

Livable Landscape Grants Available

By Becky Bartlett

EASTON - Northampton County Executive Lamont McClure is pleased to announce that, through the Division of Parks & Recreation, applications for the 2019 Livable Landscapes Grant Program will be accepted beginning August 16, 2019 until 3pm, September 26, 2019. The purpose of the grant program is to protect the County's important natural features by assisting municipalities and organizations to acquire, restore, and enhance permanently protected lands, to provide municipal park acquisition, development and rehabilitation projects, trails and greenway development and park, recreation and open space planning efforts.

Potential applicants are to attend a grant workshop on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 9 am in Room 3 at the County of Northampton Department of Human Services Building, 2801 Emrick Blvd., Bethlehem, PA 18020. Applicants are also encouraged to discuss their project with the Northampton County Conservation Coordinator, Sherry Acevedo. The grant application can be found on the Northampton County Division of Parks & Recreation website.

The Livable Landscapes Grant Program is a succeeding program from the Northampton County Open Space Initiative, originally established in 2004 by a majority voter referendum authorizing the dedication of funds for the purpose of preserving and enhancing the natural environment in Northampton County.

"Our revised grant program supports the commitment by Northampton County to implement the goals in our Livable Landscapes Plan to conserve, restore, and enhance natural resources and a greenways and blueways network, and provide an exemplary park, trail, and recreation network throughout the County", stated Sherry Acevedo, Conservation Coordinator. "The grant funding will help our partners implement their goals to enhance the quality of life in their communities."

Livable Landscapes Grant Program inquiries should be directed to: Sherry Acevedo, Conservation Coordinator Northampton County Division of Parks and Recreation
Louise W. Moore County Park, 151 Country Club Road Easton, PA 18045. Telephone: 610-829-4872, Email: sacevedo@northamptoncounty.org

Making PA Schools Safer

By Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - Recognizing the importance of ensuring our children feel safe at school, the General Assembly voted overwhelmingly in support of investing an additional \$60 million in the School Safety and Security Block Grant program. Now in its second year, the program provides flexible funding that schools may use for a variety of security-related initiatives, including hiring school police officers, school resource officers, counselors and/or mental health counselors; alternative education and diversion programs; violence prevention initiatives; school safety and emergency preparedness plans; or physical upgrades to school buildings and equipment to improve safety.

Recent revisions to the grant funding guidelines allow each school entity that applies for funding to receive a base grant of between \$30,000 and \$45,000, based on the school's average daily attendance. The previous base grant amount was \$25,000. As part of the Public School Code bill that accompanied passage of this year's budget, lawmakers also are requiring each public school district to create at least one multi-disciplinary threat assessment team to identify students in distress before their behavior escalates to a level that raises concern about safety.

SHAPE THE FUTURE

By Becky Bradley

LEHIGH VALLEY - FutureLV: The Regional Plan is under public review, which means everyone has a chance to get involved. Those who'd like to weigh in on the 188-page plan can do it at two public meetings: Tuesday, August 20 at 12 p.m. at the LVPC, 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown. (A pizza lunch will be included). Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/futurelv-public-comment-meeting-1-tickets-68174482713>

Wednesday, August 21 at 6 p.m. at Northampton Community College Fowler Family Southside Center - Room 114, 511 E. 3rd St, Bethlehem. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/futurelv-public-comment-meeting-2-tickets-68174699361>.

FutureLV is designed to help us shape the future as a thriving region works to prepare for the arrival of more people, more visitors, more online shopping, more autonomous vehicles and well, just plain more of almost everything, even as it preserves the open space, farms and quality of life people have come to love.

After more than two years that included more than 170 public meetings and events and participation by nearly 8,500 residents, a draft of the plan is now available at LVPC.org and at public offices across the region. The comment period remains open through September 23.



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Blue Valley Farm Show

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The 4H students always amaze me for all the hard work and care they have for all the animals. What a learning process they go thru from the infant care to the auction of their animals and how the farming world actually works. Its one thing to view the animals in their pens at the Farm Show as we the public do its another to be the caretaker of them on a daily basis.

A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers that make this a successful event every year!



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