Montgomery Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
April 28, 2026
7:00 PM

Montgomery Township's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) met on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at the Township Administration Building.

The members of the EAC in attendance included: Maureen Mirabella, Jonathan Katz, Paul Mau, Jamie Pizzi, and Don Hamp (virtual, briefly)

Vice Chairwoman, Beth Staab was in attendance as the Board Liaison. Staff member, Ava Komasz, Interim Community Engagement Manager, was in attendance to take minutes. Greg Reiff, Director of Public Works, and Scott Young, Assistant Park Foreman, were in attendance to discuss Public Works' partnership with the EAC. Judy Stern Goldstein, Township Planner and Landscape Architect, was also in attendance.

Meeting Minutes

- **Call to order –** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.
- **Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2026 –** On a motion by Mr. Katz and a second by Ms. Mirabella, the minutes of the March 24, 2026, meeting were approved.
- **Public Comment**
    - There was no public comment.
- **New Business**
    - **Reduced Mowing**
        - Mr. Reiff reported that following a discussion between the EAC, Parks Board, and Public Works Department in May 2025, there have been several areas in the Township where mowing was reduced. Additional areas are being considered for reduced mowing, though some areas will have to continue to be mowed. Ms. Staab and Ms. Mirabella believe that the no-mow and reduced-mow zones should be advertised to the public and include education about the benefits of this change. Mr. Reiff expressed that to reduce invasive species, some of these areas will need to be mowed once a year to keep these species at bay. Ms. Stern Goldstein elaborated on naturalized basin maintenance and reiterated the importance of annual mowing, preferably in the fall. Ms. Stern Goldstein also explained the importance of advertising these zones as "low-mow" or "slow-mow" zones instead of "no-mow" zones to prevent confusion when annual mowing occurs. Mr. Young explained the map of low-mow zones and the attached explanation which the EAC can refer to for more

information. Mr. Reiff and Mr. Young explained how the Public Works Department continuously reevaluates mowing and makes minor reductions when fitting. Some areas, such as behind Spring Valley Park and Fellowship Park, may be able to be added to the list of low-mow zones. Ms. Mirabella requested statistics on how much mowing has been and will be reduced in the Township. Ms. Goldstein and Mr. Young explained that it may be difficult to get a number or percentage, but that education can still occur about low-mowing and Public Works' ongoing efforts and care.

- Ms. Mirabella suggested further naturalization at Memorial Grove. Ms. Stern Goldstein expressed concerns that a naturalized area in Memorial Grove around the suggested meadow (see "Old/Other Business" for more details) could lead to invasive plants damaging, said meadow. Ms. Mirabella asked about trees being planted at Memorial Grove to create a barrier against the spread of invasive species, but Ms. Stern Goldstein explained that young trees would take years to grown into a effective barrier and, once the tree are mature, they would cast shade of native plants requiring sunlight.
- Mr. Mau asked about types of grass being planted in the Township and if other types of grass could be planted instead. Mr. Reiff, Mr. Young, and Ms. Stern Goldstein explained that grass is rarely planted by Public Works except in sport fields, at the Knapp Road Bark Park, and heavily used areas when needed.
- After Mr. Reiff, Mr. Young, and Ms. Stern Goldstein left the meeting, the EAC debriefed, highlighting the importance of looping in relevant Township parties when discussing EAC initiatives.

- Mayors' Monarch Pledge
  - The EAC decided that the following three action items will be taken:
    - Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
      - Montgomery Township is working with Journeywork in 2026 to provide pollinator plants to the local community.
    - Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent community location.
      - A native pollinator plant garden was created at the Community and Recreation Center.
    - Issue a Proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat.
- Discuss moving or cancelling May meeting
  - The EAC decided that the May 26th meeting will be moved to 6:00 p.m. to accommodate the Board of Supervisors meeting.

- Define 2026 Projects + Resident Engagement Plan
  - The EAC decided to postpone this agenda item for discussion at the May meeting.

- **Old/Other Business**
  - Update on meadow landscaping at Memorial Grove
    - Mr. Katz suggested creating a smaller meadow than previously discussed. This smaller meadow would be approximately 1/4 to 1/3 of the grass space available at Memorial Grove. Mr. Katz said he has only received one bid so far, but the cost will vary based on size and types of plants. Ms. Staab discussed a DCNR grant application, approved by the Board of Supervisors at their April 27 meeting, that could help pay for this project. However, it was decided by the EAC that this grant application should be cancelled because the value of the grant is too high for the scope of this project. Mr. Reiff, Mr. Young, and Ms. Stern Goldstein agreed that a smaller meadow would be easier to manage and more successful. Ms. Stern Goldstein reminded the group that if the project is too costly, it would have to go to bid. She suggested the PECO Green Region Grant as an alternative to the DCNR Grant. Ms. Mirabella suggested a follow-up meeting at a later date to discuss further details with Public Works and Ms. Stern Goldstein. At this time, no action will be taken at Memorial Grove, but the EAC will pursue ongoing planning.
    - Mr. Reiff and Ms. Stern Goldstein talked about a previous meadow attempt. However, due to a poor grow season, that meadow was only semi-successful. This is not a natural area and should not be labeled as such.
    - Ms. Staab reminded the group that the Township is already starting to plant more native plants with the new pollinator garden at the Community and Recreation Center.
  - Volunteer opportunities
    - The EAC decided to postpone this agenda item for discussion at the May meeting.
- **Adjournment –** The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.
  - The next meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2026, at **6:00 p.m.** at the Township Administration Building. A virtual option will be available.