



# Funding Lenape Village Park and Trail

## Benefits of Project

- ◆ Honoring the **Lenape People and their history** who once called the Lehigh Valley their home.
- ◆ Expanding beyond the museum's four walls by developing the **region's only authentic reproduction Lenape Village** linking the natural landscape to local and environmental history.
- ◆ Providing a **central hub for Lenape research** for educators, students / interns and Lenape (Delaware) alike.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Creating a cultural heritage site that will **attract thousands of visitors** from outside the region each year to the Lehigh Valley.

## How you can Make History come to Life!

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 signage** and a **historic interpretive village** within the Little Lehigh Parkway.



## YOU CAN BE A PART OF THIS HISTORY!

**To contribute, please send a check to Museum of Indian Culture, 2825 Fish Hatchery Road, Allentown, Pa 18103 or visit our website at [www.museumofindianculture.org](http://www.museumofindianculture.org).**

**For more information and sponsorship opportunities, contact Pat Rivera, project manager, at 610-797-2121 or email [info@museumofindianculture.org](mailto:info@museumofindianculture.org)**

**WITH YOUR HELP WE WILL BUILD A VILLAGE!**

**We thank you for your support!**



## About the Little Lehigh Parkway

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.

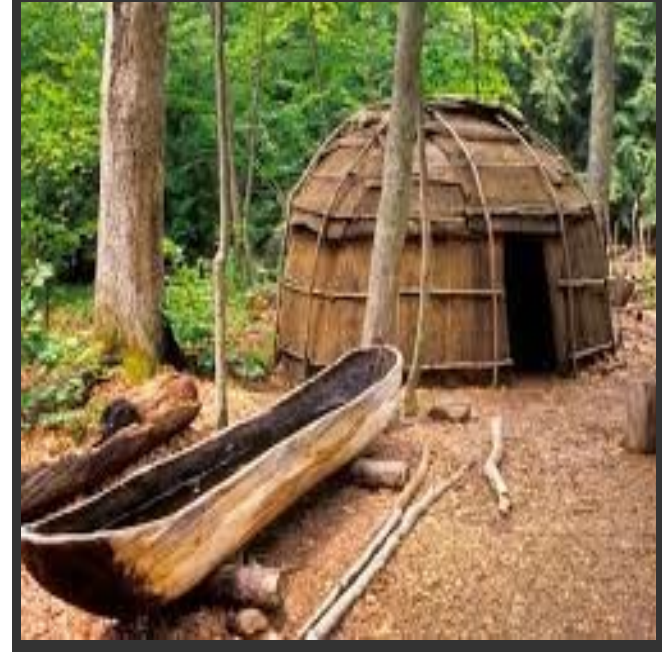
Although the early history of the Little Lehigh Park is Native American, in the early 1900's, Allentown industrialist/philanthropist General Harry C. Trexler was the first person who envisioned the Little Lehigh Creek bed as a place for a park.

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 park meanders for three miles along the Little Lehigh Creek, creating a critical refuge for wildlife. The Lehigh Parkway is part of the Delaware-Lehigh State Heritage Park and the Delaware-Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. The National Trail System designated The Lehigh Parkway Heritage Trail No. 689.



# Lenape Village Park

Little Lehigh Parkway, Allentown, PA



## FUNDRAISING

# TO BUILD A VILLAGE

## Museum of Indian Culture

Non-profit Organization

2825 Fish Hatchery Road

Allentown, PA 18103

(610) 797-2121

[info@museumofindianculture.org](mailto:info@museumofindianculture.org)

[www.museumofindianculture.org](http://www.museumofindianculture.org)



## About the Museum of Indian Culture

The Museum of Indian Culture is located within the Little Lehigh Parkway in Allentown, PA along the designated Lenape Trail that follows the Little Lehigh Creek. In partnership with the City of Allentown, Parks and Recreation, the museum is looking to raise \$963,000 for a multi-phase project to re-create a 3/4-acre historic interpretive Lenape Village within the Lehigh Parkway. Lenape Village Park and Trail is projected to open September 2026 as a cultural heritage tourism destination.

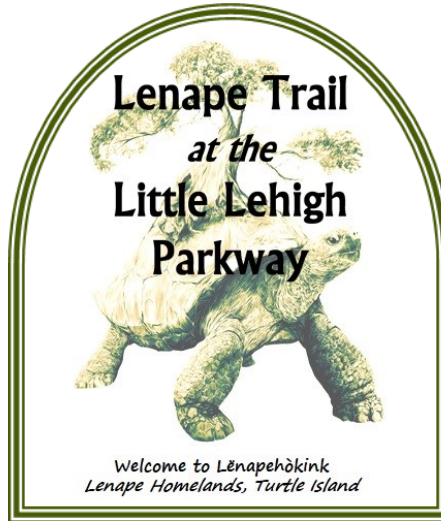
Founded in 1980, the Museum of Indian Culture is a unique member-supported, non-profit (501(c)3) organization and resource center for people of all ages to learn about Native American cultures, especially cultures from the northeast and our local region like the Lenape. Our mission is to preserve and perpetuate the authentic histories and cultural heritage of Native American peoples--past, present, and future. For over 40 years, the museum has offered educational exhibits, programs, internships, and collaborative community events for the greater Lehigh Valley and beyond.

In 2020 the museum officially partnered with Delaware Nation, a federally recognized Lenape tribe from Anadarko, Oklahoma whose ancestral homelands we reside on. Through this partnership the Delaware Nation opened an extension of their Historic Preservation Office at the museum to help foster greater public awareness of local Lenape history as well as contemporary Lenape life and culture.



## Lenape Village Park

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.



### Phase I: The Lenape Trail

Cost: \$10,000 - Fully funded by a 2020 Tourism Grant awarded by Lehigh County.

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 II: Lenape Village Cost \$939,000

The project's most crucial phase involves the construction of a 3/4-acre seventeenth century reproduction of a Lenape Village along the Lenape



Trail. This village will depict Lenape life during the early contact period in an historic interpretive 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, and more.

### 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 mid 1700'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.

