About the Little Lehigh Parkway

The Little Lehigh Parkway sits on 500 acres midst Pennsylvania’s third largest city, with its 6.1 mile trail, runners swiftly jog up its hills, families hold picnics and groups representing good causes can be found striding vigorously on its pathways. And even after almost 80 years the park remains more popular than ever.

Although the early history of the Little Lehigh Parkway is Native American, in the early 1900’s, Allentown industrialist/philanthropist General Harry C. Trexler was the first person who envisioned the Little Lehigh Creek bed as a place for a park.

Today, known as the father of Allentown’s park system, The Trexler Trust continues to provide funds to maintain the City’s expansive park system. A well-loved outdoor gathering area for residents, Allentown’s Lehigh Parkway is part of the National Park System designated as the No. 689.

The Delaware-Lehigh State Heritage Park and the Delaware-Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.

Benefits of Project

- Honoring the Lenape People and their history who once called the Lehigh Valley their home.
- Expanding the museum’s four walls by developing the regions only authentic reproduction Lenape Village linking the Lenape by bringing the gap between the history of the Lenape and Pennsylvania’s earliest European settlers.
- Creating a living cultural heritage site that will attract thousands of visitors from outside the region each year to the Lehigh Valley.

FUNDRAISING TO BUILD A VILLAGE

Non-Profit Organization

Museum of Indian Culture

Allentown, PA 18103

info@museumofindianculture.org

2825 Fish Hatchery Road

www.museumofindianculture.org

(610) 797-2121

To contribute please check to Museum of Indian Culture, 2825 Fish Hatchery Road, Allentown, Pa 18103 or visit our website at www.museumofindianculture.org.

Expanding the museum’s four walls by developing the regions only authentic recreation Lenape Village linking the Lenape by bringing the gap between the history of the Lenape and Pennsylvania’s earliest European settlers.

With your monetary contribution, the Lenape history will once again be brought to life along the ancient pathways of the Little Lehigh Creek. Our Lenape Village and Trail Project allows for that important story to be told through informative kiosks and a living history village within the Little Lehigh Parkway.

YOU CAN BE A PART OF THIS LIVING HISTORY!

How you can Make History come to Life!

- Providing family-oriented programs with trained educators to explore how European trade changed the lifeways and material culture of the Lenape in the early 17th century.
- Ensuring that current and future generations can learn about the Lenape by bridging the gap between the history of the Lenape and Pennsylvania’s earliest European settlers.
- Providing a central hub for Lenape research for educators, students, interns and Lenape (Delaware) alike.
- Creating a living cultural heritage site that will attract thousands of visitors from outside the region each year to the Lehigh Valley.
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Lenape Village Park is a proposed historic destination where visitors can immerse themselves in the ancient history of the Little Lehigh Parkway and its original stewards, the Lenape. Visitors will experience a seventeenth century Lenape village, walk the ancient Lenape Trail along the Little Lehigh Creek, and tour the Museum of Indian Culture.

The first phase of this project was completed July 2021 that includes the creation and installation of educational kiosks through a designated part of an ancient Lenape trail that runs through the grounds of the Museum of Indian Culture called the Oley Path. The name “Oley Path” is derived from the Lenape word “Olink.” According to Moravian missionary John Heckewelder, who spent much of his adult life working with the Lenape people, this word was used to refer to our region as “place surrounded by hills.” The kiosks will explore this Native landscape. Parkway visitors walking, running, or biking along this path will encounter the kiosks, which will explore Lenape origins and migration, ancient Lenape fishing and hunting practices, trade and commerce, and plants and wildlife.

Phase I: The Lenape Trail
Cost: $10,000 - Fully funded by a 2020 Tourism Grant awarded by Lehigh County.

The project’s most crucial phase involves the construction of a 3/4-acre seventeenth century Living Lenape Village along the Lenape Trail. This village will depict Lenape life during the early contact period in a living history setting. Visitors walking along the village’s serpentine pathway will see a bark-covered Lenape longhouse and wigwams, a hunting and fishing lodge where fishing nets and a dugout canoe will be made, a three sisters garden, a Lenape kitchen with an outdoor fire pit, as well as early European trade goods. The fully ADA-compliant Village will be open from spring to fall and will include rest areas and special seasonal activities, including basket making, corn grinding, tapping for maple syrup, wampum making, and pottery making, among many others.

Phase II: Lenape Village
Cost $939,000

Phase III: Beyond the Lenape Trail
Cost: $24,000

This third phase takes visitors along a rustic gravel pathway to the end of the Little Lehigh Parkway Trail system, educating them about more ancient Lenape history. Although the physical trail ends, the history of the Lenape begins. Beyond the final trail marker is the Little Lehigh Parkway’s oldest history dating back over 12,500 years! According to two archeological studies completed in 1980, ancient Lenape people traveled along the Little Lehigh Creek and its tributaries to harvest its abundant natural plant and animal resources and to mine quality jasper to make tools. This same study concluded that the Lenape lived along the Little Lehigh Creek in villages of about 60 people until mid1700’s. Although the villages of the Lenape have been replaced by modern homes and grasslands, Phase III reflects on their journey from Paleo to Woodland times in an informative kiosk at the end of the trail under a covered resting area.