

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026
6:00 PM (Approximately)

Chairperson: Michael Daly

Vice Chairperson: Charles Gregory, Shelby Sparrow

AGENDA

1. RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZATION OF A DCNR GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE ACCESSIBLE TRAIL LINK FROM THE CYNWYD HERITAGE TRAIL TO THE NORFOLK SOUTHERN TUNNEL



Township of Lower Merion
A FIRST CLASS TOWNSHIP

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

COMMITTEE: Parks & Recreation

ITEM: RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZATION OF A DCNR GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE ACCESSIBLE TRAIL LINK FROM THE CYNWYD HERITAGE TRAIL TO THE NORFOLK SOUTHERN TUNNEL

Consider for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners adoption of a resolution authorizing the Township to submit a grant application in the amount of \$500,000 to the DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) Grant to partially fund the Accessible Trail Link from the Cynwyd Heritage Trail to the Norfolk Southern Tunnel and committing to matching funds of 50%.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTACHMENT(S):

[DCNR - Issue Brief.docx](#)

[DCNR C2P2 Resolution.docx](#)

[DCNR Resolution PER APPLICATION.pdf](#)

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION
Parks & Recreation Committee

Issue Briefing

Topic: Submission of a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) Grant for the Accessible Trail Link from the Cynwyd Heritage Trail to the Norfolk Southern Tunnel

Prepared By: Donna Heller, Director of Parks & Recreation

Date: April 2, 2026

- I. Action To Be Considered By The Board:** Adopt a resolution authorizing the Township to submit a grant application in the amount of \$500,000 to the DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) Grant to partially fund the accessible trail link from the Cynwyd Heritage Trail to the Norfolk Southern Tunnel and committing to matching funds of 50%.
- II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:** The Board of Commissioners must adopt resolutions authorizing the submission of a grant application.
- III. Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable):** Projects included in Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), seek grant funding whenever possible.
- IV. Other Relevant Background Information:** The Board received Cynwyd Spur Trail Feasibility and Planning Study in 2015. This study determined the trail's feasibility and construction options to connect the Cynwyd Heritage Trail (CHT) to the riverfront, which has an 80' to 100' grade differential. At that time the Righter's Ferry residential development was constructing their riverfront trail and Pencoyd Bridge which connects directly to the Wissahickon Gateway and ultimately the Schuylkill River Trail.



The Township was also negotiating with Norfolk Southern (NS) for the 33' wide easement between the Township property and river that passes under the Norfolk

Southern railroad bridge. Now that the NS lease has been obtained and the work is completed on the railroad bridge, the focus has moved to the accessible trail connection from the Cynwyd Heritage Trail to the Norfolk Southern Tunnel.

There is funding in the 2026 CIP for the construction documents for the trail connection, with anticipated construction funding in 2026 to 2028. One of the primary concerns for the alignment of the trail connection was accessibility by cyclists and pedestrians of all abilities. Therefore, the construction document alignment will meet ADA trail requirements. This is a vital gap trail gap identified in the regional trail network.



DCNR C2P2 Grant requires a matching contribution that is equal to 50% of the project cost, which would be exceeded in this project. Contributions exceeding the match requirement has the potential to increase the appeal of the grant application to the reviewers.

- V. **Impact On Township Finances:** The \$500,000 grant would offset the cost of construction of this trail connect which is currently estimated at \$3,600,000. We also have a Grant Application currently in review for a DCED Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant for \$1,000,000.
- VI. **Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners adopt the Resolution authorizing submission of a DCNR Community Conservation Partnership

Program Grant for the Accessible Trail Link from the Cynwyd Heritage Trail to the Norfolk Southern Tunnel.

RESOLUTION NO. _____



DCNR-C2P2

Applicant Information (* indicates required information)

Applicant/Grantee Legal Name: **TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION**

Web Application ID: **2012060**

Project Title: **Accessible Trail Link from the Cynwyd Heritage Trail to the Norfolk Southern Tunnel**

WHEREAS, **TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION** ("Applicant") desires to undertake the project, "**Accessible Trail Link from the Cynwyd Heritage Trail to the Norfolk Southern Tunnel**" ("Project Title"); and

WHEREAS, the applicant desires to receive from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources ("Department") a grant for the purpose of carrying out this project; and

WHEREAS, the application package includes a document entitled "Terms and Conditions of Grant" and

WHEREAS, the applicant understands that the contents of the document entitled "Terms and Conditions of Grant," including appendices referred to therein, will become the terms and conditions of a Grant Agreement between the applicant and the Department **if the applicant is awarded a grant**; and

NOW THEREFORE, it is resolved that:

1. The grant application may be electronically signed on behalf of the applicant by "**Donna L. Heller**" who, at the time of signing, has a **TITLE** of "**Director of Parks and Recreation**" and the email address of "**dheller@lowermerion.org**" ("Official").
2. If this Official signed the Grant Application Electronic Authorization prior to the passage of this Resolution, this grant of authority applies retroactively to the date of signing.
3. If the applicant is awarded a grant, the Grant Application Electronic Authorization, signed by the above Official, will become the applicant/grantee's **executed** signature page for the Grant Agreement, and the applicant/grantee will be bound by the Grant Agreement.
4. Any amendment to the Grant Agreement may be signed on behalf of the grantee by the Official who, at the time of signing of the amendment, has the "**TITLE**" specified in paragraph 1 and the grantee will be bound by the amendment.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the

(identify the governing body of the applicant, e.g. city council, borough council, board of supervisors, board of directors)

of this applicant, this _____ day of _____, _____.

(signature of the governing body - cannot be the person with the same title as specified in paragraph 1)

(printed name)

(title)