

**EASTON**

# Easton commits to funding for Easton Iron & Metal remediation, with new bridge to trail

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Plans call for making this railroad trestle into a pedestrian bridge over the Bushkill Creek, connecting the Karl Stirner Arts Trail in Easton to the Easton Iron & Metal property. Rudy Miller file photo | For [lehighvalleylive.com](http://lehighvalleylive.com) Rudy Miller file photo | For [lehighvalleylive.com](http://lehighvalleylive.com)



Easton officials this past week approved funding for work tied to the redevelopment of the former Easton Iron & Metal site at 1111-13 Bushkill Drive.

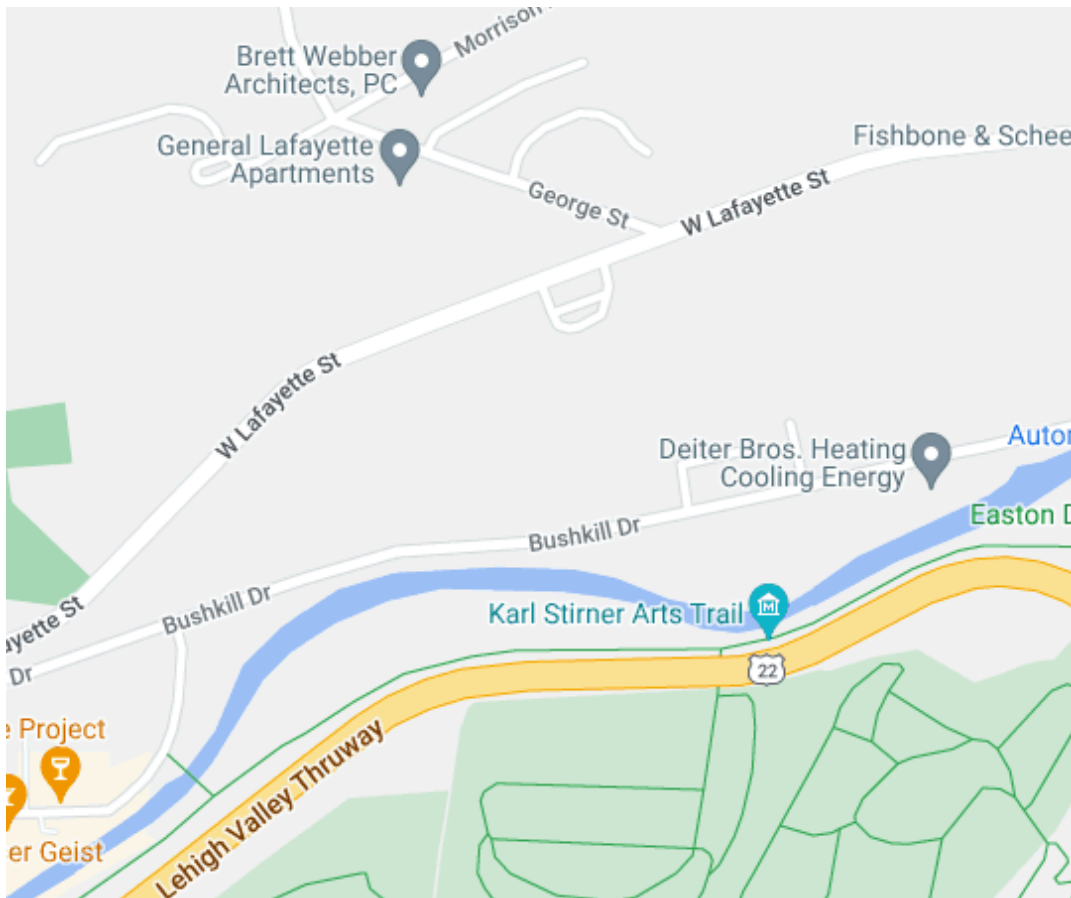
City council on Wednesday declared its intention to fund the environmental planning and remediation of the site with an estimated \$1.75 million through what's known as bridge financing. The process involves tapping capital reserves or the city's operating budget prior to the receipt of state and local grants, as well as proceeds from the final sale of the property.

Council also agreed to an \$18,594 contract with Omnes LLC for planning and architectural services at the site, and to a \$27,360 contract with Barry Isett & Associates for permitting and design work on the rehabilitation of the existing trestle connecting the site across Bushkill Creek to the Karl Stirner Arts Trail.

A city committee a year ago selected developer Mark Mulligan's Easton-based VM Development Group as the preferred redeveloper of the site, after VM offered a proposal to build 150 apartments and 20,000 square feet of commercial space on the site.

Separately at Easton Iron & Metal, the nonprofit Nurture Nature Center in Easton is working to create a science and creativity center featuring a planetarium and indoor and outdoor spaces for education and activities. The city council agreed in January to apply for a \$4 million federal grant to put toward the projected \$11 million project.

The Easton Redevelopment Authority owns the former scrapyards, purchasing it in December 2019 for \$700,000.



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