Historically, the Buffalo River has been a place for trade, fishing, and transportation. Government agencies have been working to encourage the return of wildlife and to establish public access to the river. Erie County has developed four natural places along the river:

1. **Buffalo Riverwalk**
   - This two-lane paved pathway runs for 14 miles along the river, providing access to natural and cultural resources. It is open daily from 10am-5pm.
   - Call 827-1584 for more information.

2. **Delaware Park**
   - A focal point of Olmsted and Vaux's park system.
   - 350 acres of greenspace, including a 243-acre meadow used for an 18-hole golf course.
   - 350 species of trees, shrubs, and flowers.

3. **Erie County Forest**
   - 2,500 acres with 90 miles of trails for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing.
   - Picnic areas, playgrounds, and a picnic shelter.

4. **Tifft Nature Preserve**
   - 264 acres, including a 75-acre freshwater cattail marsh inhabited by great blue herons, beavers, turtles, and many other creatures.
   - Five miles of trails for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing.
   - Fish, birds, and wildlife.
   - Makowski Visitors Center houses wildlife exhibits, gift shop, and a classroom. Fishing permitted in some areas.
   - Snowshoe rentals in Winter. March-October. For more information, call 825-6397 or visit www.buffalomuseumofscience.org/tifft.

These natural places provide opportunities for recreation, education, and conservation. They are part of a natural history that has shaped the region and continue to do so today.