



PARK PICKS
by
FRIENDS OF THE ALLENTOWN PARKS

Join us today! Become a member and help make Allentown's great park system even better.

Insect Discovery Walk Rescheduled

Given recent weather conditions, the May 21 insect Discovery Walk was postponed until **June 11**. Led by Muhlenberg College Professor Marten Edwards, the event will be held rain or shine. We meet at the stone house on the corner of Ott. St & Parkway Blvd. Watch our website for additional information.

Trexler Memorial Park

Situated in Allentown's West End (Springhouse Road & Broadway), beautiful Trexler Park spans 134.39 acres of open space with an arboretum, a pond and even a spring house. Walking paths provide visitors the opportunity to commune with nature in a relaxing environment.

The property's first recorded owner, Lynford Lardner, came from England in 1740 and was keeper of the Great Seal of Pennsylvania. Mr. Lardner's daughter married the son of William Penn (after whom Pennsylvania is named) and eventually in 1900 General Harry C. Trexler purchased the property.

The site's log house became the summer home for General Trexler and his wife. The cellar of the Springhouse had a spring stream flowing through it replete with brook trout from the General's hatchery. He had a greenhouse constructed where beautiful orchids, roses and chrysanthemums grew.



Vase of Chrysanthemums - Auguste Renoir (1890)

(Allentonians may recall annual chrysanthemum shows exhibiting 125,000 annuals, 30,000 perennials and 8,000 mums and which attracted thousands of visitors to Allentown. In 1983 the 48th and last annual chrysanthemum show was held, the greenhouse demolished and replaced with a parking lot.)

In designing Trexler Park, the General envisioned a park where birds and wildlife would be protected, where wild ducks might rest on their migratory journeys, and where one could enjoy the beautiful fall foliage. It was his wish that this park would never be a "playground" where the lawns would be destroyed, nor shrubs broken, birds disturbed nor the park littered with debris from picnics. Trexler Park today, therefore, remains a "passive" park.



Trexler Park—Birdwatching Discovery Walk — "Look! Up in the Tree! It's a... What kind of bird?! Where?" (5/6/11)

Common Birds of Trexler Park
Lehigh Valley Audubon Society



"Birdwatching for Beginners" at Trexler Park

On May 6, the public joined Friends of the Allentown Parks in a **Discovery Walk** in search of birds at Trexler Park. The event was in cooperation with the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society, led by LVAS Vice President Barbara Malt. Over 23 species of birds were seen and even more were heard. The eastern kingbird, carolina wren, barn swallow, chimney swift, yellow-rumped warbler, brown thrasher, northern cardinal and red-tail hawk are just a few of the birds sighted. For additional information on birds of the Lehigh Valley visit <http://www.lehigh.edu/~bcmo/lvas/index.html>

In 1933 the cabin and park area were devised by General Trexler to the city of Allentown for public enjoyment and the preservation of their natural beauty. On April 17, 1954 on the 100th anniversary of the General's birthday, the Springhouse cabin was dedicated as a shrine to his memory; a bronze plaque commemorates the event. General Harry C. Trexler, a person of vision and dedication.

Source: *Lehigh County Historical Society Proceedings Volume 36, published 1984.*

Donate a Memorial Bench for your favorite park. Contact us for more details.

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