

Bethlehem Discovery Park

Executive Summary

Stage: Planning phase · Version 1.3 · October 19, 2026 ·

INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY PROJECT

What it is

A free, welcoming community park where people can play, learn and enjoy nature together. It would start with a pilot of about 5 to 15 acres: inclusive play, gardens, a walking loop, a lawn, restrooms and free water. The pilot would have no rides; a carousel and family rides would be considered only if it meets its targets, and may never happen.

Who it helps

Children, teens, adults, families and seniors, with accessible routes and sensory-friendly hours. Entry to the grounds would be free every day, with no income tests.

Where

Greater Bethlehem and the Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania. Desk research shortlisted places to ask about.

Status

Planning phase. An independent plan; nothing is funded or built yet. Nothing is engineered or scheduled; it is no agency's official project. Nothing is agreed in writing with the City, landowners or agencies; every permit and review is "Not requested".

What it needs

Before a pilot: a willing landowner, community support, a market study, a credible operating budget, a check that no existing park or facility meets the need, and a written cleanup and restoration plan if it stops. A public partner, the host municipality and state agencies must also agree. Running costs need steady public support, not donations.

Next step

Finalize the main location with its owner, in writing. A question to the regional planning agency is prepared and on hold until then.

Contact: no public address yet. Plan, brief and sources: <https://bethlehem-discovery-park.vercel.app>