

# Introduction



Moravian College's South Campus



## Introduction

## ■ What is a Comprehensive Plan?

Bethlehem's new comprehensive plan charts a course for the future. The plan describes how Bethlehem should continue developing over the next decade. The plan also highlights what should *not* change—those community features the City should strive to preserve.

## ■ A Timely Update

Bethlehem last updated its citywide comprehensive plan in 1991. At that time, Bethlehem Steel was the City's largest employer and landowner. Since Bethlehem Steel closed in 1998, the City has attracted millions of dollars of commercial and residential development. Bethlehem was a recent Money Magazine choice for one of America's most livable cities.

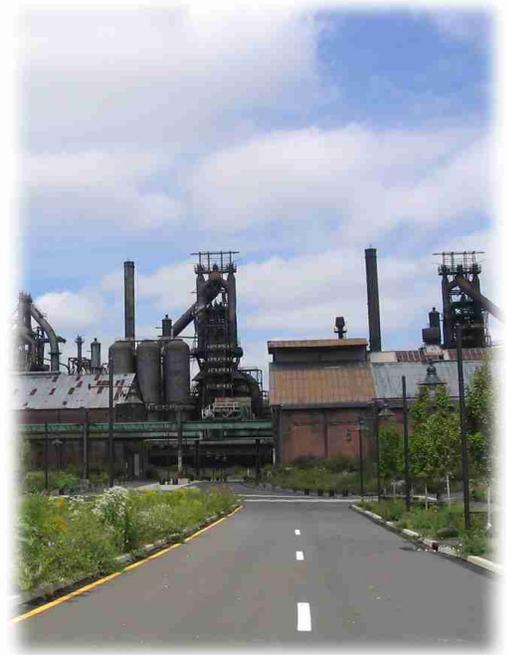
Today, the former Bethlehem Steel site is home to a prosperous business park with construction underway or planned for a variety of other uses. Numerous adaptive reuse projects have brought new life to both the City's North Side and South Side downtown business areas. New housing, new cultural attractions and growth of the City's major educational institutions continue to reshape Bethlehem.

The next steps in Bethlehem's growth promise to attract more new people and new investment to Bethlehem. The City looks to its updated comprehensive plan to help guide this ongoing renaissance.

## ■ Building On Recent Plans

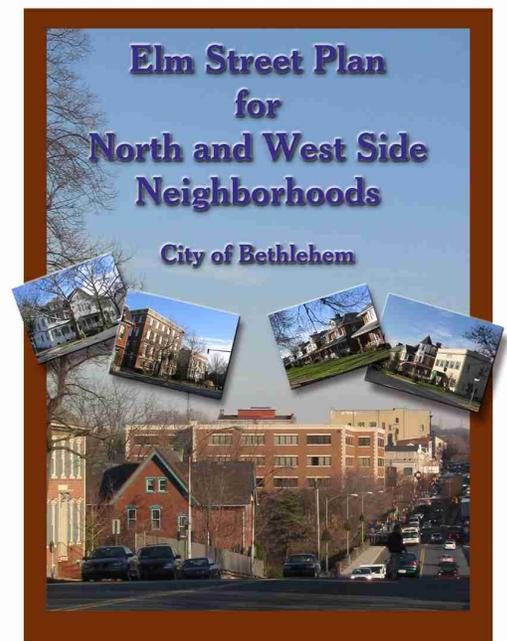
This comprehensive plan is citywide in scope. It tackles a variety of subjects and ties together several recent plans the City prepared about different topics and different parts of the City:

- *South Side Master Plan*
- *South Side Greenway Plan*
- *South Side Vision 2012*
- *Stefko Boulevard Plan*
- *Elm Street Plan for North and West Side Neighborhoods*
- *City of Bethlehem Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan*



The Former Bethlehem Steel Plant

A completed neighborhood plan





The public meeting process



Welcome to the City of Bethlehem



This comprehensive plan is also generally consistent with Lehigh Valley 2030, a comprehensive plan for Northampton County and Lehigh County that was prepared by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

## ■ Preparing this Plan

This plan is a product of many committed Bethlehem residents. A steering committee of public and private leaders oversaw the plan's completion. Public meetings fostered a lively community dialog about the future of the City. Bethlehem's elected officials, appointed officials, and staff members helped shape the plan. The City retained two consultants for professional assistance—a Bethlehem community planning and design firm, plus a Philadelphia-based transportation planning and engineering firm.

## ■ Parts of the Plan

The City of Bethlehem Comprehensive Plan examines the following inter-related topics:

- **Future Land Use**
- **Housing and Neighborhoods**
- **Downtown Revitalization and Economic Development**
- **Environmental Conservation**
- **Parks and Recreation**
- **Historic Preservation**
- **Transportation**
- **Community Facilities and Services**
- **Arts and Cultural Amenities**

Each chapter of the plan focuses on one of these topics by: a) summarizing current conditions; b) identifying goals to guide future actions; and c) enumerating ways the City and others can help achieve these goals. While each chapter addresses a different topic, the chapters inter-relate with each other in numerous ways.

An Action Program featured at the end of the plan emphasizes implementation. The Action program arranges the plan's many recommendations into logical priorities and describes key potential funding sources.