

WALKING PATHS & EASY STROLLS

Gentle paths perfect for a morning walk or afternoon stroll

From shady creek-side parkways to a walkway suspended beside the blast furnaces of Bethlehem Steel, the Lehigh Valley is full of gentle, mostly flat trails made for an easy morning walk or unhurried afternoon stroll.

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LITTLE LEHIGH PARKWAY

Allentown — A 629-acre municipal park established in the early 1930s, where flat paths of pavement and crushed stone follow the Little Lehigh Creek through shady woodlands, past the 1841 Bogert's Covered Bridge (the oldest in Lehigh County) and the Lil-Le-Hi Trout Nursery. Anglers often line the creek - bring a rod if you're licensed.

KARL STIRNER ARTS TRAIL

A 1.75-mile paved trail along Bushkill Creek running from the old Simon Silk Mill on 13th Street to the base of the stairs to Lafayette College. Named for the celebrated sculptor Karl Stirner, who made Easton his home, it's lined with outdoor art installations under a wooded canopy - one of the valley's most pleasant urban walks.

HOOVER-MASON TRESTLE

Bethlehem (SteelStacks) — A 1,650-foot elevated walkway built atop Bethlehem Steel's former narrow-gauge ore-delivery rail trestle, raised about 46 feet above the ground. It puts you nearly eye-level with the massive blast furnaces and offers sweeping views of SteelStacks - a short walk that's unforgettable at sunset.

MONOCACY WAY

Following the Monocacy Creek through Center City Bethlehem, this gentle route of paved, gravel and natural surfaces links several parks and historic sites - including Burnside Plantation, Illick's Mill and the Colonial Industrial Quarter - for a quiet escape from city streets. A lovely choice for a morning jog or an evening dog walk.

SOUTH BETHLEHEM GREENWAY

Bethlehem (Southside) — A flat, paved and crushed-stone rail-trail on a former Norfolk Southern line running roughly two miles through the Southside Arts District, with public art, the National Museum of Industrial History nearby and silhouette views of the Bethlehem Steel stacks. This is the Southside's true walking corridor - and it pairs naturally with a self-guided Historic Bethlehem Heritage Trail tour of the nearby Moravian district.

IRONTON RAIL TRAIL

Whitehall Township / Coplay / North Whitehall — A mostly paved, easy multi-use rail-trail with a 5.3-mile loop and a connecting spur, threading past 19th-century cement-industry ruins - including the 90-foot Saylor cement kilns - and a restored red caboose. Well-marked, stroller-friendly and a favorite of local walkers and runners.

TIPS & PLANNING

All of these paths are free and open year-round. Surfaces vary from fully paved (Karl Stirner Arts Trail, Hoover-Mason Trestle, much of the South Bethlehem Greenway) to crushed stone and natural surface (parts of Little Lehigh Parkway and Monocacy Way), so check ahead if you need a fully wheelchair- or stroller-accessible route. Early mornings are quietest, and spring wildflower season (April-May) adds extra beauty along the creek corridors. Bring binoculars - the waterways are excellent for spotting herons, kingfishers and other birds. The Hoover-Mason Trestle, South Bethlehem Greenway and Monocacy Way are all within walking distance of one another, making for an easy combined day in Bethlehem.

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