

Bethlehem Nature & Science Center

Planning phase. An independent plan; nothing is funded or built yet.

A planned, hands-on place in South Bethlehem to meet small reptiles, grow a pollinator meadow, test the Lehigh River and do real science. Planned beside the Ocean Discovery Center.

Small reptiles & amphibians

Rescued and captive-bred only. Never wild-caught, never venomous, never released. Vet and care plans first.

Native pollinators

A native meadow and wild-bee nesting habitat, with no managed beehives competing with wild bees.

Lehigh River science

Water chemistry and stream-insect counts, shared as open data.

Hands-on labs

Weather, water, rocks and microscopes, with benches at seated height.

Citizen science

iNaturalist, eBird, CoCoRaHS, FrogWatch USA and more. Credit goes to whoever finds it.

Open to everyone

Free entry is the aim. Step-free, English and Spanish, quiet hours, and food and water at every event.

Greenway meadow



Lehigh River



Delaware River



Atlantic (Ocean Discovery Center)

Shared campus (proposed)

- Reuses an existing building beside the planned Ocean Discovery Center
- Shared lobby, modern accessible restrooms, and a food and water hub
- Bike and e-bike station; nature-play area
- Solar with battery backup, heat pumps, rainwater, reused materials
- Recycling and compost at every entrance and event

Steps, in order (no dates promised)

- Plan and listen; confirm permits with each agency
- Outdoors first: meadow and citizen-science walks
- Building fit-out, once an owner agrees in writing
- Labs open, then animals arrive last

No building, partners, animals, permits or funding yet. Permits are to be confirmed with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and other agencies. Not an official project of, or endorsed by, the City of Bethlehem, Lehigh University or any agency. Text CC BY 4.0. bethlehemnaturescience.org (proposed)