



10 East Church Street
Bethlehem, Pa. 18018

March 9, 2016

Robert Donchez, Mayor
City of Bethlehem
10 East Church Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

RE: Fishing in Saucon Park

Dear Mayor Donchez,

As persons who are concerned with our natural environment in Bethlehem, the members of the Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) recognize the importance of encouraging our residents, especially children, to enjoy our many parks and other open space areas. Outdoor activities such as playing sports, hiking, bird-watching, picnicking and fishing are good for one's health and readily available here in the City.

However, of all of the above activities, only fishing is restricted in Saucon Park. With the exception of a few fly fishermen, few adults and no children are able to fish the Saucon Creek in Saucon Park. Since this section of the Creek is classified a "Class A Trophy Trout" area, only artificial lures are allowed. This is an expensive and more difficult way to fish and effectively discourages anyone but a fly fisherman from fishing there. This is overly restrictive for a stream in an urban park, which is meant to serve the needs of thousands of residents, especially children, living in the immediate area.

Many environmentalists started out as fishermen and fisherwomen, who developed a strong interest not only in fishing, but in all of the issues affecting the quality of the water in which the fish live. Once a child realizes that a stream contains many living fish and other organisms, he or she often becomes interested in its preservation and protection - and an environmentalist is born. A stream becomes a living thing, not just a storm sewer to convey water downstream.

Therefore, like the one hundred and seventeen fishermen and women who signed the enclosed petition last year, the Bethlehem EAC recommends that you encourage more fishing in the Saucon Creek by supporting all tackle use, not just artificial lures. We look forward to the day when many of today's fishermen become tomorrow's stewards of our environment.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Lynn Rothman

Lynn Rothman, Chair
On behalf of the Bethlehem EAC

EAC Members:
Fran Cundall
Jack Gambino
Kalyna Procyk
Cathy Reuscher
Mike Topping

cc: Members of Bethlehem City Council
Ralph Carp, Director of Parks and Public Property