



2025 Lehigh Valley Awards

The **Lehigh Valley Awards** celebrate excellence in planning, design, community development, and environmental stewardship across Lehigh and Northampton counties. Hosted by the **Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC)** in partnership with regional stakeholders, the Lehigh Valley Awards recognize projects, plans, individuals, and organizations that exemplify innovation, collaboration, and long-term impact on the region's communities, economy and environment. These prestigious awards are presented annually to honor outstanding achievements that reflect the values of sustainability, equity, smart growth and strategic planning in the Lehigh Valley.

The Lehigh Valley Award winners will be presented at the Awards Gala on December 3, 2025.

The Lehigh Valley Award

The Lehigh Valley Award honors outstanding planning initiatives that demonstrate vision, innovation, and lasting impact across a broad range of disciplines. This category recognizes exemplary projects in areas such as land development, community revitalization, open space preservation, environmental planning, transportation, and comprehensive community development.

Eligible nominations should reflect the highest standards of planning practice, including thoughtful design, meaningful community engagement, implementation success, and positive contributions to quality of life. The award celebrates creative and forward-thinking solutions that address contemporary challenges while promoting sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities.

Eligibility Guidelines – The Lehigh Valley Awards

All nominated projects must be within **Lehigh or Northampton County** and be **substantially completed** at the time of nomination. Projects are evaluated based on their completed form and function - “**as built**” merits. Eligible projects typically fall into one of the following categories:

- **Land Development**
These projects demonstrate excellence in site planning and design. They may include residential, commercial, industrial, office, or institutional developments that integrate thoughtful site layout, building placement, project context, access and circulation, pedestrian accommodations, landscaping, and sustainable development practices.
- **Revitalization**
These projects support the renewal and reinvestment in established or underutilized

areas throughout the Lehigh Valley. Eligible efforts include redevelopment, building rehabilitation, historic preservation, adaptive reuse, infill development, streetscape enhancements, new or improved parking facilities, and other revitalization or placemaking initiatives.

- **Open Space**

Projects in this category prioritize the preservation of natural landscapes and the creation of outdoor amenities that enhance community life. This includes land conservation, park and greenway development, trail systems, natural resource stewardship, and the integration of cultural and recreational spaces.

- **Environment**

Environmental projects advance the restoration, protection, or innovative use of natural systems and resources. These may include habitat restoration, green infrastructure (e.g., green roofs, permeable pavement), stormwater management innovations, renewable energy systems, and sustainable site or building practices that promote resilience.

- **Transportation**

Projects in this category improve mobility, safety, and access while demonstrating excellence in planning, design, and construction. Eligible efforts include road and bridge improvements, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, transit enhancements, and traffic calming or multimodal connectivity initiatives.

- **Community**

These projects, led by nonprofits, private organizations, or public-private partnerships, enrich the social and cultural fabric of the Lehigh Valley. They may include community gardens, affordable housing initiatives, inclusive public spaces, cultural landmarks, or other projects that foster equity, diversity, and a sense of belonging.

Award Criteria

All nominations will be reviewed by selection committees organized by the **Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC)**. Selected projects will be reviewed for:

- **Design**

Projects must reflect excellence in planning, design and implementation. Evaluation will consider overall quality, contextual fit, innovation, environmental sensitivity and long-term sustainability.

- **Process**

The project's planning and development process will be assessed, including community engagement, collaboration, funding strategy, stakeholder involvement and successful alignment with community goals.

- **Impact**

Projects should demonstrate measurable and meaningful benefits to the community. This can include environmental protection, economic development, mobility improvements, placemaking, job creation, cultural vitality, or enhancement of community identity and quality of life.



2025 LEHIGH VALLEY AWARDS Nomination Form

Nomination Period will be open September 12, 2025 to October 14, 2025. Anyone may submit a nomination. A separate entry form must be submitted for each project. Only nominations for The Lehigh Valley Award will be accepted in 2025.

Please submit completed nominations via PDF to planning@lvpc.org by October 14, 2025 at 5pm.

*All nominations are evaluated as submitted. All entries submitted become property of the **Lehigh Valley Planning Commission** and its affiliated partners.*

Nominator Contact Information	
Name and title:	
Company/organization:	
Address:	
Email:	
Phone:	

Award Category for Project (select one):	
1. Land Development	5. Transportation
2. Revitalization	6. Community
3. Open Space	7. Other
4. Environment	Other Explained:

Project
Project Name:

Project Information	
Official Project Title:	
Project Address:	
Project Municipality:	
Owner:	
Developer:	
PA Senate/House District:	

Partners – Please list ALL partners, with contacts, that helped make this project possible. If needed, you may attach a separate sheet.		
Partner	Contact	Email

Project Data	
Land Use:	
Zoning:	
Tract Size/acreage:	
Building area/sq. ft.:	
Density:	
Number and type of dwelling units:	
Open space acreage:	
Parking:	

Executive Summary

Please provide a one-paragraph executive summary of the project.

Project Narrative

Please answer the two questions about design, process and impact on the following 3 pages. One page limit per question. Be sure to address the key themes outlined below within each question.

Key Themes:

Originality + Innovation: How is your project innovative and unique?

Compatibility: Include how your entry has been integrated into other planning efforts in the Lehigh Valley, specifically FutureLV.

Effectiveness + Results: Detail how your entry has made a difference in the community.

Engagement: Describe the varied interests that were involved. Include any competing interests.

Transferability: Could the concepts your project implemented be transferred to create other successful projects?



1. Project Design + Process	<p>This section should include a description of the design and process. Please include community context, planning concept, environmental sensitivity and sustainability as they relate to the project. Describe the process in completing the project. Please include community goals, successful community collaboration efforts, public/private partnerships, funding strategies, outreach and citizen participation, as they relate to the project.</p>

2. Project Impact	Discuss the impact the project has or will have on the community. Please include any economic, environmental and recreational benefits, increased mobility, improved safety, job creation, enhanced community image, sense of place, and the social, cultural and economic health of the community as they relate to the project.

Additional Project/Reference Attachments:

*Please attach any additional relevant files, maps or photos you would like to be considered for this nomination as additional pages to this completed form. You may only add up to 10 pages of reference materials. Please submit completed nominations via PDF to planning@lvpc.org by October 14, 2025 at 5pm.