Welcome to Trexler Nature Preserve

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 Hummock Trail, the Tearing Trail, and the Hummock Bridge Trail, are open to mountain bikers. The paved interior road of the Central Range is also available to non-motorized bikes.

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. Ski trails are groomed for cross-country skiing and a snowshoeing trail is marked in the open areas. A cross-country ski lesson is available for $10.00.

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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 on the North and Central Ranges that have the capacity for horse trailers. An additional 13 miles of horseback riding trails, including the Hummock Trail, the Tearing Trail, and the Hummock Bridge Trail, are located on the North Range.

History

When the late General Harry C. Trexler established his 1,120-acre preserve in the early 1900s, he did it to save the American bison, elk and white-tailed deer from extinction and ensure the species survived. 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 textiles and garments and was the founder of the Philadelphia-based Powell and Light Company, Trexler began purchasing small farms in the low hills of the Blue Mountains in 1903. By 1913, he had transported eight American bison and 20 Virgina white-tailed deer to the preserve. The animals multiplied to such an extent profiting sufficient visitors became a problem. In 1927, General Trexler gave some of the bison to the Meade 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 County of Lehigh 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 facility. The center houses a county park office, a satellite office for the state Bureau of Forestry, a community room for environmental education and classrooms 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 tinted so birds don’t crash into them. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Wildlands Conservancy

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Welcome to the Trekler Nature Preserve, a magical place in Lehigh County where visitors can hike, bike, ride horses, cross country ski, fish from the west wall section of the Jordan Creek or just view nature. A popular destination for families, the 1,300-acre preserve was founded by General Harry Trexler as a way to protect endangered species and all but one of the land that he purchased. Today, visitors can glimpse dozens of migratory animals in their natural habitat.

The three ranges: North, South and Central feature unique landscapes from meadows and hills to hemlock forests and deep ravines. Located in the Central Range is the Lehigh Valley Zoo, a perfect complement to a day of adventure at the Preserve. There’s also a new discovery across the creek’s ford. We hope you and your family enjoy your time at the Trexler Nature Preserve and return soon.

Emergency Response Locations (ERLs)

Emergency contact information is available at the Visitor’s Center. The Preserve has several emergency response locations, including an emergency route on the North Range, a public safety trail on the Central Range, and an emergency route on the South Range.

Emergency contacts are located every mile on the Border & Firemark Trails, and are numbered, identified, and labeled in case of an emergency. Call 911 and provide the nearest SIR number for emergency assistance to determine your location in the Preserve.

Photography & Printing

No pets allowed within the Preserve. Photographers and printing services are prohibited within the Preserve. No pets allowed within the Preserve. Photographers and printing services are prohibited within the Preserve.

Stargazing

The hilltop meadows surrounding the Central Range offers exceptional, unobstructed views of the eastern and northern skies at night. Although there are other ideal locations for star gazing in the North Range, the hilltops surrounding the Preserve are the only site available for overnight camping - an opportunity that seeks to enhance the twilight views. Please call 610-953-4339 x 400 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 ‘Trest’ and just down the road from the Lehigh Valley Zoo, a picnic area. Picnic tables, benches, grills and grilling supplies are available for use. The Preserve is open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk. Lehigh County makes the picnic area an ideal location to begin your experience in the Trexler Nature Preserve.