



2025 Award Winner

Farmstead Park

Upper Moreland Township



Farmstead Park, an outstanding restoration project in Upper Moreland Township, received a 2025 Montgomery Award for creative and sustainable site design, community engagement, and adaptive historic preservation. Through visionary work, this project successfully transformed the park into a sustainable, inclusive, and historically rich public space. Originally acquired by the township in 2002, the 10-acre park includes a multipurpose athletic field, historic farmstead buildings dating back to the mid-eighteenth century, and a restored natural area that was once neglected and prone to flooding.

Creative and Sustainable Site Design

The rear 5 acres of Farmstead Park, previously inaccessible and overrun with invasive species, has now been reimaged through a partnership between Upper Moreland Township and the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT). PERT's initial vision for the project em-

braced the site's natural challenges, and a site-specific plan that would transform the area into a functional and beautiful landscape was created. By pursuing a design that works with the landscape, this project exemplifies a forward-thinking approach to stormwater management and environmental stewardship. The project's final design embraces the site's challenges, low-lying terrain and high-water table, by re-contouring the land into sinuous mounds and swales to slow stormwater runoff and maxi-

mize infiltration. The meadow, planted with a seed mix of diverse wildflowers, utilizes a custom soil blend to support plant growth and drainage. After just one and a half growing seasons, the meadow is well established, and wildlife has returned to the park in abundance. Carefully placed within the landscape is a new, fully accessible pathway that winds through the site, offering scenic views and moments of quiet reflection for park visitors.



Community Engagement

Farmstead Park's transformation was made possible through significant community partnerships and diverse funding sources. Volunteers from local schools, environmental clubs, and neighborhood groups participated in invasive species removal, planting, and ongoing maintenance. Upper Moreland Township worked with PERT to establish a reforesters program that trains residents to monitor tree health using a mobile app, fostering further stewardship and environmental awareness.

The park has become a hub for environmental programming—hosting frequent student visits and programs such as fly-fishing workshops. The Upper Moreland Shade Tree Committee and Environmental Advisory Council have supported programming and maintenance while PERT interns have developed a pollinator-friendly maintenance plan now used by township staff. The township also collaborated with an Eagle Scout to install bluebird nesting boxes, engaging



families in decorating and tracking the boxes across local parks, with several at Farmstead Park.

Adaptive Historic Preservation

In addition to the meadow restoration, Farmstead Park is home to a rare collection of historic buildings, including a farmhouse, barn, carriage house, and spring house, dating from the 1750s to

the early 1800s. These structures form a distinctive background for the community park and are being restored through the efforts of the Farmstead Alliance, a nonprofit formed to steward the buildings and engage the community in adaptive reuse of the buildings. The park's historical significance is recognized by the state, with recommendations for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Restoration efforts are



ongoing, with plans to open the buildings for tours and events in the future as a way of allowing the greater community to experience the agricultural heritage of the township. The spring house is envisioned to be restored as a unique water feature, and the barn and farmhouse could host educational and cultural programming.

As one of 19 parks in Upper Moreland Township, Farmstead Park stands out for its integration of ecological restora-

tion, historic preservation, and community programming, offering an enhanced visitor experience that carefully blends passive and active recreation. The park exemplifies how thoughtful design and inclusive planning can transform underutilized spaces into vibrant, multifunctional destinations and celebrates not just the physical transformation of Farmstead Park but the spirit of collaboration, creativity, and care that made it possible. It is a model

for municipalities seeking to enhance environmental resilience, honor local heritage, and build stronger community connections.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Neil K. Makhija, Chair
Jamila H. Winder, Vice Chair
Thomas DiBello, Commissioner



Montgomery County Planning Commission
P.O. Box 311
Norristown, PA 19404-0311
www.montgomerycountypa.gov/planning

Location

Upper Moreland Township
Montgomery County, PA

Project Data

Land Use

Municipal Park & Open Space

Tract Size

10.2 Acres

Zoning

RC Recreational Conservation

Parking

30 Spaces

Key Features

- Collaborative Effort
- Innovative Stormwater Management
- Habitat Enhancement
- Environmentally Sensitive/Sustainable Design

Owner

Upper Moreland Township
117 Park Avenue
Willow Grove, PA 19090

Developer

Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust
2955 Edge Hill Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

Engineer

Gilmore & Associates, Inc.
1617 John F Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 425
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Landscape Architect

ThinkGreen LLC
PO Box 528
Glenside, PA 19038

Excellence in Planning and Design

The annual Montgomery Awards recognize the best in planning, design, and advocacy in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The program acknowledges the high-quality work and commitment of communities, organizations and professionals.