

# Welcome to Trexler Nature Preserve

## Hiking

There are more than 20 miles of trails within the Trexler Nature Preserve for hikers of all abilities, including a 1.2-mile Covered Bridge Trail that's compliant with the American's with Disabilities Act. There is also the 1-mile Elk Watching trail in the Central Range and a large portion of the Trexler Border Trail that loops around the entire preserve. For more experienced hikers the Trexler Border Trail offers a challenging 8.5-mile path along the perimeter of the entire preserve. Trails are rated in the map key of the User's Guide by level of challenge and length. Kiosks are located at every trailhead and at key intersections in the trail system. While you're visiting the Preserve, please be respectful of neighboring properties and stay on the trails within the park boundaries. Parking is available at trailheads in the North, Central and South Ranges.



## Biking

A 2.5-mile single-track mountain bike trail is located in the North Range and is accessible from the North Range parking lot. Additional multi-purpose trails on the North Range, including the Hunsicker Trail, the Teardrop Trail, and the Trexler Boarder trail, are open to mountain bikers. The paved interior road of the Central Range is also available to non-motor bikes.



## Horseback Riding

The 8.5-mile Trexler Border Trail is an all-purpose trail that accommodates general horseback riding activities in the Preserve. The trail is accessible from parking lots in the North and Central ranges that have the capacity for horse trailers. An additional 3.3 miles of horseback riding trails, including the Hunsicker Trail, the Teardrop Trail and the Buck Run Trail, are located in the North Range.

*"The Trexler Border Trail is a great trail to get your horse in shape, plenty of climbs and a real challenge. The landscape is beautiful, the views are spectacular, and there is wildlife everywhere."*  
-Katherine Mack



## Archery Hunting

White-tailed deer and turkey hunting is permitted on the North Range. The archery-only hunting policies are in direct compliance with the Pennsylvania Game Commission's seasonal regulations. If you would like more information, please call the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Southeast Regional office at 610-926-3136.

## Snow Shoeing & Cross Country Skiing

Snow shoeing and cross country skiing are permitted on trails and in open areas on the North and Central Ranges. Trails are not groomed for cross country skiing and caution should always be exercised when visiting remote areas within the Preserve.



## Fishing

The Jordan Creek is stocked with trout each spring prior to the beginning of the Pennsylvania fishing season. A one-half mile section of the Jordan Creek, from the covered bridge on Game Preserve Road to the ford at the creek in the Trexler Nature Preserve, is designated for children and disabled persons during the month of April. The general public can fish upstream of the covered bridge and downstream of the ford during this time. The entire reach of the creek within the Preserve, from the Mill Creek Road Bridge to the Jordan Road Bridge, is open to all for the remainder of the fishing season.

## Creek Life

The Jordan Creek is an especially good place to explore the aquatic life in a fresh water stream. The broad and shallow Jordan Creek at the "ford" in the Central Range makes the spot ideal for wading and studying creek rocks and different forms of creek life.

*"I remember wading in the Jordan Creek when I was growing up so when we came back for a visit I really wanted to bring my kids here for the same experience."*  
-Heather Davis



## Stargazing

The hilltop meadow campground in the Central Range offers exceptional, unobstructed views of the starry western and northern skies at night. Although there are other ideal locations for star gazing in the North Range, the hilltop meadow campground is the only site available for overnight camping - an opportunity that lends itself to optimal star visibility. Please call 610-965-4397 X 40 to arrange for your group to have an overnight star gazing experience.

## Nature & Bird Watching

Opportunities to observe nature in the Preserve change dramatically by season and habitat. A complete Trexler Nature Preserve Naturalist Guide is available to help visitors identify the birds, mammals, butterflies, trees, wildflowers, grasses, amphibians, reptiles and mammal tracks throughout the property. The guides are available at the Visitor's Center.



## Picnicking

Located along the Jordan Creek in the Central Range at the "ford" and just down the road from the Lehigh Valley Zoo, is a picnicking area. Picnic tables, benches, grills and portable toilets are available for visitors. The ford is also the center of the trail system along the Jordan Creek, making the picnic area an ideal location to begin your experience in the Trexler Nature Preserve.

## Photography & Painting



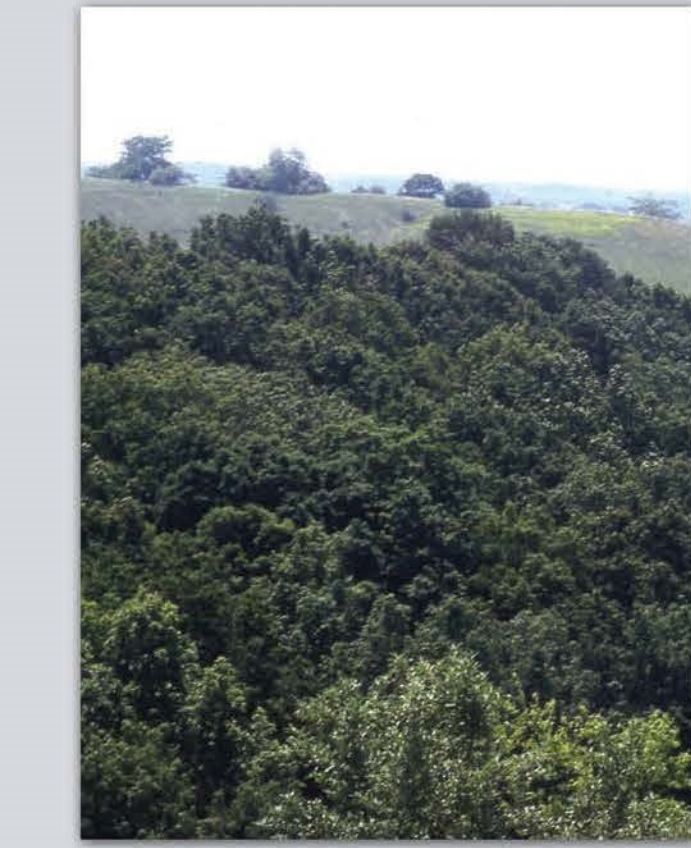
Ideal locations for the visual portrayal of nature are common throughout the North, Central and South Ranges. There are a number of spectacular views indicated in the User's Guide. The varied terrain and habitats throughout the Preserve offer a wide range of artistic opportunities in all seasons. Bison and elk in the Central Range, and the vistas and deep ravines in the North and South Ranges also offer unique visual experiences.

## Emergency Response Locators (ERLs)

Emergency Response Locations (ERLs) can be found throughout the Preserve to help identify your location during an emergency. ERLs are located every 1/2 mile on the Border & Fireman's Trails, on rain shelters, trail intersections & kiosks. In case of an emergency, dial 911 and provide the nearest ERL number for emergency assistance to determine your location in the Preserve.

## Habitat and Resource Management

Amidst the breathtaking backdrop of the Trexler Nature Preserve is the Jordan Creek watershed. The watershed provides a foundation for a wide variety of flora and fauna habitats that help make the Preserve both plentiful and diverse. Fed by the flow of the Blue Mountain headwaters and natural springs within the Preserve, the watershed is an important keystone connecting the different habitats of this vast ecosystem. Wetlands, upland meadows, shrubbery, deep ravines, pastureland, hemlock and mixed hardwood forests host the many species of amphibians, birds, fish, insects, mammals, and reptiles living naturally throughout the 1108-acre park. Continuous conservation efforts focusing on the eradication of invasive species and the improvement of the naturally occurring plant community are currently being utilized to further improve the resources within the Preserve.



## History

When the late General Harry C. Trexler established this 1,108-acre preserve in the early 1900s, he did it to save the American bison, elk and white-tailed deer from extinction and assure the species survival. He didn't believe the animals belonged in a zoo and wanted to create a sanctuary so they could roam freely.

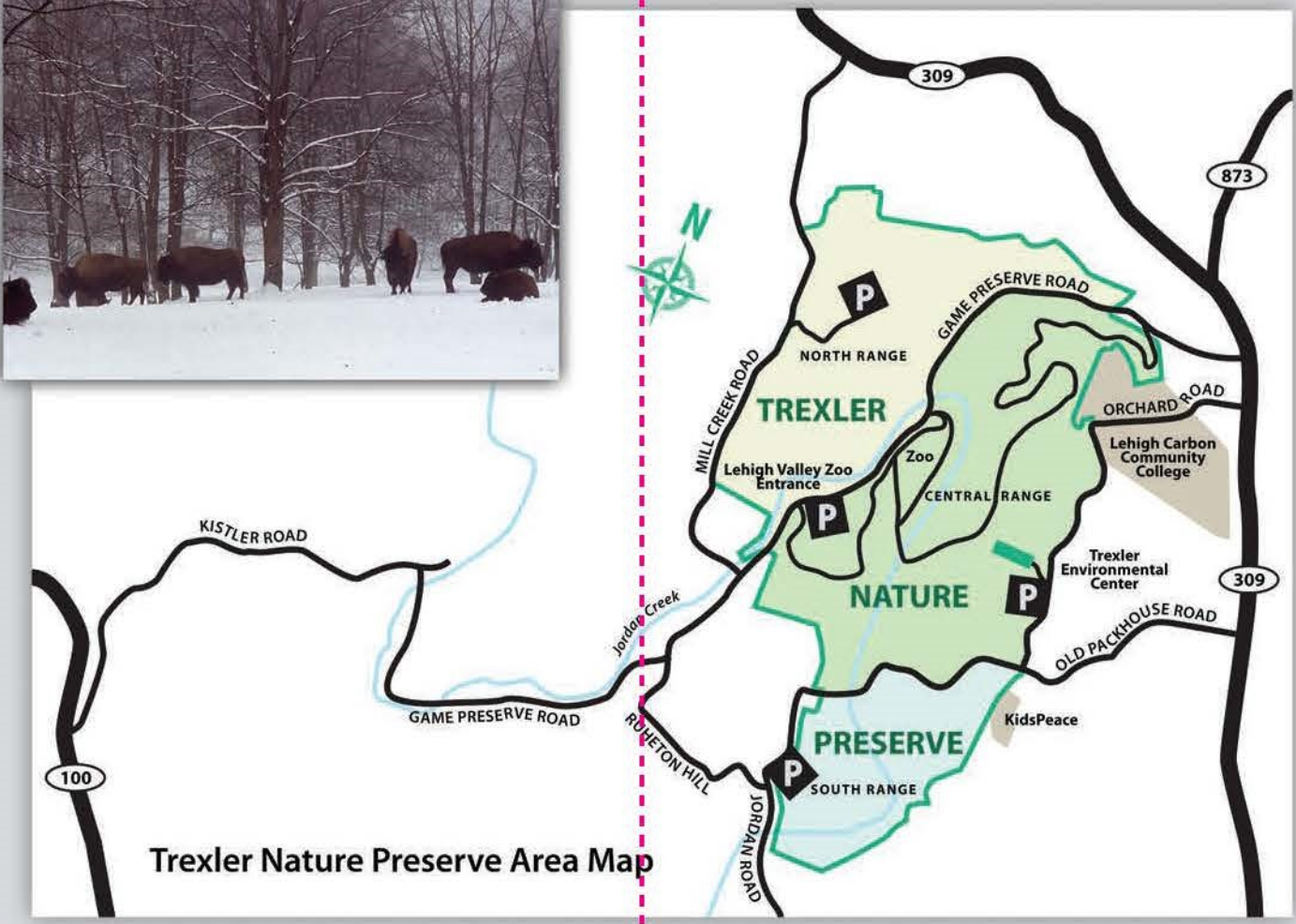


A successful businessman who amassed a fortune in timber and cement and was the founder of the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, Trexler began purchasing small farms in the low hills of the Blue Mountains in 1906. By 1913, he

had transported eight American bison and 20 Virginia white-tailed deer to the preserve. The animals multiplied to such an extent providing sufficient pasture became a problem. In 1927, General Trexler gave some of the buffalo to the Allegheny County Park in Pittsburgh, Pa., the Memorial Zoo in Williamsport, Pa. and to Milton Hershey's zoo in Hershey, Pa.

A conservationist along the lines of Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir, Trexler understood the importance of nature and preserving wildlife in its natural habitat. When Trexler died in 1933, he bequeathed the property to the residents of Lehigh County and created a trust to oversee its care.

Today, the preserve is open to the public for passive recreation and nature watching.



## Trexler Environmental Center

Trexler Environmental Center is Lehigh County's first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified building. Located in the Central Range, it houses a county park office, a satellite office for the state Bureau of Forestry, a community room for environmental education and restrooms for trail users.

Everything about the Environmental Center is "green" from its vegetative roof with solar panels to the recycled concrete cinder blocks to the toilets, which use rainwater to flush. The building is also bird-friendly: the windows are tilted so birds don't crash into them. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.



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**A LEHIGH COUNTY PARK**

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