



# NEWS

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

#### **Fifteen Projects Receive Montco 2040 Implementation Grants from Montgomery County**

**Norristown, PA (June 8, 2020)** – The Montgomery County Commissioners today announced 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.

The grant awards account for \$2,250,000 across eighteen municipalities. The county received a total of 27 applications from municipalities totaling \$4 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 2020: Walk/Bike Montco – Trails, Paths, Sidewalk Connections, and Bike Facilities; Downtown and Community Destination Support; and Adaptation and Resiliency.

“When we started the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program, I was excited to see what kind of projects would come out of the program and how municipalities would take up the County’s offer to help implement the comprehensive plan at the local level. Five years later, we are proud to see great projects like wayfinding signage in the Upper Perkiomen Region, new public plazas in Bridgeport and Schwenksville, green parking lot retrofits in Douglass and Conshohocken, and new sidewalk and trail connections in Lower Moreland and Lower Salford,” said Dr. Val Arkoosh, Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

Since the initiation of the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program in 2016, over \$7.5 million has been awarded to benefit 43 municipalities in the County. The fifteen projects that received grants in 2020 are highlighted below:

#### **Bridgeport – Memorial Park Sidewalk Extension and Walking Trail Project**

Bridgeport Borough will construct a new sidewalk along Grove Street from Union Avenue to 9th Street, providing better access to the Memorial Park parking lot and Bridgeport Elementary School. A walking trail connecting the new sidewalk to the existing track atop Memorial Park will also be constructed, offering residents a relaxing amenity to complement the active recreation within the borough’s largest park.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$192,800

### **Collegeville – Collegeville Boat Ramp Park Project**

Collegeville Borough will create a park consisting of a boat ramp, boat storage, parking area, picnic tables, and landscaping adjacent to the Perkiomen Creek, which will provide access to the creek for canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, and fishing. The boat ramp is a newly discovered existing feature that will be restored by members of the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy. The boat ramp will also form a midpoint along the recently funded Perkiomen Creek Water Trail.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$106,876

### **Hatboro – Bonair Avenue/North Penn Street/East Monument Avenue Intersection Project**

Hatboro Borough will transform the Bonair Avenue, North Penn Street, and East Monument Avenue intersection into a safe, attractive area that will benefit motorists and the community alike. The improvements include narrowing existing roadway and reducing asphalt in the intersection, along with installing sidewalks, crosswalks, green stormwater infrastructure, community gathering space, and street trees.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$200,000

### **Lower Gwynedd – Bethlehem Pike Pedestrian Improvements Project**

Lower Gwynedd Township will construct a critical pedestrian connection to remedy a sidewalk gap along Bethlehem Pike south of the Spring House Village area. The project will extend sidewalk along the east and west side of Bethlehem Pike near Locust Lane and will also include two pedestrian bridges spanning the culvert over the Pennlyn Creek. The connection will augment the previous walkability upgrades that have been added to the township's downtown village center through zoning changes and redevelopment over the last ten years.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$200,000

### **North Wales – Center Street Pedestrian Connection and Gateway Project**

North Wales Borough will install new sidewalks, crosswalks, and ADA ramps on Center Street between Walnut Street and the trail connection to Parkside Place Park to improve pedestrian connectivity, safety, and visibility. A new gateway entrance, with lighting and signage at the trailhead, will be installed to formalize the trail entryway and provide direction to recreational amenities, including the regional Green Ribbon Trail.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$154,725

### **Perkiomen Region Multi-Municipal – Perkiomen Creek Water Trail Signage and Wayfinding Project**

Seven municipalities of the Perkiomen Valley Region will design and install a wayfinding signage program to support the newly designated Perkiomen Creek Water Trail, a PA State Water Trail. Approximately 130 signs at 40 different locations will be installed to enable Water Trail users to navigate to public access areas along an 18-mile stretch of the Perkiomen Creek, navigate the Water Trail itself, and access amenities adjacent to the creek. Municipalities are partnering with the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy in the project.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$50,000

### **Pottstown – Memorial Park/TREC District Accessibility Improvements Project**

Pottstown Borough will enhance its Tourism and Recreation District by constructing ADA-accessible connections, brick paver-based plazas with antique lighting, and public restrooms. The improvements are centered around the new Steel River Station, which links the district to the Pottstown Area Rapid Transit (PART) and the Colebrookdale Railroad. The project will also improve accessibility to Memorial Park grounds and nearby amenities including the County's Pottsgrove Manor historic site. The Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust is providing a significant local match and donating historic brick pavers to the project.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$200,000

### **Royersford – Royersford Trestle Bridge Project**

Royersford Borough will rehabilitate the existing steel girder bridge that spans the Schuylkill River and connects Royersford to the Schuylkill River Trail in Spring City. The Trestle Bridge will encourage pedestrian and bicycle travel within the region and bring Schuylkill River Trail users into the borough's central business district. The bridge will also connect into the borough's waterfront trail, which is completed east of Main and under final design, to the west where it will meet with the bridge. The borough also received a \$1 million Multimodal grant from PA's DCED.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$115,000

### **Schwenksville – Public Pavilion Project**

Schwenksville Borough will purchase and install a public pavilion for the final phase of its Main Street Plaza project. This grant will help to fulfill a funding gap and complete the public gathering space and adjacent park and trail amenities at the future home of the new borough hall.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$12,000

### **Souderton – Chestnut Green Parking Lot Project**

Souderton Borough will retrofit the West Chestnut Street municipal parking lot to implement green initiatives, stormwater BMPs, streetscaping improvements, and improved pedestrian connections to the Main Street business district. Stormwater runoff will be reduced and managed through a new system of inlets, landscaped buffers, planting islands with rain gardens, and retaining walls. New pavement, pavement markings, lighting, and wayfinding signage will also enhance the existing lot.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$140,000

### **Springfield – Mermaid Park Stream and Habitat Restoration Project**

Springfield Township will restore the natural habitat and improve the water quality of the aquatic ecosystem at Mermaid Park while adding new park amenities. The project will shade and stabilize a streambank by regrading and planting native shade trees, constructing a pre-filtration forebay to help capture sediment and filter water, and dredging Mermaid Pond to increase its depth and inhibit aquatic plant growth. A passive walking trail around the park perimeter will also be constructed, which will be easily connected to a future segment of the regional Cresheim Trail, which will run by the park.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$197,600

### **Towamencin – Kriebel Road Fischer Park Trail Project**

Towamencin Township will construct a multiuse trail along Kriebel Road, for a length of approximately 4,000 linear feet, to connect an existing trail segment with the farm buildings within Fischer Park. The trail will bring a recreational opportunity to nearby residents and connections to the many amenities at Fischer Park, which has an internal network of recreational trails. The township's long-term goal is to connect the trails with proposed segments of the regional Evansburg and Power Line Trails.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$190,000

### **Upper Merion – First Avenue Linear Park Phase 2 Project**

Upper Merion Township, in partnership with the King of Prussia District (KOP-BID), will install a complete streets initiative along First Avenue, the primary entrance into Moore Park, a major employment center and mixed-use district for the County. Improvements include a road diet, multimodal trail, accessible bus stops and shelters, solar-powered pedestrian lighting, seating areas, stormwater management features, rain gardens, and landscaping across six parcels. The project's overall budget is \$2.6 million and includes private contributions from property owners and the KOP-BID, a grant from DCED, and a RACP award from the state.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$190,000

### **Upper Providence – Municipal Complex River Connector Trail Project**

Upper Providence Township is constructing a paved trail, approximately 3,800 linear feet, connecting Upper Providence Township parks and recreation facilities at its municipal complex with the county parks and trails network along the Schuylkill River. Work includes widening and resurfacing an existing paved trail and installing an 8-foot-wide asphalt trail in the location of an existing dirt/gravel path. The connector trail will give greater non-vehicular access to the Schuylkill River East Trail and two county parks—the Upper Schuylkill Valley Park and Lock 60 at the Schuylkill Canal Park. A new crossing, with flashing beacons, over Black Rock Road, is also included.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$100,000

### **Upper Salford – Rogers-Hiester Ganter Extension Land Acquisition Project**

Upper Salford Township will acquire a parcel of land, approximately 25 acres in size, to be permanently preserved in a natural state. The parcel is adjacent to the 75-acre Rogers-Hiester Conservation Preserve, which has a conservation easement held by Natural Lands. The land offers a valuable opportunity to preserve interior woodland in the Ridge Valley Creek Conservation landscape. A stewardship plan for the Rogers-Hiester preserve will be expanded to include the acquisition and promote a passive trail system to provide public access on the properties.

Montco 2040 Grant Award: \$200,000

Visit [www.montcopa.org/Montco2040GrantProgram](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](mailto:sfrance@montcopa.org).