

**Location:** Girard Township, Erie County, PA

**Size:** 92.2 acres in one tract

**Date acquired:** 2012

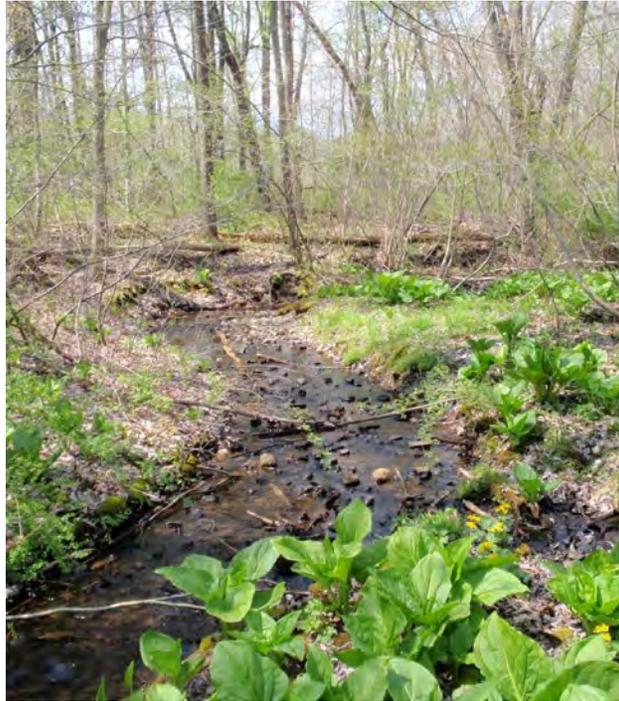
**Notable features:** Extensive frontage on Elk Creek and tributary streams, floodplain forest, and various wetland types.

**Recreational activities (see inside for details):** Hiking, wildlife watching, hunting, fishing

**Description:** The Lower Elk Creek Nature Reserve contributes to the recreational and conservation values important to the Lake Erie Region. The reserve consists of about 92 acres, including extensive wetlands. It helps maintain a contiguous forested buffer along Elk Creek, thereby providing important habitat features for wildlife such as beavers and bald eagles. This property falls within an exceptional value greenway.



**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, I-79 North to Exit 178B, to merge onto I-90W. Take Exit 9 for PA-18 toward Platea/Girard. Turn right onto PA-18N. Turn left onto US-20 W/W Ridge Road. Travel 0.75 mile and turn right onto Elk Park Road. Take 3rd left onto N. Creek Road. Travel approximately 1 mile – property will be on the right. See signs for parking and access to Elk Creek.



### **We are not done yet!**

WPC is interested in completing a large project to stabilize the stream bank of Elk Creek at the Reserve to enhance habitat for fish, birds, and other species. WPC is working to raise funds to complete the next stages of this project and is looking for additional support.

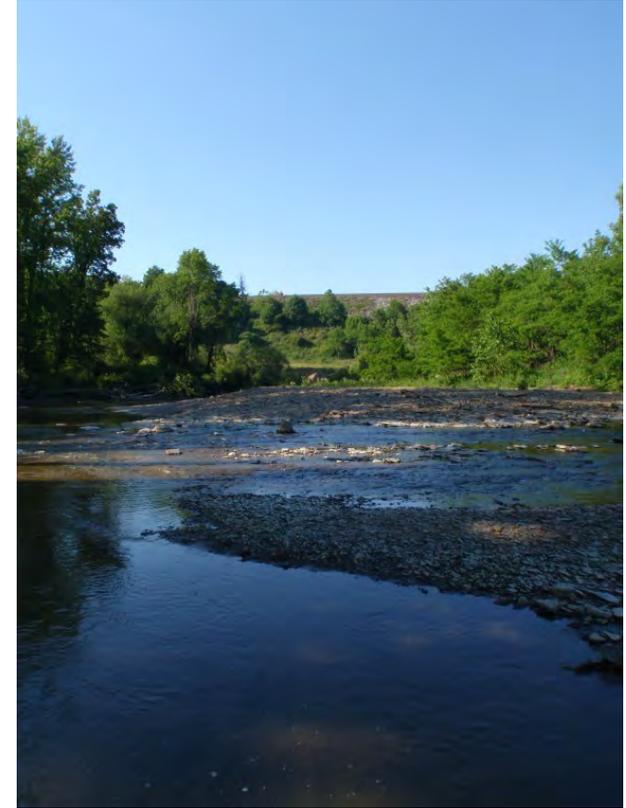
*For more information about Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, please contact:*

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800 Waterfront Dr.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

toll-free: 1-866-564-6972  
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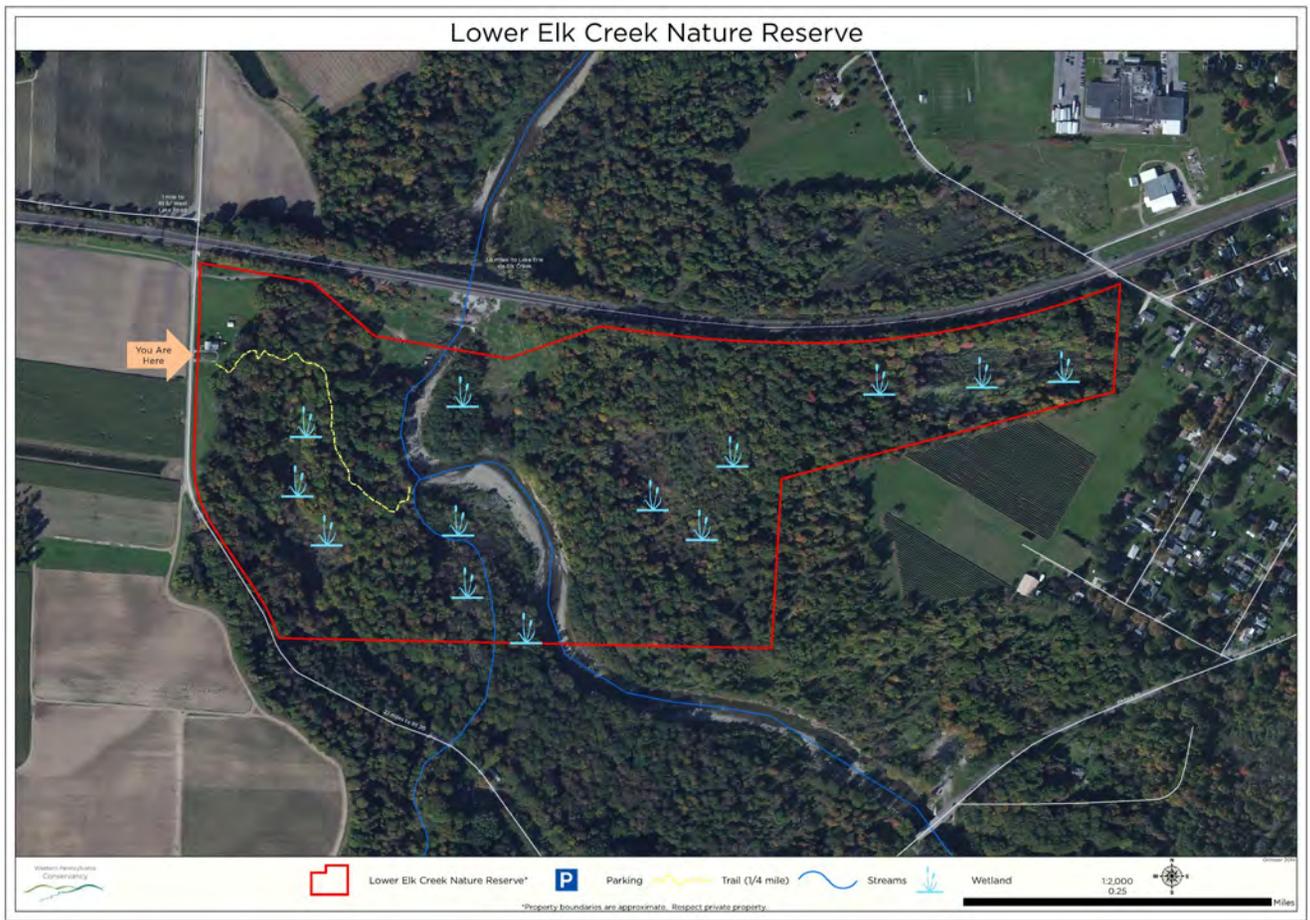


## *LOWER ELK CREEK NATURE RESERVE*





**Recreational activities:** From the parking area, the **Lower Elk Creek hiking trail** leads downslope, crosses two small streams and runs along a forested ridge before dropping down to the creek. **Bird watchers** may find a variety of Neotropical migrant songbirds that can be seen during spring and fall migration, including vireos, warblers, thrushes, and sparrows – among others. Elk Creek is an approved trout water for **fishing** and is a popular destination for steelhead fishing. Lower Elk Creek Nature Reserve is **rich with wildflowers in the spring**. Visitors may find marsh marigold, golden ragwort, mayapple, blue violet, yellow trout lily, spotted geranium, foam-flower, jack-in-the-pulpit and red trillium.



Thanks to the following organizations for making the purchase of and improvements to this property possible:



This fishing access to Elk Creek is made available, in part, by anglers who purchased Lake Erie Permits.

When visiting Lower Elk Creek Nature Reserve, please remember:

- Only foot traffic is permitted.
- Camping and campfires are prohibited.
- Vehicles, including ATVs and bicycles, are prohibited.
- If you carry it in, carry it out.
- Dogs must be on a leash or otherwise kept under control at all times.
- Collecting (animals, plants, rocks, etc.) without permission is prohibited.