeable pavers, electric car charging port, drinking fountains, and a picnic area.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$196,000

Cheltenham – Jenkintown Creek Restoration: Conklin Recreation Center

Cheltenham Township, with the guidance and expertise of the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, Inc. (TTF Watershed), will retrofit municipal property to install a new stormwater control feature that will intercept and filter runoff from surrounding neighborhood and high-level impervious properties. The feature will manage 42 acres of contributing drainage, which is currently discharging to the creek. This project is a continuation of work being done by the TTF Watershed further up the creek in the Abington/Jenkintown area as well as further down the creek in Philadelphia.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$100,000

Lower Merion – Montgomery Avenue and Old Lancaster Road Intersection Improvements

Lower Merion Township will redesign the existing intersection of Montgomery Avenue and Old Lancaster Road with the removal of a right-turn-only lane, which will give pedestrians direct access to the signalized crossing. The grant request will provide funding to construct rain garden infrastructure in what previously was a concrete traffic island, improving pedestrian safety, aesthetics, and stormwater management at a busy commercial intersection. Improvements along Montgomery Avenue and the surrounding commercial area have been part of numerous local plans over the last fifteen years.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$50,000

Lower Moreland – Philmont Avenue Sidewalk Project

Lower Moreland Township will install a 5-foot-wide sidewalk along the west side of Philmont Avenue from Anne Street to an area past Duell Street. The sidewalk will provide the public with improved pedestrian access to township and county parks and trails, access to public transportation, and safer access to the downtown commercial district of Bethayres. Lower Moreland has made progress in filling in sidewalk gaps along its major roadways such as the 2017 sidewalk connection to the Pennypack Creek Trail along Welsh Road.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$97,250

Lower Providence – Creating Connections in Park Pointe Project

Lower Providence Township will install 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 was identified in the master plan for the business park and it will improve pedestrian safety, encourage healthy lifestyles, and improve connections to surrounding developments and destinations.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$100,000

Lower Salford – Main Street and Clemens Road Shared-Use Path and Sidewalk Project

Lower Salford Township will install connections between existing path and sidewalk segments at the eastern end of Harleysville near Main Street and Clemens Road. The project includes a multipurpose trail extension, a midblock crossing, and new sidewalk that connects the local trail network and a residential neighborhood with the Henning's Supermarket shopping center. The project was identified in the township's Open Space Plan and it promotes healthy lifestyles, walkability, and multimodal transportation.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$119,990

Norristown – Arch Street Greenway Corridor Improvements Project

The Municipality of Norristown will install a promenade and greenway along the Saw Mill Run channel between Lafayette Street and E. Main Street. The improvement will serve as a gateway into Norristown for Schuylkill River Trail users as well as a pathway for residents to access the trail. It will enhance the walkability of Norristown's Main Street corridor and provide an aesthetic break in the streetscape. This is the first phase of a planned Arch Street Greenway, which will connect Simmons Park to the Schuylkill River Trail and the newly redesigned Lafayette Street. It also forms part of the larger Stony Creek/Saw Mill Run Greenway Plan that extends through Norristown, East Norriton, and West Norriton.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$150,000

Pottstown – Walk and Bike Pottstown Trail Connection

Pottstown Borough will complete connections between the Walk and Bike Pottstown network and the Schuylkill River Trail through bike lane and sidewalk improvements along the corridors of N. Evans Street, N. Franklin Street, and Oak Street. This funding fills a gap left after a cost overrun with a previous segment. The network is supported by numerous plans and local organizations and will provide a direct connection to a regionally significant piece of infrastructure, the Schuylkill River Trail, which will eventually connect Pottstown with Philadelphia.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$135,000

Royersford – Riverfront Park and Trail Project

Royersford Borough will extend the existing Royersford Riverfront Trail nearly a third of a mile south from 1st Ave. & Arch St. to the Borough's sewage treatment plant property. The ten foot wide paved multi-use trail will include overlook nodes, benches, trash receptacles, wayfinding and interpretative signs, rain gardens and native plant landscaping to enhance the riparian buffer. A trailhead with small parking area will be located at southern

end. The trail will provide greater access to the Schuylkill River and will eventually serve as a link in the county's proposed Schuylkill River East Trail.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$100,000

Schwenksville – Perkiomen Trail Drainage Improvement at Schwenksville Station Project

Schwenksville Borough is partnering with the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy to make drainage improvements along the Perkiomen Trail adjacent to the former Schwenksville Railroad Station property, now Snoozy's Cafe. The project will improve drainage along the Trail, prevent further erosion of the trail bed and create a pedestrian observation deck with interpretive signs overlooking the Perkiomen Creek with access to Meadow Park.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$43,560

Upper Dublin – Critical Connections: SPARK Drive Project

Upper Dublin Township will install a new sidewalk along Susquehanna Road between the Tannerie Wood development and Spark Drive. The project will also include a new crosswalk and signal equipment to cross the west side of Susquehanna Road and directly connect to the Spark Drive athletic field and trails. This intersection and segment of sidewalk is a focus area in the Upper Dublin Township Critical Connections report, which cites specific improvements to be made to roads and intersections throughout the township.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$50,000

Upper Hanover and Pennsburg – Montgomery Avenue Bike Path and Sidewalk Installation Project

Upper Hanover Township and Pennsburg Borough will partner with the Upper Perkiomen School District (UPSD) to install sidewalk and an adjoining bituminous bike path along Montgomery Avenue from the western side of the new UPSD Middle School parcel to West 6th Street in Pennsburg. The project will correct a very dangerous existing condition for children who already attend the neighboring UPSD High School, and the problem would only get worse with the future Middle School being built. It will ultimately promote neighborhood multimodal access to both schools.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$150,000

Upper Merion – First Avenue Linear Park Enhancements

Upper Merion Township will install landscape and hardscape improvements on First Avenue as part of the First Avenue Linear Park and a complete streets campaign in the King of Prussia Business Park. The project includes stormwater BMPs and new bus stop accessibility alongside a multiuse path extending for 1 mile along First Avenue. This phase of the project is following up on the success of a demonstration park completed the year before. The project is widely supported by all affected property owners and will run through an area where 8,000 employees and visitors will have direct access to the amenity. PADOT's Multimodal Fund and the King of Prussia Business Improvement District are also contributing to the improvements.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$100,000

Upper Moreland – Fair Oaks Park Bio-Infiltration Basin

Upper Moreland Township will install a bio-infiltration basin within the Pennypack Creek Watershed at the location of the Fair Oaks Park. The basin will capture and retain stormwater runoff from a 47-acre drainage area known for severe flooding and documented impacts to the water quality of the Pennypack. This grant leverages a WRPP grant from DCED awarded to the project, and the project is directly recommended in the township's stormwater management improvement implementation plan. The project will mitigate flooding and stormwater issues that affect residents such as those who live in the Robert Bruce Apartments.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$195,000

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