

Sands Bethworks™



The former Bethlehem Steel site is once again a vibrant backdrop of activity in the Lehigh Valley. The resurgence of this site, which is no longer anchored by blast furnaces and steel manufacturing, is now a multifaceted shopping, dining and entertainment complex designed to complement the facility that once gave this manufacturing community its identity.

This opportunity did not come without a price. When the facility ceased operations, thousands of people lost their jobs. The Lehigh Valley was left with a 1,600-acre environmental challenge—the largest contiguous brownfield in the United States.

The site's revitalization began when Bethlehem Steel Corporation characterized a portion of the overall property prior to declaring bankruptcy. Appropriate remedial actions were taken for soils, groundwater and surface water at the site, culminating in an Act 2 liability release under the Site-Specific Standard. Incorporating appropriate protective measures, the Bethworks parcel was prepared for redevelopment.

The first phase of the Sands Bethworks 126-acre development features a 139,000-square-foot casino and a variety of dining, shopping, entertainment options and hotel accommodations. The casino opened for business in May 2009. ArtsQuest, an arts and cultural center, and the broadcast home of the local Public Broadcasting Service affiliate, are community assets, offering performance halls, an art cinema and a broadcast facility.

Sands Bethworks is a model for smart growth redevelopment of a major brownfield site, incorporating many of the remaining historical elements of the famed plant. The once-heavily used massive ore crane is part of the casino facade and serves as a reminder of the past and a gateway to new, sustainable development. Design elements such as exposed steel, back-lit perforated metal screens, and a soaring, transparent glass atrium are featured within a number of existing buildings.

Bethworks' successful redevelopment is the cornerstone of a new Riverfront Renaissance District. The Lehigh Valley has regained its vitality as a tourism destination.



Photos courtesy of
Sands Bethworks Casino

