

Holy Land, Connecticut

Holy Land USA was a Christian theme park that was open in Waterbury, Connecticut from 1958 to 1984. Though it wasn't open for a long period of time in comparison to other theme parks, Holy Land USA attracted many visitors. At the height of its popularity, the park had over forty thousand visitors a year. It was famous for its "Holy Land USA" sign that resembled the Hollywood sign, and a fifty-six-foot steel cross that was lit up at night.

The idea for Holy Land USA came from John Baptist Greco, an attorney in Waterbury, in the 1950s. The park would resemble Bethlehem and include religious exhibits, such as the Garden of Eden and life events of Jesus Christ.

The theme park closed in 1984 to start an expansion, but John Baptist Greco passed away in 1986 while renovations were underway. The project was never completed. Holy Land USA was then passed to the Religious Sisters of Filippini, who used it to hold prayer meetings. As the years went by, the park fell into disrepair and could not be sold. In 2013, the mayor of Waterbury partnered with a car dealer to purchase Holy Land USA for three-hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

1. Why did Holy Land USA close in 1984?

- A. To expand
- B. It went out of business
- C. It was purchased for \$350,000
- D. It fell into disrepair

2. What question is answered in the second paragraph?

- A. How many people visited Holy Land?
- B. What kind of exhibits would the park include?
- C. What happened after the park was sold?
- D. What kinds of rides would the park include?

3. Which of the following points supports the idea that Holy Land was popular?

- A. It had a fifty-six-foot-tall steel cross
- B. It has a large Holy Land USA sign that resembled the Hollywood sign
- C. The park was founded in the 1950s by an attorney
- D. 40,000 people visited the park per year

4. Which of the following words could replace “renovations” in the following sentence?

The theme park closed in 1984 to start an expansion, but John Baptist Greco passed away in 1986 while renovations were underway.

- A. Improvements
- B. Payments
- C. Movements
- D. Situations

5. What happened first?

- A. The park fell into disrepair
- B. John Baptist Greco died
- C. 1985
- D. The mayor of Waterbury, Connecticut teamed up with a car dealer to turn the park into a dealership