



Dec. 11, 2025

Milton Hershey School Receives Township Approval for Hershey West End Development Plans

HERSHEY, Pa., Dec. 11, 2025 – Milton Hershey School (MHS), as the steward of Milton Hershey School Trust Real Estate, has received Conditional Use approval of Hershey West End development plans from the Derry Township Board of Supervisors. The approval was granted after MHS met all ordinance requirements related to density, dimension, and open space ahead of the Dec. 31 deadline.

“We are grateful to the Derry Township Board of Supervisors for approving this project and helping bring our exciting vision to life,” said MHS President Peter G. Gurt. “Seven months ago, when MHS assumed leadership of Hershey West End, we committed to meeting the end-of-year deadline while listening closely to the community—which we successfully did. We appreciate their input and partnership throughout this process, and we look forward to starting construction as soon as possible.”

This approval milestone marks an important step in creating a community-focused development that reflects the values and vision of Hershey. Previously, the West End project received Conditional Use approval twice—first in 2018 and again in 2022 for the full master plan—but failed to progress. Since assuming responsibility for the project in May 2025, MHS has worked closely with township leaders and community stakeholders to align plans with local priorities and accelerate progress toward final Conditional Use approval—and the long-awaited start of construction.

With approval secured, MHS is eager to begin the next phase and anticipates building starting as early as the summer of 2026. The school is currently selecting additional support partners that will thoughtfully design the surrounding residential neighborhoods, inviting green spaces, and integrated commercial areas, with a goal of creating a vibrant, shared space to foster connection and recreation for generations while boosting central Pennsylvania’s economy.

Highlights of the Hershey West End Plan:

- **Reduced Residential Density:** The revised plan features about 250 for-sale homes and townhouses in Lot J to create a traditional neighborhood feel that

aligns with Hershey's character. Notably, this project will provide the most significant new housing inventory contribution to the community in more than 30 years.

- **More Green Space:** Open areas for recreation and gathering, with a design that prioritizes walkability, connectivity, and community.
- **Commercial & Community Spaces:** Retail areas designed to support local businesses while offering residents convenient access to goods, services, and engaging community experiences.
- **Market-Driven Design:** Studies indicate strong demand for single-family homes and townhouses in Hershey. Prioritizing home ownership supports area development, enhances local workforce stability, and aligns with the long-term needs of the township and the broader Hershey economy.

"This project represents a shared commitment to building something enduring and meaningful for Hershey," said Gurt. "Milton Hershey School is proud to lead the creation of a space that displays the character and spirit of our neighbors. The next chapter of Hershey West End starts today."

Located between Waltonville and Bullfrog Valley Roads, the West End project will provide for-purchase single-family and townhome units, elevated retail spaces, a premium select-service hotel called Hershey Inn & Suites—owned and operated by Hershey Entertainment & Resorts—as well as parks and walking trails. Hankin Group is serving as the West End property developer.

ABOUT MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL

Milton Hershey School is one of the world's best private schools, where qualifying students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade live on campus and receive an exceptional educational experience—with all costs covered. For more information, visit mhskids.org.

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