

School of Environment and Natural Resources

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission– Local Government Summer Intern

Delaney Horton - EEDS

ABOUT ME

- Major: EEDS
- Specialization: Community Development
- Minor: Landscape Architecture
- Graduation Year: SP24
- Goals: Attend graduate school to get my Master in Landscape Architecture



ABOUT MORPC

MORPC is Central Ohio's regional council, comprised of over 70 local governments. They facilitate community collaboration on programs and plans for the future of Central Ohio

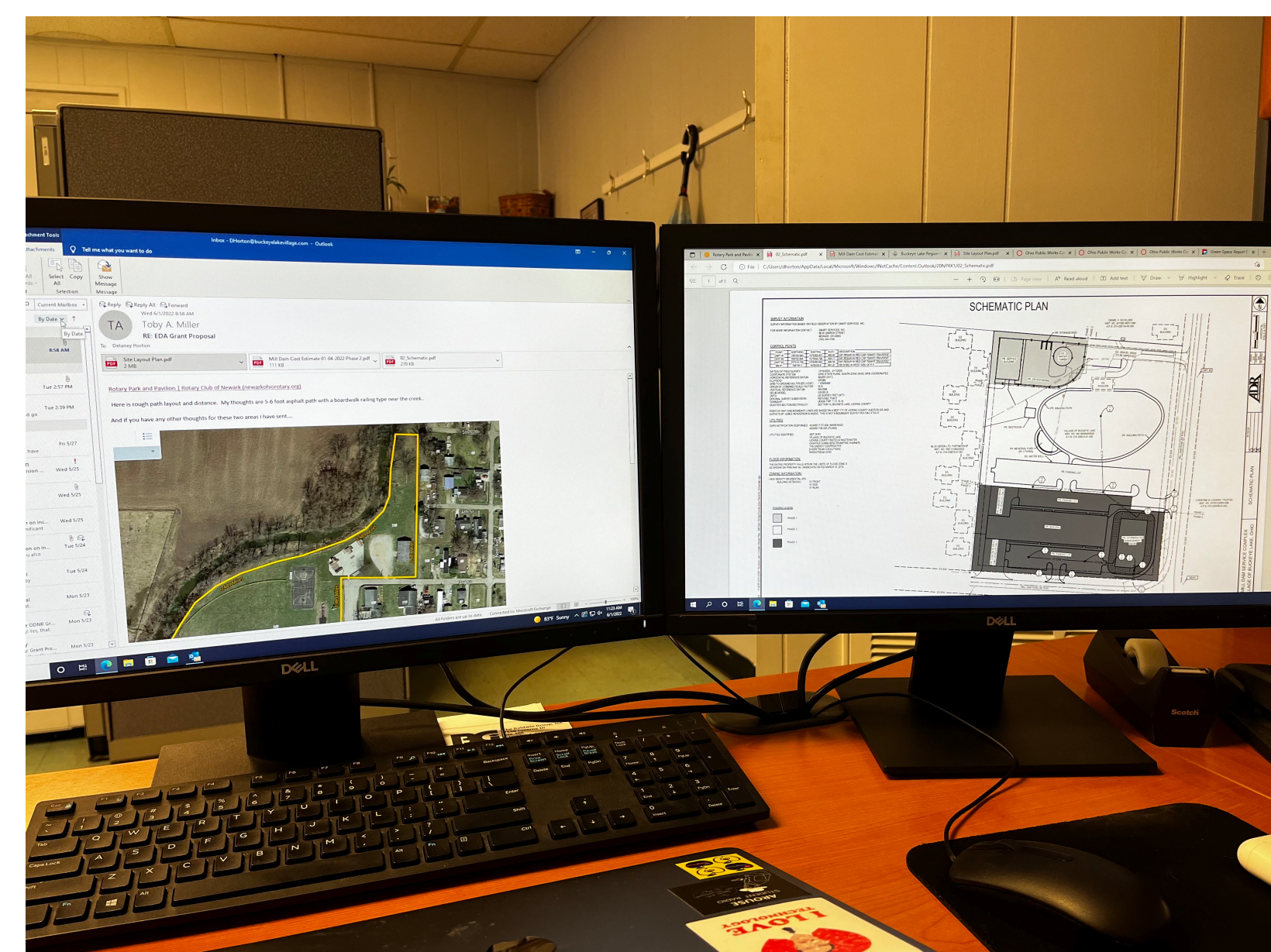
- Mission: Improving the lives of Ohio residents while making Central Ohio stand out on the world stage
- Location: Employed by MORPC (Columbus), but was hosted by the Mayor of the Village of Buckeye Lake
- Applying: I found the job through Handshake



FREQUENT DUTIES

On a daily basis I was tasked with researching various initiatives for the Village of Buckeye Lake

- Financial research
- Funding for the arts
- Community Center funding
- Grant research
- Playground funding
- Road median planting research
- File digitizing
- Planning and development meetings



GRANT WRITING

- I researched various grants to provide funding for ADA-accessible playground equipment
- I created a master spreadsheet of all applicable grants, sorted by program and deadline
- I applied for the ODNR NatureWorks grant to put in a more accessible playground
- Writing the grant involved interdepartmental collaboration in acquiring all necessary documents
- A site plan was required for the proposal and many additional documents
- The application also involved evidence of appropriated funds prior to reimbursement, which had to be approved by the Village Council



MEDIAN PLANTING

- I researched various plant species to put in the new road medians.
- This required a lot of criteria to be met
- The plants had to have non-invasive roots, be drought resistant, salt resistant, and hardy
- I also researched neighboring towns planting methods and streetscape ideas.

REFLECTION

- I'd love to work for an agency like MORPC in the future. Ideally, I'd like to work directly for a planning commission as opposed to for a local government belonging to a planning commission
- Moving forward, I hope to have another internship at a design firm where I have the space to think more creatively about solving sustainability issues in the built environment.
- I hope to gain experience as a designer and use it to create urban green spaces that promote sustainable living.
- This internship has shown me that I might want experience in the private sector or NGO, now that I've spent a summer in local government.
- I'd recommend this internship to anyone interested in planning and sustainability - MORPC is a great resource for community involvement and data acquisition as well!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to thank those at MORPC for making my internship so special, as well as the Village of Buckeye Lake for hosting me!



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