In 2023, we continued to advance the objectives and goals of the county’s comprehensive plan, Montco 2040: A Shared Vision, while also officially initiating the county’s next comprehensive plan, Montco 2050: A Comprehensive Plan for a Changing World. Some things have changed in the post-pandemic environment, and lessons have been learned. However, the continued need to be looking ahead while preserving our quality of life remains our goal. Some major plans and projects were advanced in 2023, and we remain focused on the implementation of those plans every day. Some notable achievements include:

- Completing the background and trends reports for the next county comprehensive plan, Montco 2050: A Comprehensive Plan for a Changing World.
- Completing the Multi-Regional Greenway and Stewardship Study, in collaboration with Natural Lands, for the county’s four regional planning organizations. The study was highlighted at Planning Smarter Montco 2023 event.
- Breaking ground on construction of Section B (Belvoir Road to Chemical Road in Plymouth Township) of the Ridge Pike Improvement Project. Section B will be a full-depth roadway reconstruction that improves safety, reduces congestion, and improves pedestrian safety and transit accessibility.
- Working with our colleagues in Berks and Chester Counties to succeed in advancing the restoration of passenger rail along the Reading to Philadelphia corridor. The Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority was accepted into the Federal Railroad Administration’s Corridor ID Program at the end of 2023, which opens the door to federal studies and funding that can finally bring passenger rail service back to Pottstown and other communities along the corridor.

We are very grateful for all of our strong partnerships that contribute to our accomplishments. We appreciate working with municipalities, business leaders, the non-profit community, and our colleagues in governmental agencies across the region to address the new challenges and changes that come our way.
In 2023, MCPC continued to advance the objectives and goals of the county’s comprehensive plan, *Montco 2040: A Shared Vision*, while also working on the county’s next comprehensive plan, *Montco 2050: A Comprehensive Plan for a Changing World*. Each year, our commission publishes an update to highlight how county departments and the county’s partners are implementing the goals of the plan. This report is organized by the major themes in Montco 2040—Connected Communities, Sustainable Places, and Vibrant Economy. This article highlights some of the 2023 implementation goals and achievements.

**CONNECTED COMMUNITIES**

**Goal:** Build better connected communities.

- Continued to award Montco 2040 Implementation Program grants to help municipalities achieve community goals and implementation of Montco 2040. Fifteen new grants were awarded in 2023, utilizing the $2.5 million granted for this program.

- Moved work forward on architectural, engineering, and landscape design services for the Trail Junction Center in Norristown. Construction should begin in 2024.

- Advanced work on a new county aviation plan and a Transportation Inventory Initiative (an important part of selecting priority projects for the county’s new comprehensive plan).

- Finished construction on the Chester Valley Trail Extension through King of Prussia and Bridgeport.

- Completed floodwall construction at Whitemarsh Township’s Spence property.

- Completed another year of the County Transportation Program (CTP), which uses some of the proceeds of the $5 vehicle registration fee enacted by the Montgomery County Commissioners to work with our 62 municipalities to complete local transportation projects. In 2023, grants were awarded to three projects, totaling around $1 million all together.

- Assisted municipalities, through community planning assistance contracts, to complete comprehensive plans, municipal ordinances, and other products to enable them to better shape their future development. In 2023, MCPC staff managed 35 municipal planning contracts and 4 regional planning contracts.

**SUSTAINABLE PLACES**

**Goal:** Ensure the wonderful neighborhoods in the county continue to provide the quality of life that makes them so attractive.

- Implemented recommendations from the county’s Climate Change Potential Vulnerability Analysis, and selected two “case study” municipalities.

- Completed the county’s hazard mitigation plan update (and received plan approval from FEMA).

- Continued to preserve land through the Montgomery County Agricultural Land Preservation Program. As of 2023, 185 farms (nearly 10,500 acres) have been permanently preserved.

- Continued improvement and reconstruction projects on county-owned bridges, funded in part by the county’s $5 vehicle registration fee.

- Continued to implement Homes For All, a strategy to champion affordably priced homes in the county, in collaboration with the Montgomery County Office of Housing and Community Development and Commerce Department. As the struggle to afford homes becomes increasingly visible across the county, this effort becomes more important than ever.

- Recognized and awarded five projects and one planning advocate for achievements in planning and design through the annual Montgomery Awards Program.
Completed three school district enrollment projection studies and started on a fourth to assist school board members in making informed decisions about future facilities and educational resource needs.

Provided household hazardous waste collections and campaign sign recycling and provided information through the county’s recycling program.

VIBRANT ECONOMY

Goal: Enhance the county’s economic competitiveness.

- Continued construction on the Ridge Pike Improvement Project. In 2023, Section B (Belvoir Road to Chemical Road in Plymouth Township) began construction.
- Continued to work on/support the four projects MCPC initiated through the county’s ARPA funding process, including a county data hub, a new food policy council, a countywide stormwater plan, and a jump-start to the Wissahickon Water Quality Improvement Plan, by providing funds to four local projects.
- Continued the work to reestablish rail service from Reading to Philadelphia via the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority (SRPRA). The SRPRA was accepted into the Corridor ID program, an important milestone in making this proposal a reality.

MONTCO 2040 GRANT ACHIEVEMENTS

Since the start of the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program in 2016, we have seen many projects successfully completed using this grant funding. The program assists municipalities in making targeted physical improvements that specifically further the goals of the county comprehensive plan and the plan’s themes of Connected Communities, Sustainable Places, and Vibrant Economy. In 2023, the following projects were significantly advanced or completed:

- Abington – Safe Routes for Youth and Seniors
- Ambler – Ambler Theater Masonry Repair
- East Greenville – Bieler Park Upgrade
- East Norriton – Stanbridge Park Facility Improvements
- Hatboro – Station Trail Lighting
- Lower Salford – Alderfer Road and Park Avenue Basins
- North Wales – Center Street Pedestrian Connection and Gateway
- Perkiomen – Perkiomen Creek Tributary Restoration Project
- Royersford – Riverfront Park Trail (Phase IV), Trestle Bridge, 2nd and Arch Crosswalk
- Springfield – Haws Lane Open Space Acquisition
- Towamencin – Kriebel Road/Fischer Park Trail
- Upper Dublin – Property Acquisition for the Greater Fort Washington District Zip Ramp
- Upper Dublin – Twining Valley Park Multi-Purpose Trails
- Upper Merion – First Avenue Linear Park Phase II
- Upper Moreland – Willow Grove Wayfinding Signage
- Upper Providence – Perkiomen Trail Crossing Improvements at Arcola and Cider Mill
- Worcester – Mount Kirk Park Improvement Project
Construction on Section B of the Ridge Pike Improvement Project

In 2023, Montgomery County celebrated the start of construction on Section B of the Ridge Pike Improvement Project with a groundbreaking ceremony. Section B, which runs from Belvoir Road to Chemical Road in Plymouth Township, will be completely rebuilt and enhanced in order to improve safety and reduce congestion.

The Section B project will widen the roadway to create a center left-turn lane, add traffic signals at Industrial Way and Carland Road, reconfigure the I-476 interchange with signalized intersections and better access, replace the westbound jug handle at Alan Wood Road with double left-turn lanes, and add much-needed stormwater management facilities. It will also improve pedestrian safety and transit accessibility by installing missing sidewalk throughout the corridor, creating formal SEPTA bus stops, and making them ADA compliant.

J.D. Eckman was awarded the contract for Section B with a construction cost of $39,184,367.55. This project is funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and PennDOT in partnership with Montgomery County and Plymouth Township.

The Ridge Pike Improvement Project, segmented into four sections, involves the full reconstruction of Ridge Pike between Norristown and Philadelphia, with additional widening and safety improvements at specific locations. The project will lessen congestion, improve safety, improve stormwater management, add sidewalks, and help keep the adjacent communities economically competitive.

Montgomery County Planning Commission 2023 Annual Report

Montco 2050 Progress

Montco 2050: A Comprehensive Plan for A Changing World moved forward in 2023, with a good portion of the year focused on synthesizing what had changed in the county over the last ten years and identifying the trends that are likely to keep affecting the county in years to come. MCPC finalized ten trend reports, which take a deeper look at topics, such as housing, transportation, health, and economic development. In addition to the reports, MCPC developed an online map hub that houses much of the background information for Montco 2050 and will be easier to update over time as conditions change. A primary focus in 2023 was public engagement. MCPC attended public events, spoke to engaged residents, and developed a survey asking for input on future planning priorities for the county. Through these opportunities with the public, we heard a lot about taking care of what we already have in the county. Issues, such as preserving open space, fixing aging infrastructure, working to prevent (or mitigate) flooding and other natural disasters, fixing existing roads and bridges, and retaining existing businesses, were identified as planning priorities. In 2024, we will be working on new online and in-person engagement opportunities as we start to focus on the themes and goals of the 2050 plan.
MCPC, in collaboration with Natural Lands, completed the **Multi-Regional Greenway and Stewardship Study**, which was approved by the Montgomery County Commissioners in January 2023. The study was prepared for the county’s four regional planning organizations: Central Perkiomen Valley, Indian Valley, Pottstown Metropolitan Area, and Upper Perkiomen Valley. The study’s goal was to create an interconnected greenway system throughout the multi-regional area, focusing on land stewardship and supporting the area’s ecotourism strategy for economic development.

Developed as single plans for each of the four regions, the study was completed with a $100,000 grant from the PA DCNR C2P2 program on behalf of Montgomery County. The funding was used to contract Natural Lands to complete stewardship assessments for 38 municipal parks (1,500 acres all together). The assessments, which provide land management recommendations for each park, also serve as a template for strategies that can be used in the remaining public parks and open spaces within the multi-regional area.

The county’s work involved an inventory of preserved lands, a natural resource analysis, and assessment of over 3,000 individual parcels to determine the most environmentally significant portion of each for inclusion in the greenway system. We also conducted walking tours of the Main Streets within the region’s 13 boroughs and villages to identify opportunities to make them more walkable, greener, and sustainable.

**Trails and Open Space Progress**

Every year, we are excited to see open space and trail progress in Montgomery County. Below are highlights of some 2023 achievements:

**Chester Valley Trail Extension Opening**

Montgomery County’s premier trail network got even better in 2023 with the official opening of the 3.8-mile extension of the Chester Valley Trail on March 13. The extension, passing through Upper Merion, Bridgeport, and Norristown, links the existing 14.5-mile portion of the Chester Valley Trail, which currently runs from Exton to King of Prussia, to the Schuylkill River Trail in Norristown. The new 10- to 12-foot-wide paved multiuse path is part of the regional Circuit Trails network. The project included the installation of two new pedestrian bridges at South Gulph Road and Henderson Road and the enhancement of two existing bridges.

**Permanent Preservation of Camp Laughing Waters**

Camp Laughing Waters, a 458-acre Girl Scout camp located in New Hanover and Upper Frederick Townships, was permanently preserved under a conservation easement with Natural Lands. This beautiful and ecologically rich parcel of wooded and open pasture land lies within the 9,383-acre Swamp Creek Conservation Landscape—one of the most pristine regions in Montgomery County. It also encompasses 2 miles of Swamp Creek and its tributary, Minister Creek, with approximately 30 acres of ponds and wetlands.

The Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania will continue to own the land, which has been operating as a Girl Scouts camp since the 1950s, and utilize it for active programming. The conservation easement ensures that future generations of Girl Scouts will continue to explore and spend time in a natural setting.

Camp Laughing Waters is also an important greenspace that adjoins and connects other areas of open space. The conservation easement and a related access easement provide public access by means of a future 2-mile county trail extending between New Hanover Road and Fagleysville Road. This trail, which will ultimately add 2 miles to the Sunrise Trail and the Swamp Creek Greenway, will expand Montco’s extensive trail network. Montgomery County is pleased to have contributed significant financial support in the amount of $2.7 million toward the preservation of this exceptional property.

In addition to increasing the ability to recreate and commute between Chester County and points throughout Montco, trail users can now ride or walk as far north as Green Lane Park and as far east as Philadelphia. The project was funded primarily by the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), along with capital improvement funds provided by Montgomery County. Montgomery County received a Transportation Award from the King of Prussia Business Improvement District for this important trail extension project.

**Swamp Creek at Camp Laughing Waters**
AWARDING EXCELLENCE

2023 MONTGOMERY AWARD WINNERS

Five outstanding projects and a dedicated lifelong advocate of open space preservation received awards in 2023 as part of the Montgomery Awards Program. This prestigious annual awards program recognizes the best in planning, design, environmental stewardship, and advocacy in Montgomery County. Since 1967, 239 awards have been presented to acknowledge the successful efforts and commitment of communities, organizations, and professionals in achieving excellence. In addition to recognizing exceptional development projects, the program recognizes a person or organization with significant contributions to advancing planning in Montgomery County through a Planning Advocate Award. As part of this program, MCPC partners with the Montgomery County Conservation District to present an Environmental Stewardship Award, recognizing a project that exemplifies the practices of environmental stewardship and conservation for water and soil quality. For more on the program, videos and profiles on each award-winning project, and a searchable database, visit www.montgomerycountypa.gov/MontgomeryAwards.

THE RESERVE AT MAYBROOK
Lower Merion Township

The Reserve at Maybrook, an exemplary preservation project, received a 2023 Montgomery Award for zoning innovation and planning process, historic preservation, and site-sensitive design. This successful infill transit-oriented mixed-use development, which involved a lengthy community planning process, resulted in the preservation of an historic mansion and other valuable historic resources set within over 20 acres of protected open space.

SORA WEST
Conshohocken Borough

SORA West, an ambitious mixed-use development, received a 2023 Montgomery Award for context-sensitive site design, adaptive reuse, and community impact. Anchored by a state-of-the-art LEED Silver certified global headquarters office building, the project, which created a new hotel, public square with community gathering space, streetscape improvements, and the creative restoration and reuse of a historic firehouse, will serve as a borough destination for years to come.

www.montgomerycountypa.gov/MontgomeryAwards
PHILIP A. SMITH
Planning Advocate Award

Philip A. Smith, an open space, trails, and historic preservation advocate, received a 2023 Planning Advocate Award for his lifelong dedication to open space preservation through civic leadership and personal generosity. Through his holistic approach to project planning, commitment to his community, exceptional collaboration skills, and extreme perseverance, he has advanced open space, historic preservation, and trail development in western Montgomery County.

Video

PARK TO PERKIOMEN TRAIL CONNECTOR
Upper Salford Township

The Park to Perkiomen Trail Connector, an essential part of the township’s multiuse pathway network, received a 2023 Montgomery Award for the execution of a sustained vision for open space and natural resource preservation, site-sensitive trail design and construction, and collaboration with community and agency partners. This project connected a popular township park with a recreational destination and the Perkiomen Trail while preserving 42 acres of high conservation value woodlands.

Video

PV WOODS – LENAPE ARBORETUM AND MUHLENBERG WOODS
Perkiomen and Lower Frederick Townships

PV Woods, comprised of the Lenape Arboretum and Muhlenberg Woods, received a 2023 Montgomery Award for outstanding initiatives in environmental outdoor education, conservation and stewardship of open space, and cultural heritage and community connections. The project, implemented largely by student volunteers, creates a greater awareness and knowledge of environmental stewardship and of the cultural heritage of the Lenape native peoples.

Video

JACOB REIFF PARK STREAM & FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION
Lower Salford Township

The Jacob Reiff Park Stream & Floodplain Restoration project received a 2023 Environmental Stewardship Award for its extensive stream and floodplain restoration efforts along the west branch of Skippack Creek. This project, involving strong interagency partnerships, volunteer efforts, and forward-thinking design elements, has resulted in a healthier ecosystem, improved flood attenuation and stormwater management in the floodplain corridor, and a unique natural destination for the community to enjoy.

Video
Communities are largely shaped at the local level, either when properties are developed or redeveloped or when land is subdivided, all of which is controlled through local land use codes. Under the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (Act 247), municipalities are required to submit all proposed or revised subdivisions or land development plans as well as proposed amendments to land use codes to MCPC for review and comment.

In 2023, MCPC reviewed 333 submittals—a sizable decrease from 2022. Detailed information on these submittals is included in the 2023 Annual Summary of Subdivision, Land Development, and Zoning Activity. The review and comment process is an important opportunity for MCPC to work with municipalities to address countywide planning issues associated with a specific proposal. Our staff review letters offer planning guidance to municipal officials to assist them in making sound land use and design decisions. All reviews are conducted by professional planners or landscape architects, who collaborate with other staff professionals with specific expertise.

In partnership with the Montgomery County Information and Technology Solutions Department, we maintain an online submission process and have digitized Act 247 files and documents going back to 2008. The digital system provides a streamlined review process for planning staff, greater sharing of planning documents among staff and other county departments, and more powerful analytic capabilities. Plan sets, review letters, accompanying studies, and any other documentation associated with a 247 submission will be publicly available digitally later in 2024. Until then, plans and documents are available to be viewed by the public in the MCPC office.

While most of our development review work is performed under Act 247, our staff also reviews proposals for sewage facilities under Act 537. These reviews provide comments and a recommendation to the applicant, municipality, and PADEP regarding environmental and land use planning issues. We completed 25 sewage planning module reviews in 2023.
County leaders established the Montgomery County Community Planning Assistance Contract Program over 50 years ago because they understood that municipal-level planning is the foundation of a strong, diverse county. In 2023, MCPC maintained contracts with 35 of the county’s 62 municipalities and 4 regional planning areas.

MUNICIPAL PLANNING ASSISTANCE CONTRACTS

While we are contracted for a variety of services under the program, in 2023 community planners worked on ten comprehensive plans, including three regional plans. The municipalities developing new comprehensive plans ranged from West Norriton to Horsham, as well as Cheltenham and Lower Gwynedd, to name a few. Work in our other contract communities included various implementation activities identified in recently adopted comprehensive plans. This work included revitalization plan updates, Main Street design guidelines, trail and sidewalk plans, and numerous zoning and subdivision ordinance updates. Community planning work, provided as flexible assistance, involved the submission of grant applications for trails, open space, and downtown revitalization projects; ongoing transit-oriented development implementation; and park and open space design work. Examples of the many achievements in 2023 include:

- East Greenville Borough
  Received acceptance of new streetscape plan and design guidelines for Main Street

- Lower Gwynedd Township
  Initiated comprehensive planning process and completed the first public outreach event

- Lower Salford Township
  Developed an interactive map of sidewalks and trails to be used as a tool for identifying gaps and funding priorities

- Lower Merion Township and Narberth Borough
  Began work on the Lower Merion Township & Narberth Borough Active Transportation Plan, including the development of an interactive online survey, logo creation, steering committee meetings, data gathering and analysis, and outreach at community events

- North Wales Borough
  Drafted updated zoning ordinance and zoning map, involving extensive public outreach, which was adopted

- Springfield Township
  Completed and saw the adoption of the township’s first community-wide trail network and connectivity plan

- West Norriton Township
  Started the comprehensive plan process, including an online community survey, public open house, and attendance at multiple township events

- New Hanover Township
  Completed Wassmer Tract Passive Recreation Plan and adoption of revised subdivision and land development ordinance (SALDO) design guidelines
**REGIONAL PLANNING**

Our planners assist the four regional planning commissions that comprise 24 Montgomery County municipalities. These active regional boards continue to work effectively in addressing issues which extend beyond municipal boundaries. In 2023, the Montgomery County Commissioners adopted the Multi-Regional Greenway and Stewardship Study, and the individual regional planning commissions started to develop stewardship programming for the education of municipal partners and private landowners. The following regional activities took place in 2023:

- **Central Perkiomen Valley Region** - The region continued the ten-year update to its comprehensive plan, including the release of a region-wide community survey.
- **Indian Valley Region** - The region initiated an update to its comprehensive plan and coordinated a community survey throughout the six participating communities.
- **Pottstown Metropolitan Region** - MCPC continued to provide support for the region’s park mini-grant program and coordinated the DVRPC Pottstown Area Rapid Transit (PART) Bus Stop Enhancements Study and the initiation of the region’s safe routes to school study.
- **Upper Perkiomen Valley Region** - The Upper Perkiomen Valley Regional Planning Commission completed the update of its comprehensive plan and initiated the adoption process, which is expected to be completed in early 2024. The region will soon initiate an audit of municipal zoning codes for consistency with the new plan.

As the four regional planning commissions embark on the third iterations of their comprehensive plans, they serve to provide the essential foundation of growth management for the 24 communities involved and, through additional efforts and initiatives, continue to enhance the quality of life for all of their residents.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT PROJECTION SERVICES**

MCPC offers School District Enrollment Projections Services through a community planning assistance contract. In 2023, a variety of school districts sought these services, enabling MCPC to complete three studies and start a fourth report. We have worked with 15 of the county’s 22 districts and have produced 35 separate reports. These reports contain detailed information on local development and housing sales trends within a given school district along with other demographic data. This work benefits the school districts and MCPC. We are able to apply our expertise in demographics and development trends in the county, which ultimately provides a valuable resource for school districts and the communities they serve and helps MCPC provide stronger plans for future development across the county.
MCPC produces a variety of resources that can be used by the county, municipalities, local officials, businesses, community leaders, engaged citizens, and others.

Outreach is an essential component in informing the public and decision makers about these important planning resources, the planning education and events we offer, and the professional planning services we provide to our municipalities. We share this information in various ways, including the MCPC website, newsletters, social media posts, sponsored planning courses, email blasts, conferences, webinars, and events. Some of the highlights of our 2023 outreach efforts and resources are highlighted throughout this article.

**MUNICIPAL EDUCATION COURSES**

MCPC sponsored four Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI) courses on the topics of community planning, subdivision and land development review, zoning, and zoning administration. These in-depth courses provide valuable information to municipal officials, which can assist them in succeeding in their efforts.

**PLANNING SMARTER MONTCO 2023 EVENTS**

This annual series offers informative planning events/webinars and courses that enable local leaders and citizens to better plan for the future of their communities. It also includes the annual Montgomery Awards celebration.

**Events/Webinars**

The Planning Smarter series provided an event, Supporting Municipal Land Stewardship, which focused on land stewardship and management and the importance of open space interconnectedness and the environmental and social values contributed to the overall landscape. It discussed the varying degrees of land stewardship practices that municipalities can consider. A panel of land stewardship professionals shared their experiences in Montgomery County, lessons learned, and
how each community can adapt or initiate their own practices. We also offered a lunchtime webinar on Historic Preservation Opportunities. The webinar discussed how historic preservation can benefit community character, economic development, quality of life, environmental sustainability, housing affordability, and more. Presenters provided guidance on historic preservation options available to communities in Pennsylvania and how to use these tools to pursue the type of preservation framework that is most appropriate for a particular place. Inspirational local examples were also highlighted.

2023 Montgomery Awards Celebration

This event announced and celebrated the 2023 Montgomery Award winners. The Montgomery Awards Program strives to promote awareness of outstanding planning and design, environmental stewardship, and sustained planning advocacy in Montgomery County. Event Video

MCPC Website

MCPC’s website is the most comprehensive resource for planning information in Montgomery County, PA. Visit this site for information including:

- Montco’s Comprehensive Plan
- Programs and Initiatives
- Planning Projects
- Model Ordinances
- Publications
- Planning Smarter Series
- Planning Courses
- Planning Events
- Montco Planning Data Portal
- Subdivision and Land Development Proposals
- Recycling
- Social Media Platforms

RESOURCES

MCPC provides a large variety of planning resources—all available online. Various resources provided in 2023 are highlighted below:

PLANS/STUDIES/SUMMARIES
- Montgomery County 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Multi-Regional Greenway and Stewardship Study
- Farmland Preservation Program 2023 Annual Summary

NEWSLETTERS
- MCPC Monthly
- StalkTalk

SUBDIVISION, LAND DEVELOPMENT, AND ZONING ACTIVITY PROPOSALS
- 2023 Annual Summary of Subdivision, Land Development, and Zoning Activity
- Monthly Reports
- Activity Maps
- Annual Summaries

DEMOGRAPHICS & DATA REPORTS
- The Quarterly Construction Report
- 2022 Housing Units Built
- 2022 Nonresidential Construction

2022 Median Prices for Housing
- 2022 Shopping Centers Inventory
- 2022 Business Parks Inventory
- 2022 Multifamily and Attached Housing Inventory
- 2022 Age-Restricted Housing Inventory

VIDEOS
- MCPC YouTube Channel

GIS PRODUCTS
- North Wales Story Map
- New Hanover Sidewalk Analysis
- Montco 2050 Map Resource
- Wissahickon Water Quality Improvement Plan Web Experience

TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOURS
- Lansdale Station Area Self-Guided Walking Tour Focused on Town Center Station Area Typology
- Conshohocken Station Area Self-Guided Walking Tour Focused on Regional Mixed-Use Center Station Area Typology
LEADERSHIP

2023 MCPC BOARD TOUR

Each year, the MCPC Board tours parts of Montgomery County before its October meeting. This offers a great opportunity to see and hear about the popular destinations, redevelopment work, and planning in a specific part of the county. In 2023, the board, along with county and local officials, MCPC staff, and others, toured Norristown—the county seat. The tour began at Fluxspace, which is part of Corbett Inc., a company that develops innovative educational programs and products. Other destinations on the tour included Lafayette Street, the county’s Trail Junction Center, the Arch Street Greenway, Elmwood Park Zoo, Norristown State Hospital, Norristown Farm Park, and Centro de Cultura Arte Trabajo y Educacion (CCATE). The tour also included many sites that are under redevelopment throughout Norristown, such as the Montgomery County Justice Center and the former Kennedy-Kenrick Catholic High School property. The tour ended back at Fluxspace, where the board conducted its October meeting.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OPEN SPACE BOARD

The Montgomery County Open Space Board consists of five members who have interest and experience in land preservation and natural resources protection. The board works with MCPC staff to identify suitable properties and greenways to be protected in the county and to guide trail development projects. It also assists in the promotion of conservation and trail use throughout the county.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

The Montgomery County Agricultural Land Preservation Board, commonly referred to as the farm board, is a five-member board consisting of two active farmers, an elected municipal official, a builder, and a member-at-large. The board guides the county’s farmland preservation efforts by prioritizing farmland applications and working with staff and farmers to arrive at fair agriculture easement acquisition values.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD

The nine-member Montgomery County Planning Commission Board, appointed by the Montgomery County Commissioners, plays an important leadership role in addressing future challenges confronting the county. Each member, volunteering to serve a four-year term, offers a unique perspective and varied expertise, representing the geographic and cultural diversity of the county. The board advises our staff on critical issues at monthly meetings and works to promote excellence in planning throughout the county.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

The Montgomery County Transportation Authority (MCTA) was formed by the Montgomery County Commissioners to address transportation improvement needs in the county and aid in the development of transportation improvement projects throughout the county. The nine-member authority assists in the acquisition of rights-of-way for county roadway, bridge, and trail projects.
Our staff is divided into functional areas including county and GIS, community, environmental, trails and open space, transportation, design and graphics, communications, and administrative services. Though organized into sections, we work collaboratively to achieve results that benefit the county.