



## **1. Organization's history, goals, key achievements, and distinctiveness**

The Marshallton Conservation Trust (MCT) is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation formed in 2009 to promote the preservation and improvement of the Marshallton community through initiatives focused on maintaining and enhancing its livability and distinctive character. MCT has no paid staff and is operated entirely by volunteers.

Marshallton is an unincorporated village and federally recognized Historic District in West Bradford Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, United States added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. The Marshallton Historic District encompasses 65 contributing buildings and 3 contributing sites including the separately listed Marshallton\* Inn, Bradford Friends Meetinghouse, and Humphry Marshall House. The village is recognized for its history as 1) a place that played an important role in the Battle of the Brandywine during the Revolutionary War, 2) a hub of commerce and small industry during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and 3) home of Humphry Marshall, a noted early American botanist considered the father of American dendrology for whom the village is named.

Today Marshallton serves as the center of activity and community for the largely rural West Bradford township. Through collaborations between community organizations including MCT, West Bradford Township, and Friends of Martin's Tavern, the village hosts a series of annual events that attract visitors from outside the area as well as local residents. These include strolling Christmas Carolers, Christmas Carol Sing, Memorial Day Parade, Marshallton\* Triathlon, and Fall Family Fun Festival & Ghost Walk.

Most recently (2021), MCT successfully urged PennDot to perform a Traffic Safety Study for roads that enter and exit Marshallton with the result that vehicles travelling through the village are limited to 25-foot total length. In 2017 MCT was instrumental in advocating for the adoption of the West Bradford Open Space Referendum which maintained the integrity of the village into the future by protecting its boundaries. MCT was also involved in the development of West Bradford Township's new Comprehensive Plan for which MCT successfully advocated for the adoption of a new section in the Plan to address the specific principles required to insure preservation of the village. Three MCT board members serve on the West Bradford Township Land Preservation and Sustainability Committee which has developed a new Open Space Plan for West Bradford Township. Through this means MCT has been involved with successful efforts to conserve 222 acres of open space in the surrounding area. Two Board members are also members of the Township's Historical Commission, which is involved in preserving and promoting the history of both the village of Marshallton and the Township of West Bradford.

MCT frequently collaborates with other community organizations. Most recently MCT worked with the West Bradford Historical Commission and Friends of Martin's Tavern to complete the [Marshallton Oral History Project](#) so current and future generations may learn what Marshallton was like many decades ago from people who experienced it first-hand.

## **2. Funding request:**

### **A. Specific Chester County needs and issues addressed**

To honor the 300th anniversary of the birth of Humphry Marshall, the 18<sup>th</sup> century Chester County horticulturalist known as the "Father of American Dendrology" for whom the village of Marshallton is named, MCT, in collaboration with West Bradford Meeting (the "Meeting") and the West Bradford Township Land Preservation & Sustainability Committee, will create the "Humphry Marshall Memorial Garden." The garden will be located on approximately 16,000 square feet of land owned by the Meeting on the West side of the Meeting cemetery, a short distance from the Humphry Marshall House. We are requesting \$2,500 from the Marjorie L. and Arthur P. Miller Fund to help offset the cost of the tree removal and grading required for site preparation in Phase I of the project. (Note: Phase II will include the creation of the garden and development of an endowment to maintain the garden in perpetuity.)

\*Historically there are two different spellings of Marshallton/Marshalton arising out of a deed transfer error. Each spelling continues to be used today by various community entities.

## **MARJORIE L. AND ARTHUR P. MILLER FUND, NARRATIVE, MARSHALLTON CONSERVATION TRUST**

Humphry Marshall was an early advocate for the preservation of greenspace at a time when awareness of this issue was not a prominent concern. As Chester County is currently struggling to balance the needs of an expanding population with protecting the open space and horticultural land that contribute to the quality of life in the county, we now understand his concern was visionary. In addition, Marshall recognized the importance of native plant species. The Humphry Marshall Memorial Garden will honor this early resident of Chester County whose important work and far-sighted philosophy continue to have impact on our understanding of the significance of the environment today.

The garden will be open to the public for the enjoyment of everyone who lives in or visits Marshallton. The project will work to replicate, to the extent possible, plants species and aspects of Humphry Marshall's original gardens using records that contain the inventory of the plantings used at his home (an extant property now in private ownership located nearby across West Strasburg Road).

### **B. Project impact**

**Environmental Awareness:** The garden will recognize Marshall's concern for the environment and include plants that replicate to the extent possible, specimens in Humphry Marshall's original garden.

**Education:** The garden will be an excellent educational garden for local schools (including the Goddard School for Early Childhood Education located within Marshallton village), and serve as a place where older students can fulfill community service credits by volunteering to maintain the garden site.

**Public Access:** The Humphry Marshall Memorial Garden will be open to the public at no charge daily from dawn to dusk.

**Community Walkability:** MCT's work to enhance the quality of life in Marshallton includes increasing the sense of warm welcome and "walkability" throughout the community. The Humphry Marshall Memorial Garden will be an additional destination in the series of sites of interest located throughout the village.

### **C. Overall strategies to implement the organization's mission (or project)**

#### **D. Why it is important to fund this now**

The 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Humphry Marshall's birth is October 10, 2022. The event will be celebrated by a variety of activities throughout West Bradford and Chester County. The creation of the Humphry Marshall Memorial Garden will be a particularly timely way to recognize the work of Humphry Marshall, for whom the village is named.

#### **E. How do you intend to meet the challenge component of this grant?**

The Marshallton Conservation Trust has allocated \$2,500 from Board and membership contributions to serve as the match for the grant from the Marjorie L. and Arthur P. Miller Fund.

### **3. Timetable, with anticipated outcomes and their relevance to the nonprofit's mission**

By October 10, 2022, the Marshallton Conservation Trust will complete the following portions of the Site Preparation involved in Phase I of the Project Plan: Tree Removal, Grading, Topsoil & Seeding, and Temporary Fencing. Accomplishing these elements of the Project Plan will lay the groundwork for the landscaping that will be implemented in Phase II. The creation of the Humphry Marshall Memorial Garden will be a major fulfillment of MCT's mission to steward and preserve the history and culture of the Village of Marshallton; serve a community forum to implement projects; facilitate educational and social opportunities; and protect and improve the quality of life, safety, and environment within Village boundaries and surrounding countryside.

### **4. How impact and results will be demonstrated**

Impact and results will be demonstrated by completion of the site preparation elements of Phase I of the Humphrey Marshall Garden Project – tree removal, grading, seeding, and fencing - by October 10, 2022. At, or around this date, we will hold a public celebration of project accomplishments to date in cooperation with West Bradford Township, Friends of Martin's Tavern, and the Humphrey Marshall 300 Committee. With completion of the site preparation, we will be able to move forward with the remaining aspects of Phase I and proceed to Phase II of the Humphry Marshall Garden.