

**A Bark In The Park -**

**The 37 Best  
Places To Hike  
With Your Dog  
In Pennsylvania  
Dutch Country**

DOUG GELBERT  
*illustrations by*  
ANDREW CHESWORTH



**Cruden Bay Books**



*There's always a new trail to look forward to...*

**A BARK IN THE PARK: THE 37 BEST PLACES TO HIKE WITH  
YOUR DOG IN PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH COUNTRY**

Copyright 2006 by Cruden Bay Books

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system without permission in writing from the Publisher.

Cruden Bay Books  
PO Box 467  
Montchanin, DE 19710  
[www.hikewithyourdog.com](http://www.hikewithyourdog.com)

International Standard Book Number 0-9744083-9-5

Manufactured in the United States of America

*“Dogs are our link to paradise...to sit with a dog on a hillside  
on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing  
was not boring - it was peace.”*

*- Milan Kundera*

## **Contents**

<b>The 37 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Dog Parks</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>No Dogs!</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Index To Parks And Open Space</b>	<b>91</b>

### **Also...**

Hiking With Your Dog	5
Outfitting Your Dog For A Hike	8
Low Impact Hiking With Your Dog	11

## Introduction

Southcentral Pennsylvania can be a great place to hike with your dog. Within a short drive you can climb mountains that leave you and your dog panting, walk on some of the most historic grounds in America, explore dark ravines or circle lakes for miles and never lose sight of the water.

I have selected what I consider to be the 37 best places to take your dog in an area roughly bounded by the Appalachian Trail to the north and the Maryland border to the south; from Harrisburg in the west to Reading in the east. I have ranked them according to subjective criteria including the variety of hikes available, opportunities for canine swimming and sheer pleasure of the walks from a dog's point of view. The rankings include a mix of parks that feature long walks and parks that contain short walks.

Southcentral Pennsylvania dogs are fortunate - they are welcome in most parks. But not all. I have included a list of parks where dogs are not allowed to hike with us. It's not a big list but it is up to all dog owners to keep it short.

When visiting a park always keep your dog under control and clean up any messes and we can all expect our great parks to remain open to our dogs. So grab that leash and hit the trail!

DBG

## Hiking With Your Dog

So you want to start hiking with your dog. Hiking with your dog can be a fascinating way to explore your favorite natural areas. Some things to consider:

### **Dog's Health**

Hiking can be a wonderful preventative for any number of physical and behavioral disorders. One in every three dogs is overweight and running up trails and leaping through streams is great exercise to help keep pounds off. Hiking can also relieve boredom in a dog's routine and calm dogs prone to destructive habits. And hiking with your dog strengthens the overall owner/dog bond.

### **Breed of Dog**

All dogs enjoy the new scents and sights of a trail. But some dogs are better suited to hiking than others. If you don't as yet have a hiking companion, select a breed that matches your interests. Do you look forward to an entire afternoon's hiking? You'll need a dog bred to keep up with such a pace, such as a retriever or a spaniel. Is a half-hour enough walking for you? It may not be for an energetic dog like a border collie. If you already have a hiking friend, tailor your plans to his abilities.

### **Conditioning**

Just like humans, dogs need to be acclimated to the task at hand. An inactive dog cannot be expected to bounce from the easy chair in the den to complete a 3-hour hike. You must also be physically able to restrain your dog if confronted with distractions on the trail (like a scampering squirrel or a pack of joggers). Have your dog checked by a veterinarian before significantly increasing your dog's activity level.

## **Weather**

Hot humid Pennsylvania summers do not do dogs any favors. With no sweat glands and only panting available to disperse body heat, dogs are much more susceptible to heat stroke than we are. Unusually rapid panting and/or a bright red tongue are signs of heat exhaustion in your pet. Always carry enough water for your hike. Even days that don't seem too warm can cause discomfort in dark-coated dogs if the sun is shining brightly. In cold weather, short-coated breeds may require additional attention.

## **Water**

Surface water, including fast-flowing streams, is likely to be infested with a microscopic protozoa called *Giardia*, waiting to wreak havoc on your dog's intestinal system. The most common symptom is potentially crippling diarrhea. Algae, pollutants and contaminants can all be in streams, ponds and puddles. If possible, carry fresh water for your dog on the trail - your dog can even learn to drink happily from a squirt bottle.

## **Ticks**

You won't be able to visit any local parks without encountering ticks. All are nasty but the deer tick - no bigger than a pin head - carries with it the spectre of lyme disease. Lyme disease attacks a dog's joints and makes walking painful. The tick needs to be embedded in the skin to transmit lyme disease. It takes 4-6 hours for a tick to become embedded and another 24-48 hours to transmit lyme disease bacteria.

When hiking, walk in the middle of trails away from tall grass and bushes. If your walk includes fields, consider long sleeves and long pants tucked into high socks. Wear a hat - ticks like hair. By checking your dog - and yourself - thoroughly after each walk you can help avoid lyme disease. Ticks tend to congregate on your dog's ears, between the toes and around the neck and head.

## **Trail Hazards**

Dogs won't get poison ivy but they can transfer it to you. Stinging nettle is a nuisance plant that lurks on the side of many trails and the slightest brush will deliver troublesome needles into a dog's coat. Some trails are littered with small pieces of broken glass that can slice a dog's paws. Nasty thorns can also blanket trails that we in shoes may never notice.

## **Other Animals**

Most wildlife are looking to avoid your dog and it is a good idea to let them: frightened deer can deliver deadly kicks and your dog will surely come out the loser in encounters with skunks and porcupines.


Bears are notoriously shy and hikers can spend a lifetime in area woods and never see one. If you see a black bear, stop and stay calm while keeping your dog close - bears do not like dogs. Do not shout and quiet your dog from barking. Do not run, you cannot outrun a bear and you don't want to look like prey. The bear will likely leave the area, but if not, talk in a low tone of voice and slowly back away keeping your dog by your side.

Rattlesnakes are also not looking to meet your dog. Unless cornered or teased, a rattlesnake will crawl away and avoid striking. Avoid rocky areas, crevasses, caves, and areas where the ground cover (weed or grass) prevents you from seeing the ground. These are all places where snakes are likely to hang out. If you hear a nearby rattle, stop immediately and hold your dog back. Identify where the snake is and slowly back away. If you or your dog are bitten, do not panic. If possible put ice against the bite, tie a rope or piece of clothing around the leg or arm above the wound (but not so tight as to shut off blood circulation) and get to a hospital or veterinarian with as little physical movement as possible. In many cases a rattlesnake might give "dry bites" where no poison is injected, but you should always check with a doctor after a bite even if you feel fine.


## Outfitting Your Dog For A Hike

These are the basics for taking your dog on a hike:

- ▶ **Collar.** It should not be so loose as to come off but you should be able to slide your flat hand under the collar.
- ▶ **Identification Tags.** Get one with your veterinarian's phone number as well.
- ▶ **Bandanna.** Can help distinguish him from game in hunting season.
- ▶ **Leash.** Leather lasts forever but if there's water in your future, consider quick-drying nylon.
- ▶ **Water.** Carry 8 ounces for every hour of hiking.

 *I want my dog to help carry water, snacks and other supplies on the trail. Where do I start?*

To select an appropriate dog pack. Measure your dog's girth around the rib cage to determine the best pack size. A dog pack should fit securely without hindering the dog's ability to walk normally.

 *Will my dog wear a pack?*

Wearing a dog pack is no more obtrusive than wearing a collar, although some dogs will take to a pack easier than others. Introduce the pack by draping a towel over your dog's back in the house and then having your dog wear an empty pack on short walks. Progressively add some crumpled newspaper and then bits of clothing. Fill the pack with treats and reward your dog from the stash. Soon your dog will associate the dog pack with an outdoor adventure and will eagerly look forward to wearing it.



🐾 *How much weight can I put into a dog pack?*

Many dog packs are sold by weight recommendations. A healthy, well-conditioned dog can comfortably carry 25% to 33% of its body weight. Breeds prone to back problems or hip dysplasia should not wear dog packs. Consult your veterinarian before stuffing the pouches with gear.

🐾 *How does a dog wear a pack?*

The pack, typically with cargo pouches on either side, should ride as close to the shoulders as possible without limiting movement. The straps that hold the dog pack in place should be situated where they will not cause chafing.

🐾 *What are good things to put in a dog pack?*

Low density items such as food and waste bags are good choices. Ice cold bottles of water can cool your dog down on hot days. Don't put anything in a dog pack that can break. Dogs will bang the pack on rocks and trees as they wiggle through tight spots in the trail. Dogs also like to lie down in creeks and other wet spots so seal items in plastic bags. A good use for dog packs when on day hikes around Pennsylvania is trail maintenance - your dog can pack out trash left by inconsiderate visitors before you.



🐾 *Are dog booties a good idea?*

Dog booties can be an asset, especially for the occasional canine hiker whose paw pads have not become toughened. Many of the trails in mountains in southcentral Pennsylvania involve rocky terrain. In some places, broken glass abounds. Hiking boots for dogs are designed to prevent pads from cracking while trotting across rough surfaces. Used in winter, dog booties provide warmth and keep ice balls from forming between toe pads when hiking through snow.

🐾 *What should a doggie first aid kit include?*

Even when taking short hikes it is a good idea to have some basics available for emergencies:

- ▶ 4" square gauze pads
- ▶ cling type bandaging tapes
- ▶ topical wound disinfectant cream
- ▶ tweezers
- ▶ petroleum jelly (to cover ticks)
- ▶ veterinarian's phone number

*I can't think of anything that brings me closer to tears than when my old dog - completely exhausted after a hard day in the field - limps away from her nice spot in front of the fire and comes over to where I'm sitting and puts her head in my lap, a paw over my knee, and closes her eyes, and goes back to sleep. I don't know what I've done to deserve that kind of friend."*

*-Gene Hill*

## ***Low Impact Hiking With Your Dog***

Every time you hike with your dog on the trail you are an ambassador for all dog owners. Some people you meet won't believe in your right to take a dog on the trail. Be friendly to all and make the best impression you can by practicing low impact hiking with your dog:

- 🐾 Pack out everything you pack in.
- 🐾 Do not leave dog scat on the trail; if you haven't brought plastic bags for waste removal bury it away from the trail and topical water sources.
- 🐾 Hike only where dogs are allowed.
- 🐾 Stay on the trail.
- 🐾 Do not allow your dog to chase wildlife.
- 🐾 Step off the trail and wait with your dog while horses and other hikers pass.
- 🐾 Do not allow your dog to bark - people are enjoying the trail for serenity.
- 🐾 Have as much fun on your hike as your dog does.

## **The Other End Of The Leash**

Leash laws are like speed limits - everyone seems to have a private interpretation of their validity. Some dog owners never go outside with an unleashed dog; others treat the laws as suggestions or disregard them completely. It is not the purpose of this book to tell dog owners where to go to evade the leash laws or reveal the parks where rangers will look the other way at an unleashed dog. Nor is it the business of this book to preach vigilant adherence to the leash laws. Nothing written in a book is going to change people's behavior with regard to leash laws. So this will be the last time leash laws are mentioned, save occasionally when we point out the parks where dogs are welcomed off leash.

*"No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation as a dog does."*

*-Christopher Morley*

*The 37 Best Places  
To Hike With  
Your Dog In  
Pennsylvania  
Dutch Country...*

# 1

## *Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center*

### **The Park**

Jacob Nolde arrived in Philadelphia as a 21-year old from Germany in 1880 and soon found himself among the German-speaking communities of Berks County. He found work as a weaver and within a decade had purchased enough knitting machines to start his own hosiery manufacturing business. In another ten years he had taken over an entire Reading city block and was operating the second largest textile plant in America.

Nolde now had the time and resources to pursue his dream: the establishment of a manicured, managed forest typical of his Bavarian homeland. He began by purchasing land where he discovered a single white pine tree growing in an abandoned meadow. The lone pine would soon be joined by more than a half-million neighbors - white pine, yellow pine, Norway spruce, Douglas fir, and other coniferous varieties - as Nolde sought to create "the most beautiful pine forest in Pennsylvania."

### **The Walks**

After passing out of the family, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania now shepherds Jacob Nolde's dream on 665 pine-scented acres. There are some 10 miles of trails coursing through the forest, mostly on wide, former access roads built by the

### **Berks**

#### Phone Number

- (610) 796-3699

#### Website

- [dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/noldeforest.aspx](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/noldeforest.aspx)

#### Admission Fee

- None

#### Directions

- The Nolde Forest is southwest of Reading, on Route 625. There are two entrances, the southern one is the Main Entrance Road, closed on weekends. The northern lot is the Sawmill parking area, open sunrise to sunset every day.

### *Bonus*

Dogs looking to get in some dock diving practice will appreciate North Pond at Nolde Forest.

Secluded North Pond is tucked away from many of the trails, use the Beech Trail to reach the Pond Loop or drive to a small parking lot on Church Road.



plantation's foresters. The well-spaced conifers indeed give the feeling of rambling through a pine farm in places.

Expect long, steady ascents and descents when creating circuit hikes here. The focal point for the canine hiking along the *Watershed Trail* through the center of the property is Punches Run that flows energetically through the valley floor. Strict adherence to the trail system will roughly generate a figure-eight hike but chances are you will be tempted to break off your intended route to explore something interesting in the verdant forest.

*Trail Sense:* The park provides an excellent map and you will need it; trail junctions are marked by signposts but the trails are not blazed. Not all trails are maintained or marked.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on these trails.

#### **Traffic**

Bicycles and motorized vehicles are not allowed on the trails.

#### **Canine Swimming**

Head for North Pond for a few laps for your dog.

#### **Trail Time**

Several hours.

# 2

## Joseph S. Ibberson Conservation Area

### The Park

Peter Allen built a stone house on the mountain that came to be named for him in 1726. The house, the oldest in Dauphin County, still stands at the intersection of PA 225 and PA 325. Trees were harvested off Peters Mountain for centuries. The timber supplied fuel for the Victoria Iron Furnace and logs for Baker's Sawmill, the area's last steam-powered sawmill. In 1962, Joseph Ibberson, a long-time Bureau of Forestry executive, began buying land here to create a tree farm and in 1998, the same year he was named Pennsylvania Tree Farmer of the Year, Ibberson donated his land to become the first conservation area in the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks.

### The Walks

The trail system in this 350-acre swath of unbroken hardwood forest is a gift for area canine hikers. The paths are wide, the woods are airy, and the choices are many. The only thing Ibberson Conservation Area lacks for canine superstardom is varied access to water sources. A pleasant woodland pond is encountered along the *Turkey Foot* and *Pine* trails.

### Dauphin

#### Phone Number

- (717) 567-9255

#### Website

- [dcnr.state.pa.us](http://dcnr.state.pa.us)

#### Admission Fee

- None

#### Directions

- The Ibberson Conservation Area straddles Peters Mountain, north of Harrisburg. The park entrance is on the north side of the mountain. From Route 322/22, take PA 225 north over the mountain and turn right on Hebron Road near the bottom of the other side, a distance of about 4.5 miles. Follow Hebron for another 4.5 miles, bearing right at the forks in the road, until reaching the Conservation Area on the right.



### *Bonus*

This is a good place to observe forest succession. Pioneering species are typically pines that require healthy doses of sunshine. The original white pines and hemlocks that populated these slopes were cut and mostly hardwood trees grew up in their place.

Recent infestations of gypsy moths stripped many trees of their leaves and the increased sun filtering through the bare branches have given many dormant pine seeds hope. The forest may someday return to its original appearance.

You can shape your exploration of this woodland a different way each time you visit, thanks to the many short, intersecting trails. Most feature some moderate uphill on the mountain slopes but you can go for hours without setting your dog to excess panting. If you exhaust the named trails and your dog is still hankering for more, you can wander down some of the many unblazed trails in the conservation area.

For those sniffing out a challenge, the *Victoria Trail* - utilizing the historic Victoria Road where timber was once dragged to the iron furnace - grinds for two miles up to the *Appalachian Trail* on top of Peters Mountain.

*Trail Sense:* There is the usual excellent trail map supplied by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation. The trails are well-marked with colored blazes and signposts at junctions. Stay alert, however, as several stretches of trail share the same named trail.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed to use the trail.

#### **Traffic**

Light; expect long stretches of solitude. Horses, bikes and motorized vehicles are not permitted in the conservation area.

#### **Canine Swimming**

A small pond in the western area of the park.

#### **Trail Time**

Several hours.

*"My dog is worried about the economy because Alpo is up to 99 cents a can. That's almost \$7.00 in dog money."*

*-Joe Weinstein*

# 3

## Susquehannock State Park

### The Park

The Susquehannock Indians were a small tribe whose only village was located a few miles north of the park. The Susquehannocks were often besieged by the much larger Iroquois Confederacy and were eventually conquered and driven from the area in 1675. Many intermingled with the Iroquois but a tiny band returned to what is now present-day Conestoga, living under the protection of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In 1763, during a period of settler-Indian conflict known as the Pontiac Wars, a vigilante group slaughtered most of the two dozen or so remaining Susquehannocks. Only two survived, working as servants on a Lancaster County farm. When they died, the Susquehannock tribe was buried with them on the farm.

### The Walks

This is a canine hiker's park with more than five miles of named trails packed into 224 acres. The star walk at Susquehannock is the 1.2-mile *Rhododendron Trail* that rolls through dense growth of the namesake plants and past ruins of the homestead of Lieutenant Thomas Neel, a revolutionary war veteran. Look for a massive beech that has been growing for more than 400 years nearby. Expect this rollercoaster terrain to leave you panting in places - especially if you take advantage of the *Phites Eddy Trail* and take your dog down to Susquehanna River for a swim.

### Lancaster

Phone Number

- (717) 432-5011

Website

- [dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/susquehannock.aspx](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/susquehannock.aspx)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- The park is south of Lancaster on the Susquehanna River, about 4.5 miles off of PA 372. Turn south on Susquehannock Drive to Park Drive.

### *Bonus*

Susquehannock State Park is treasured for its river views, connected by a half-mile *Overlook Trail* between Hawk Point and Wissler's Run. Downstream from Hawk Point, 400 feet above the water is Mt. Johnson Island, site of the world's first bald eagle sanctuary. The offspring of the original nesting pair have flown the first nest and can be seen patrolling the islands closer to Hawk Point. At the Wissler's Run Overlook check out the hydroelectric works that dominate this stretch of river.



The rest of the park can be explored on a series of short trails that reach to all corners of the property. Almost all the canine hiking is among a rich variety of hardwoods; you will still be moving up and down but not as dramatically as along the *Rhododendron Trail*.

*Trail Sense:* The typical state park brochure includes a detailed trail map - keep it in hand. Trail junctions are usually marked by signposts but not blazed. Don't be concerned by wrong turns and deadends - you will seldom be more than a few pleasant steps from your intended destination.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on these trails.

#### **Traffic**

Horses are allowed on all but the *Rhododendron* and *Overlook* trails. Traffic is not heavy - this park has been included among "Pennsylvania's Best Kept Secrets."

#### **Canine Swimming**

Wissler Run in the park is ideal for splashing; for extended swim time you can get down to the Susquehanna River, although the access can be muddy.

#### **Trail Time**

Several hours.

# 4

## French Creek State Park

### The Park

A wilderness fort once stood on the small stream flowing through these woods that was garrisoned by the French during the French and Indian War and thus "French Creek." The hillsides here were dotted with charcoal hearths throughout the 1800s, fueling the nascent American iron industry. The furnace was stoked for the last time in 1883. French Creek State Park was originally developed by the federal government during the Depression as a National Park Service Demonstration Area. Civilian Conservation Corps members, organized by President Franklin Roosevelt, built dams, roads and other recreational trappings. These workers also began restoration of the Hopewell Furnace, today a National Historic Site through which several of the park's trails pass. In 1946, the area was transferred to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

### The Walks

Approximately 40 miles of trails visit every corner of French Creek's 7,339 acres. There are nine featured hikes of between one and four hours' duration. The marquee walk is the *Boone Trail*, a six-mile loop connecting all the major attractions of the park. The *Mill Creek Trail* is a back-country hike that visits Millers Point, a pile of large boulders where you and your dog can easily scramble to the top.

### Berks

Phone Number  
- (610) 582-9680  
Website  
- [dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks)  
Admission Fee  
- None  
Directions  
- French Creek State Park is north of Elverson. From Route 23, take Route 345 North to the south entrance of the park. From the Pennsylvania Turnpike the park is 7 miles northeast of the Morgantown Interchange (Exit 22).

### Bonus

Appended to French Creek State Park - and open to canine hiking - is Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, one of the finest examples still remaining of a rural early American iron plantation. Ironmaster Mark Bird built the original blast furnace in 1771 and supplied cannon and ammunition to the Revolutionary Army during the struggle for independence. The buildings on the historic site include a blast furnace and the ironmaster's mansion.

All the walks are heavily forested with hardwoods - keep an eye out for the ruins of the area's charcoal-burning past. Repeatedly timbered, there is little understory and the trails are almost universally wide and easy to walk. The park is hilly with the steepest - and rockiest - slopes blanketing the eastern section of French Creek.

*Trail Sense.* Any park administrator desiring to blaze a trail would do well to visit French Creek State Park. Detailed trail maps are also available.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome on all the trails but are not permitted in campsites or swimming areas.

#### **Traffic**

Despite its popularity, the sheer size and number of hikes available conspire to create long stretches of solitude, especially in the rugged eastern end of the park. Horses are restricted to the yellow-blazed Horse-Shoe Trail and mountain bikes are banned from many trails, including all trails south of Park Road.

#### **Canine Swimming**

There is easy access to two lakes, the 21-acre cold water Scotts Run Lake and the 63-acre Hopewell Lake.

#### **Trail Time**

Several hours available.



# 5

## Kellys Run Natural Area

### The Park

The Pennsylvania Power and Light Company manages 5,000 acres of recreational land surrounding the Holtwood hydroelectric plant. You can camp, enjoy a picnic, play some ball, do a little fishing - or hike. There are 39 miles of marked trails along the lower Susquehanna, most on the long distance *Mason-Dixon* and *Conestoga* trails. Canine hikers will want to head for Kellys Run where the 6-mile trail system has been designated a National Recreation Trail by the United States Department of the Interior.

### Lancaster

Phone Number

- (800) 354-8383

Website

- [pplweb.com/holtwood/](http://pplweb.com/holtwood/)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- The Holtwood Environmental Preserve stretches across both sides of the lower Susquehanna River. To reach Kellys Run turn on River Road (the first or last turn in Lancaster County) and make your first left onto Old Holtwood Road. The parking area for the preserve is on the right.

### The Walks

Starting out on the blue-blazed *Kellys Run Trail* you begin routinely enough at a picnic pavilion and drop quickly into airy woods of mature maples and poplar. Nothing special as you roll along. Then the trail drops abruptly and you are introduced to Kellys Run. Soon you are squeezing through thin avenues in a Wissahickon schist canyon as you follow the roiling stream down to the Susquehanna. In places where the rocks pinch the stream tightly enough, deep pools form to lure your dog in for a swim.

After you reach the end of the run the character of this outing changes again. Old access roads are used to climb relentlessly back to your car. Benches appear in the woods as if by magic in

### *Bonus*

Several routes will take you out of the Kellys Run gorge up to the Pinnacle, a grassy picnic spot on a bluff more than 507 feet above Lake Aldred. The best route is the *Conestoga Trail*, carved by the Lancaster Hiking Club along the river. At the Pinnacle you can fill your dog bowl with water in season.



*These level paths on soft, mown grass are a welcome find for canine hikers along the Kellys Run Trail.*

this leg of the hike. Your final steps will be through rolling farm fields and, finally, ballfields.

Near the parking area, circling around *Kellys Run Trail*, is the 3/4-mile *Oliver Patton Trail* that was also named a National Recreation Trail in 1992. This lively little track, named for the original farmer on these hills, traverses a stand of Norway spruce and white pine planted by the power company in 1968.

*Trail Sense:* The park provides an excellent map and you will need it; trail junctions are marked by signposts but the trails are not blazed. Not all trails are maintained or marked.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on these trails.

#### **Traffic**

Most of the trails are open to equestrians, except in the Kellys Run gorge.

#### **Canine Swimming**

There is no access to the Susquehanna River but Kellys Run does pool deep enough for occasional dog paddling.

#### **Trail Time**

Several hours.

# 6

## The Pinnacle

### The Park

The *Appalachian Trail* through Pennsylvania is not popular with many thru-hikers, derided as “the place where boots go to die” due to the rocky nature of the mountains. But one spot all agree is worth the purchase is the Pinnacle - a jumble of rock ledges offering a true panoramic view of the wooded Blue Mountain and the contrasting cultivated fields of the Cumberland Valley below.

### The Walks

This is not a casual canine hike. Expect to devote a solid five hours to completing the 9-mile loop to the Pinnacle and back. The going is rough and rocky and athletic dogs only need apply. There will be much trotting on rocky patches with uneven pawfalls and considerable boulder-hopping in spots.

Tackling the loop counter-clockwise offers two routes to the Pinnacle: the rocky *Valley Rim Trail* (the path is not true to its name - there are no views from the trail) and a shortcut on a switch-backing access road to a mountaintop observatory (it is not a major time-saving shortcut). Your anticipation for the views at the Pinnacle will be whetted with a stop at Pulpit Rock across from the observatory.

The mountain climbing ends at Pulpit Rock but not the treacherous footing for your dog as the trail to the Pinnacle is

### Berks

Phone Number

- None

Website

- None

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- The Pinnacle is northeast of Hamburg. Take I-78 east into town or Route 61 north. Take Fourth Street east out of Hamburg for two miles and make a left on Reservoir Road. Cross Mountain Road to the end of the road and parking at the Hamburg Reservoir.



### *Bonus*

Rocks are certainly a theme of a hike to the Pinnacle. From Pulpit Rock and the Pinnacle you get a commanding view of a river of boulders 500 feet wide and a half-mile long known as the Blue Rocks. These erosion-resistant quartzite boulders are souvenirs of the last ice age when powerful glaciers left them behind.



*Dogs enjoy one of the best views in Pennsylvania atop the Pinnacle.*

particularly rock-studded here. The return down the mountain is best taken on a fire road along the hemlock-draped Furnace Creek. This trail is a completely different experience from the climb up and gives the loop a feel of two canine hikes for the day.

*Trail Sense:* There is a mapboard at the trailhead to study and plan your route. The trails are blazed on trees and across rocks. The sign for the Pinnacle is small; make sure to take the 100-yard path past the ten-foot cairn of boulders.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to enjoy the view from the Pinnacle.

#### **Traffic**

This is a popular hike but you are likely to see other hikers only sporadically.

#### **Canine Swimming**

Furnace Creek is a refreshing diversion but is by no means a swimming hole. Seasonal ponds along the trail are not inviting either. Dogs are not allowed in the Hamburg Reservoir.

#### **Trail Time**

A half-day.

# 7

## *Tucquan Glen Nature Preserve*

### **The Park**

Tucquan Glen, the crown jewel of the Lancaster County Conservancy, has long attracted visitors - both for its scenic wonders and natural resources. European settlement began early on and its tumbling waters first powered a sawmill in 1787. Millers remained active in the glen until the early 1900s when vacationers began arriving. The Conservancy purchased its first land in the glen in 1983 and has since built its holdings to 338 acres.

### **Lancaster**

**Phone Number**

- (717) 392-7891

**Website**

- [lancasterconservancy.org](http://lancasterconservancy.org)

**Admission Fee**

- None

**Directions**

- Tucquan Glen is south of Lancaster on the Susquehanna River. It straddles River Road between Route 324 to the north and Route 372 to the south. Small parking lots are on both sides of the road but the lots in front of the trail are on the river side.

### **The Walks**

This is an injection of the Poconos in the land of rolling farmland. Unfortunately for dog owners the stunning beauty of Tucquan Glen attracts many admirers to its sometimes narrow paths, making a canine hike here more of a chore than one would otherwise like. If you catch the ravine on a rare uncrowded day, it is one of the best canine hikes anywhere.

Two trails envelop the Tucquan Creek. The southern leg supports most of the foot traffic as it hugs the banks all the way to the Susquehanna River and provides the best experience for enjoying the many waterfalls in the stream. Many folks just do the glen as out-and-back hike but canine hikers will want to loosen the grip on the leash by looping back on the north side. This less-traveled route actually climbs to a rock promontory above the water for a completely different experience in the glen. The entire

### *Bonus*

It can be hard to imagine while trekking under the dark canopy of two score species of trees here but the forests of the Tucquan region were once energetically harvested for charcoal to fuel Lancaster's iron industry. Other important products from the Tucquan forests include tannin from the bark of the oak trees used by local tanneries, chestnut oak timbers that became railroad ties, locust trees turned into ship masts and tulip poplars valued in the furniture making industries and for building gliders.



loop covers more than two miles.

For water-loving dogs make sure to keep going across the railroad tracks for a chance to swim in the Susquehanna River. If you are in no hurry to leave Tucquan Glen, the long-distance Conestoga Trail (orange blazes) crosses the creek and travels north-south along the river.

*Trail Sense.* No map is available but both trails on either side of the creek are blazed. The only difficulty that may arise is finding the trails around the railroad tracks.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to join the crowds enjoying the glen.

#### **Traffic**

The trails are restricted to foot traffic and there is often plenty of it.

#### **Canine Swimming**

Tucquan Creek is deep enough at times for a refreshing swim, especially later in the hike when it pools in waterfalls under huge boulders and narrow crevices. At the mouth of the creek, across the railroad track, there is excellent access to the Susquehanna River.

#### **Trail Time**

An hour or more.

# 8

## *Codorus State Park*

### **The Park**

In a pioneering cooperative project between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the P.H. Glatfelter Paper Company the Codorus Creek was impounded in 1966. The paper company paid \$5.5 million to construct an earth fill dam 109 feet high, 750 feet thick and a third of a mile wide. The resulting lake that became the heart of the state park was named

Lake Marburg for the small community that was covered forever by the trapped waters. □

### **York**

Phone Number

- (717) 637-2816

Website

- [state.pa.us](http://state.pa.us)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- Codorus State Park is southeast of Hanover. From I-83, take Exit 18 and stay on PA 216 all the way to the park.



### *Bonus*

Pennsylvania state parks are slowly warming to the idea of dogs in their campgrounds. A few parks set aside a few sites for pets as a trial and it has been well enough received that more campgrounds are opening to pets. In Codorus State Park about a dozen dog sites are available and several dog walking areas have been designated.

## **The Walks**

With all the water-centered activities available at Codorus State Park - fishing, swimming, boating, diving, skiing - hiking is almost an afterthought. Which suits canine hikers on the scent of a quiet walk just fine. The marquee hiking trail, the *Mary Ann Furnace Trail*, is tucked away in the western edge of the park.

The Mary Ann Furnace that operated here (a common name for Colonial iron furnaces) was founded in 1761 by George Ross, a Lancaster attorney who would later ink his name on the Declaration of Independence, and Mark Bird. It was the first iron forge built west of the Susquehanna River, fueled by the abundance of chestnut trees in the area. Iron forged here became cannon and ammunition for George Washington's Colonial Army.

The *Mary Ann Furnace Trail* is a trio of stacked loops that total about 3.5 miles. The wide walking paths meander along the water between Black Rock Flats and Wonder Cove - dropping down to the shore several times for superb canine swimming. The trails are shady throughout and your dog will be traveling on paw-friendly dirt and grass trails.

A second hiking trail - the *LaHo Trail* - slips around a finger of the lake called Wildasin Flats for 1.5 miles. The path hugs the waterline and also affords excellent swimming opportunities for your dog. If you don't mind sharing trails you can also sample the seven miles of bridle trails on the western shore of Lake Marburg and the mountain biking trail system that is open on Sundays only during hunting season.

*Trail Sense:* Park maps are available and the trails are blazed.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the park trails.

### **Traffic**

There is only room for a handful of vehicles at the trailhead so you won't be elbowing your way through other trail users here.

### **Canine Swimming**

There is excellent access to the lake from the hiking trails.

### **Trail Time**

Several hours possible.

# 9

## State Game Lands 110

### The Park

Back in the early days of the 20th century a hardy group of Reading businessmen, many of Bavarian descent, amused themselves with outings on local mountains. The hikers tagged their band "The Fuszgangers," roughly translated as "men who made their way by foot." One of the Fuszgangers, Dr. Harry F. Rentschler, led a group into the Blue Mountains in search of a long-ago eagle's nest he had heard tale of above Shartlesville. The climbers enjoyed the hike so much they made regular treks thereafter to the Eagle's Nest, now located on Pennsylvania State Game Lands 110. New hikers to the mountaintop were even initiated by dangling them over the cliff to the spot of the one-time aerie. Today, you just have to follow trail markers to get there.

### The Walks

Your dog's adventure here begins past the gate and down a wooded, gravel road. Straight ahead in a little over one mile will be the *Appalachian Trail*, where the explorations will be quite rocky. If you are not chasing views, a better option for a canine hike on the State Game Lands 110 would be the light-blue *Sand Spring Trail*, the trailhead for which is just past the parking lot gate on the left. This trail also works its way to the *Appalachian Trail* but a 4.5-mile hiking loop can be crafted with the *Tom Lowe*

### Berks

Phone Number

- None

Website

- None

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- Take Exit 23 (Old Exit 8) off I-78 at Shartlesville. Head north on Mountain Road, staying straight onto Forge Dam Road when Mountain veers right. Continue to the end of the road and the parking area at the gate, about 1.5 miles.

### Bonus

The *Appalachian Trail* is the world's model for volunteer-maintained trails. Dr. Rentschler led the local trailblazers in building the trail leg between the Lehigh and Susquehanna rivers. It took five years to complete the 102-miles of footpaths across the ridgetops, going right past Eagle's Nest. In 1988 the Eagle's Nest Shelter was added for thru-hikers on the Appalachian Trail, constructed off-site and flown in by a National Guard helicopter.

Be careful with your dog at the Eagle's Nest.

In addition to the precipitous cliff, rattlesnakes are known to frequent the rugged rocks.



*Memorial Trail*, located just past the namesake sandy spring, enclosed on three sides by a stone wall. Look for the sign and follow the orange blazes back down.

These trails mix soft, paw-friendly dirt passages with plenty of rock-stepping - you will envy your dog's four-wheel drive on the more tumultuous *Tom Lowe* track. There are plenty of stream encounters on the mountainside to keep your dog refreshed.

*Trail Sense*: No maps are available but these trails are well blazed with signs at the trailheads and junctions.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the state game land trails.

#### **Traffic**

Very light, no horses or bikes. Be alert for hunters in season.

#### **Canine Swimming**

There is nothing but splashing in store on these trails.

#### **Trail Time**

Several hours.

# 10

## Rocky Ridge County Park

### The Park

The 750 acres of mature oak forest that would become Rocky Ridge Park was purchased in 1968, making it the granddaddy of all York County parks. The namesake rocks on the ridge are mostly Hellam Conglomerate, a sedimentary rock that contains rounded pebbles of quartz. The rock is one of the oldest sedimentary rocks in Pennsylvania, dating back an estimated 570 million years. Rocky Ridge is where you can find the area's largest exposure of this Hellam Conglomerate.

### York

Phone Number

- (717) 840-7740

Website

- [york-county.org](http://york-county.org)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- From Rt. 30, take Mt. Zion Rd. (Rt.24) north for 1 mile. Turn right onto Deininger Road and follow into park. There are three parking areas - for the bulk of the trails make your first right towards the Oak Timbers Picnic Area and continue past that to a spacious lot in front of the power lines.

### The Walks

There are nine short trails at Rocky Ridge that conspire to offer some 12 miles of canine hiking. If you don't have time to sample them all, start by passing under the crackling power lines to the trails in the east end of the park.

Like all York County parks most of these trails do not loop but, unlike the other county parks, they can easily be combined to create forge a variety of hiking circuits. When the trails drop off the ridge - especially on the north side on trails like #3 - the canine hiking gets downright HARD. But these steep ascents are easily forgiven on the wide tracks through the airy forest. You can comfortably maneuver two or three leashed dogs along the Rocky Ridge trail system.



### *Bonus*

Two observation decks are built on either side of Rocky Ridge. On the north side (*Trail #8*) you can soak in a panoramic view of Three Mile Island and on the south side you can look out over the York Valley (*Trail #1*).

Mass flocks of migratory birds fly down the Susquehanna River and birding enthusiasts gather here to watch them come and go. In addition to hawks and raptors, you can spot some of the 30 species of Pennsylvania warblers that travel by in mixed flocks on their way to southern Florida and the West Indies.



While indeed rocky, the maintained trails are not abusive under paw. There is no flowing water in the park for doggie relief on a hot day, however, so bring water on your trek. It is also possible to create a hiking agenda that loops back to your centrally located car several times for a big day at Rocky Ridge park.

*Trail Sense:* A trail map showing the routes of the numbered trails is available at information boards and the trails are well-marked with numbered signposts - sprinkled more liberally than simply at trail junctions.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the park trails.

#### **Traffic**

Rocky Ridge is a favorite with mountain bikers and crowded with joggers and other dogwalkers on good weekends. Horses also use these trails.

#### **Canine Swimming**

None.

#### **Trail Time**

Several hours of canine hiking here.

# 11

## Boyd Big Tree Conservation Area

### The Park

This swatch of about 1000 acres on Blue Mountain became one of Pennsylvania's newest state parks when Alexander Boyd, president of the Union Deposit Corporation, donated the land for the perpetual management and protection of big trees. For this act Boyd received a Conservation Landowner of the Year award.

### The Walks

Once you leave the parking lot every step your dog takes here will be under a canopy of leaves. Most of those steps will be moving uphill or downhill. For those chasing an easy exploration of the large trees on the mountainside choose the *Lower Spring Trail* upon entering the woods. The toughest haul in the park is up the *Janie Trail* where the 2.5-mile footpath reaches the ridge of Blue Mountain. Up on the ridge are superior views of the annual hawk migration on the thermals swirling along the mountain.

There are over 10 miles of trail in the Conservation Area but most, unfortunately, are rocky, old access roads that can be tough on your dog's paws on a long hike. In contrast to its nearby cousin, the Ibberson Conservation Area, these trails are rougher, longer and steeper. Also, about 800 of the park's acres are open to hunting so in-season it will be nearly impossible to take a canine hike of any duration without crossing into active hunting grounds.

### Dauphin

#### Phone Number

- (717) 567-9255

#### Website

- [dcnr.state.pa.us](http://dcnr.state.pa.us)

#### Admission Fee

- None

#### Directions

- The Boyd Big Tree Conservation Area is north of Harrisburg. From Route 322, take the Fishing Creek Exit, turning on to Fishing Creek Valley Road. The park entrance is in an open field about 2.5 miles on the right.

### *Bonus*

Without question, the greatest tree in America prior to 1900 was the chestnut. Rot resistant with fine-grained wood, the chestnut tree supported both vibrant wildlife populations and entire rural economies.

It was estimated that one in every four trees in the eastern forests was a chestnut tree - some as old as 600 years. But in 1904 an Asian fungus was discovered in the Bronx Zoo and the blight soon decimated the chestnut population. By 1950 millions of acres of woodlands were left with dead, standing trees. The chestnut blight remains 100% fatal - young chestnuts may reach 20 or 30 feet but are doomed to succumb to the disease.

At Boyd Big Tree park a small chestnut grove is planted by the parking lot where conservationists practice a technique known as backcross breeding. After an initial cross with an American Chestnut and a Chinese Chestnut - that is resistant to the blight - all subsequent generations are crossed only with American Chestnuts. The blight-resistant gene is carried forward as the young trees become closer and closer to the original prince of the American forest.

*Trail Sense:* The trails are blazed and there is an excellent color map available at the trailhead - and you will need it to decipher the many trail junctions in the park. Not all of these junctions are marked. This is also the place to see a trail marked by beige blazes - a color not often selected for wayfinding.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed to use the trail.

#### **Traffic**

Light; especially as you climb higher up the mountain. Horses, bikes and motorized vehicles are not permitted in the conservation area.

#### **Canine Swimming**

A small pond is on the *Pond Trail* straight out of the parking lot. This pond features easy access to the water and is the only opportunity for dog paddling in the park. On the lower slopes small tributaries feeding Fishing Creek offer some refreshing splashing.

#### **Trail Time**

Several hours.

*"Any man who does not like dogs and want them does not deserve to be in the White House."*

*-Calvin Coolidge*

# 12

## Central Park

### The Park

People have been traveling through this land for centuries - the Great Indian Warrior Trading Path, the most heavily used in colonial America, passed through here. And Robert Fulton, inventor of the steamship, first practiced with a paddlewheel boat on the Conestoga River here. Much of the heart of today's park was once owned by Edward Hand, George Washington's Adjutant General. The first land to transfer to public use came in 1903 as a gift from businessman and philanthropist Henry S. Williamson to the City of Lancaster. He had earlier supplied the money for Franklin & Marshall's first athletic field. Central Park became Lancaster County's first park in 1966 with a purchase of 397 acres. Today the county showplace contains 544 acres of diverse activities.

### Lancaster

Phone Number

- (717) 299-8215

Website

- [co.lancaster.pa.us/parks/](http://co.lancaster.pa.us/parks/)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- The park is south of Lancaster's center city. Take Duke Street south until Chesapeake Street. Turn right and enter the park on the left in 300 yards.

### The Walks

There is plenty of canine hiking for any taste on Central Park's nine miles of trails, including three miles of the Lancaster Hiking Club's Conestoga Trail System. Your first choice could be the 1.4-mile *Mill Creek Trail* through a natural area dominated by mature oak and beech trees. The going is easy on the paw-friendly natural trail (muddy when wet) that loops inside an oxbow of Mill Creek.

To form circuit hikes you will need to combine the short spurs of the remaining named trails. The *CVA Trail* begins with a

### Bonus

Central Park's covered bridge was originally built across the Conestoga Creek near Hinkletown in 1876. The wooden structure was nearly destroyed by Hurricane Agnes in 1972 and was rebuilt across Mill Creek.



pull up a short hill to the dramatic Indian Rock before dropping to the banks of the Conestoga River and a level waterside ramble.

For the most challenging canine hiking in Central Park, save some time for the *Conestoga Trail* as it rolls up and down the park's hills.

*Trail Sense:* A detailed trail map is available from the office and the trails are blazed.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs can enjoy the trails in Central Park.

#### **Traffic**

This is a busy park but less so on the trails. Horses and bikes are limited to designated trails - hikign only is allowed in the Kiwanis area.

#### **Canine Swimming**

The Conestoga River and Mill Creek each provide the opportunity for canine aquatics.

#### **Trail Time**

Several hours.

*"The greatest pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him, and not only will he not scold you, but will make a fool of himself too."*

*- Samuel Butler*

# 13

## Governor Dick

### The Park

When Cornwall Furnace impressario Robert Coleman developed Mount Gretna as a resort destination in the late 1800s it was natural to provide access to a neighboring 1120-foot mountaintop known as "Governor Dick." Not an influential government official, Governor Dick was the nickname of a former slave and later a woodsman and laborer at the Cornwall Furnace who worked the site in the late 1700s.

Coleman built a narrow-gauge railroad (only two feet wide) to transport picnickers to the top. This type of railroad is generally constructed to reach tricky mines and timber stands on steep mountain slopes and this four-mile line was the only one of its type used for recreational purposes. In 1934 Clarence Schock, founder of the Schock Independent Oil Company (SICO), bought this land and in 1953 donated 1105 acres to "forever remain as playground and park." A half-century later the uniquely privately owned but publicly accessible Clarence Schock Memorial Park at Governor Dick strains to hold true to that promise against developmental pressures.

### The Walks

The most heavily-traveled route at Governor Dick is the main road up and over the summit of the mountain. The old rail bed is very rocky under paw but offers a steady pull up, rather than steep grind to the top. For additional canine hiking at Governor

### Lebanon

Phone Number

- None

Website

- None

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- Governor Dick is six miles south of Lebanon, on the north-east edge of Mount Gretna. A trailhead and parking can be found on Route 117 and, one-half mile from town, on Pinch Road.

*Bonus*

Every first-timer's visit to Governor Dick is sure to include a hike to the concrete-and-steel tower on the summit. The current 66-foot tower is a descendant of the original tower built in the 1800s as a geodetic survey signal station.



*Making the approach to the tower on Governor Dick. This open area around the tower is not typical of this woodsy canine hike.*

Dick, come with a mind to explore. Side trails marked with numbered signposts are impossible to decipher for the uninitiated and a forest left in a natural state means large tree blowdowns and thick underbrush rather than the groomed trails of a public park.

*Trail Sense.* Signs point the way to the tower on the summit (just stay on the wide road) but there is no map to make sense of the numbered signposts - the trail may dead-end at a road or fade away altogether in the undergrowth.

**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to explore Governor Dick.

**Traffic**

This is a popular spot with nature lovers but any side trail off the main road will almost certainly land you and your dog in quiet solitude.

**Canine Swimming**

There will be no canine aquatics on Governor Dick.

**Trail Time**

Several hours available.

# 14

## Money Rocks County Park

### The Park

If you are looking for long, solitary walks through the woods with your dog in Lancaster County you can head for the Furnace Hills, the largest continuous forest remaining in the county or the Welsh Mountains, with the second most. The latter is home to Money Rocks Park - so-named because it was long believed that Pequa Valley farmers hid cash in the outcroppings - with more than 300 acres of mature woodland. □

### Lancaster

#### Phone Number

- (717) 299-8215

#### Website

- [co.lancaster.pa.us/parks/](http://co.lancaster.pa.us/parks/)

#### Admission Fee

- None

#### Directions

- The Money Rocks are in eastern Lancaster County. From Route 23 East pick up Route 322 East. After four miles take a right onto Narvon Road. Climb for about a mile and look for the parking lot at the top of the rise on the right.



*Sniffing out hidden cash in the Money Rocks.*



### *Bonus*

The exposed ridge and rock outcroppings at Money Rocks serve up impressive views of surrounding farmlands and distant towns with not a great deal of purchase on your canine hike.



## **The Walks**

The trail system at Money Rocks travels on a spiderweb of old mining and logging roads. Most are paw-friendly dirt, others are rock-filled, but all are wide and airy under the mature black birch trees that dominate the ridge. There are two named trails: *Overlook* (white) and *Cockscomb* (red), named for another line of rock outcroppings further down the ridge from Money Rocks. The Cockscomb penetrates deeper into the woods on a long buttonhook that eventually drops down off the ridge before heading back up the hill. This is the hardest climb you will encounter at Money Rocks.

*Trail Sense:* There is not a trail map and only two of the trails are blazed (and only in one direction).

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the park trails.

#### **Traffic**

Very light.

#### **Canine Swimming**

None. You will walk a long way before you stumble across a little stream.

#### **Trail Time**

Several hours.

*“And sometimes when you’d get up in the middle of the night you’d hear the reassuring thump, thump of her tail on the floor, letting you know that she was there and thinking of you.”*

*-William Cole*

# 15

## Mount Penn

### The Park

Much of the southern area of the Schuylkill River valley is underlaid by porous limestone and dolomite that produces rich, fertile farmland. But a few fingers of resistant, granitic bedrock that form steep hills and ridges - known as the Reading Prong - dot the area. Mount Penn is one of those. In 1748 two sons of William Penn laid out the city of Reading, creating a grid that ran right up to the base of the mountain. Resorts and hotels sprang up on Mount Penn in the 1800s, with gravity railroads built to serve them. In 1900 automobile pioneer Charles Duryea moved to Reading and tested some of America's first cars on the slopes of Mount Penn.

### The Walks

If you are starting a canine hiking day atop Mount Penn, descend the concrete stairs at the pagoda and enter the maze of trails across Mount Penn. These trails will take you across the mountain or down into the city of Reading. If you cross Skyline Drive you can hike the mountain down to the town of Mt. Penn or east 2.6 miles to a small nature center by Antietam Lake.

Expect these trails to be rocky under paw in many places as you travel on old fire roads and some well-worn footpaths. Depending on your taste, you can tackle some severe climbs on

### Berks

Phone Number

- (610) 375-6399

Website

- [pagodaskyline.org/pagoda/](http://pagodaskyline.org/pagoda/)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- Mount Penn is on the eastern edge of Reading. Use Route 422 to the city and continue to the town of Mount Penn on 422 Business. There are several roads winding through private housing heading to the top. Eventually reach Hill Road for a climb to the summit. Parking is available at the pagoda.

### Bonus

William Witman saw a way to use the hard rock ridges of Mount Penn. He planned to quarry the rock and bought ten acres of mountaintop around 1900 to send stone down the slopes. Soon his operation began to open gaping scars on Mount Penn and Witman began hearing protests about his operation. Witman thought about it and agreed.

He then turned his attentions to using his land as the site for a luxury hotel - as pretty as he could make it to repair the damage he had done. Witman saw a postcard from the Phillipines and decided on a pagoda-styled building for his hotel. By 1908 - and \$50,000 later - his red brick and tile pagoda in the style of a cattle castle of the Shogun Dynasty of Japan loomed 886 feet above the city. But there was no happy ending for Witman. He was never able to secure a liquor license or get a decent access road built and his hotel never opened. In 1910 he sold the 72-foot pagoda to Jonathan Mould, who in turn sold it to the City of Reading for a single dollar.



these slopes.

*Trail Sense:* Some trails are blazed but you won't necessarily know where they will be taking you.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed along the Mount Penn trails.

#### **Traffic**

Mountain bikes and scattered hikers.

#### **Canine Swimming**

An occasional stream and Antietam Lake if you go that far.

#### **Trail Time**

Many hours.

# 16

## *Ferncliff Wildflower and Wildlife Preserve*

### **The Park**

This wooded ravine is celebrated for its old growth forest, one of the last remaining in Pennsylvania's Piedmont region. In 1972 the Ferncliff Wildflower and Wildlife Preserve was named a National Natural Landmark. Today the 65 acres are managed by the Lancaster County Conservancy.

### **The Walks**

The way in and out of the Ferncliff Preserve is on a closed county road. Gently sloping and comprised of dirt and gravel, it is a beautiful trail as it swings back and forth along the Barnes Run stream corridor. There are a couple of shallow water crossings that certainly won't trouble even the smallest dog. Past tiny waterfalls, beside jagged rock outcroppings, and under towering ash, oak and hemlock trees, the old road eventually reaches the railroad tracks that block the way to the Susquehanna River.

A small sign points the way to a *North Rim Trail* through Barnes Run and this narrow footpath can be used for a return trip. A side excursion, requiring a degree of bushwhacking leads up a side ravine adorned with fallen giants that exemplify why this land was never timbered.

### **Lancaster**

#### Phone Number

- (717) 392-7891

#### Website

- [lancasterconservancy.org](http://lancasterconservancy.org)

#### Admission Fee

- None

#### Directions

- The preserve is south of Lancaster on the Susquehanna River. Take Route 272 south past the intersection with Route 372. Continue for three miles to Chestnut Level Road and make a right. Make a left on River Road past the cemetery and a quick right onto Slate Hill Road. After a left bend in the road, make a right on Harmony Ridge Road. In a couple miles look for Bald Eagle Road on the left. Turn and find the preserve at the bottom of the hill on the right.

*Bonus*

Ferncliff Wildflower and Wildlife Preserve is one of fewer than 600 sites designated as a National Natural Landmark. The program recognizes and encourages the conservation of outstanding examples of our country's natural history.

There are 26 such sites in Pennsylvania, others in the region being the Susquehanna Water Gaps (graphic examples of the geology of water gap building) and Hawk Mountain (tabbed as a prototypical forested eastern ridge). Ferncliff Preserve has been selected for its unique vegetation, thought to be virgin growth.



*Your dog won't need boots to make the stream crossings at Ferncliff Wildflower and Wildlife Preserve.*

*Trail Sense:* Sticking to the closed Benton Hollow Road path will make this a worry-free outing. Crossing the stream can lead to some wild and wooly going under blue ribbons.

**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed in this natural wonder.

**Traffic**

Hiking only is permitted in the preserve; the parking area will not support heavy visitation.

**Canine Swimming**

Barnes Run is shallow and suitable mostly for wading and splashing.

**Trail Time**

About one hour.

# 17

## Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area

### The Park

A large chunk of Furnace Hills woodland was purchased in the 1930s with money from hunting licenses and the preserve was eventually built to more than 5,000 acres of wild-fowl habitat with state funds. Today hunting license money maintains all operations at Middle Creek. Although conceived with Canada geese in mind, more than 280 species of birds have been identified around the 400-acre shallow water lake created by the damming of Middle Creek.

### Lancaster/Lebanon

#### Phone Number

- (717) 733-1512

#### Website

- [www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/enved/mcreek.htm](http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/enved/mcreek.htm)

#### Admission Fee

- None, but much of the area around the lake is closed September 15 to March 1.

#### Directions

- The wildlife management area is north of Lancaster, on the county border. The park Visitor Center is on Hopeland Road, south of Kleinfeltersville from Route 897 or north of Clay from Route 322.

### The Walks

If you begin your tour at the Visitor Center your first canine hike at Middle Creek will be on the *Conservation Trail*, a 1.5-mile loop of easy walking. The grass and dirt trail is the most paw-friendly of the hikes in the preserve.

More challenging is the *Millstone Trail*, that grinds 300 feet up into the Furnace Hills south of the lake at White Oak Picnic Area (the trailhead is across Millstone Road). Millstones were once quarried on these slopes and there are plenty of rocks still on the hill. The entire mile-plus affair is conducted under a lush canopy of hardwoods,

The best canine hike at Middle Creek is a forging of trails into a trinagular circuit south of the Visitor Center with parking along Hopeland Road near the impoundment dam. To get the

### *Bonus*

A short stroll on the paved *Willow Point Trail* through open ground leads to the most scenic viewpoint of the 400-acre lake. On the way, scan the surrounding fields grazed by geese and listen for songbirds. During migrations, swans and snow geese blanket the sky above the point. One of Pennsylvania's three-score eagle nests can be seen across the water here.



toughest stretch out of the way first, take the yellow-blazed *Horse-Shoe Trail* fork to the right for a narrow, rocky climb up the hillside. Elbow room awaits at the top of the hill and the remainder of the two-hour trek uses old roads (a left on the *Elders Run Trail*) and an abandoned trolley line (a final left on the *Middle Creek Trail*). This final leg traces a tumbling Middle Creek, not deep enough for canine swimming but always there for a refreshing doggie dip.

*Trail Sense:* A park map shows the location of the trails and the paths are well-marked with blazes and metal placards.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on these trails.

#### **Traffic**

Some stretches of trail are open to horses but most entertain foot traffic only.

#### **Canine Swimming**

Swimming is left to the ducks and geese at Middle Creek Management Area.

#### **Trail Time**

Several hours.

# 18

## *Blue Marsh Lake Recreation Area*

### **The Park**

In 1955, waters along the Delaware River and its tributaries poured over their banks and caused over \$100 million in property damage, taking 90 lives. Blue Marsh Lake was the result of a federal initiative by the United States Army Corps on Engineers to bring that type of devastating flooding under control. An earthen dam was erected across Tulpehocken Creek, blocking its flow to the

Schuylkill River. The resulting reservoir, developed in the 1970s, is designed to hold up to 11 billion gallons of water above normal wintertime depths. But most of the people who come to Blue Marsh Lake for recreation don't much think about that anymore.

### **The Walks**

The *Blue Marsh Lake Trail* actually circles the lake in a 30-mile journey, designed for bicycles and equestrians. The best place for canine hikers to sample the lake views from this path is at Old Dry Road Farm, a national historic site operated by the Army Corps as a living history museum (on Highland Road off Brownsville Road, park at the first gate past the farm and walk the road or further along in the State Game Lands parking area at the second gate). Use Highland Road as a spine for exploring this area and follow it to the lake and the multi-use trail. This is one of the best country lane/rolling farmland walks with your dog in the area.

### **Berks**

**Phone Number**

- (610) 376-6337

**Website**

- [nap.usace.army.mil/sb/recreation.htm](http://nap.usace.army.mil/sb/recreation.htm)

**Admission Fee**

- \$3 per vehicle from May 1 to September 30

**Directions**

- Blue Marsh Lake is located northwest of Reading on Route 183 between Route 222 and I-78.



Bonus

This area is considered by some as the “Orienteering Capital of North America. The European sport of wayfinding was first introduced in this country down the road in French Creek State Park.

A permanent self-guided course has been developed in the Dry Brooks Day Use Area to introduce trail users to the art of map and compass.

Try it and you can challenge your dog’s nose in a wayfinding contest.

Hiking-only trails at Blue Marsh Lake are located on opposite sides of the lake. The *Squirrel Run Nature Trail* loops around a small stream valley heading into the lake. The *Great Oak Nature Trail* at the Day Brooks Day Use Area dips and climbs to a wild-life viewing area and vistas of the lake. Both are secluded forested hikes of about one mile. Also at Day Brooks is the Foxtrot Hiking Loop, a lakeside amble that visits woodlands and farm fields.

*Trail Sense:* There is a trail map available at the park and online. The *Blue Marsh Lake Trail* is marked by brown signposts and mile markers.

**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the park trails but not in the swimming areas. Poop bags are provided in main lots.

**Traffic**

Blue Marsh Lake is a popular warm-weather destination but there is plenty of room to escape the water enthusiasts on the trails.

**Canine Swimming**

Access is problematic at times (high banks) but the water is great.

**Trail Time**

Several hours of canine hiking here.



# 19

## State Game Lands 211

### The Park

The Pennsylvania State Game Lands 211 encompasses 25,000 acres in three counties and blankets four mountains. Beginning in the mid-1700s this region appeared on maps as "St. Anthony's Wilderness." In 1742, a Moravian Church leader, Ludwig von Zinzendorf was on a peace mission with the Indian tribes of the Kittatinny and Blue mountains. Impressed by the narrow valley he was entering, von Zinzendorf named this portion of the country for a fellow missionary, Anthony Seyfert. In the 1800s surface coal was discovered here and mining began in earnest. By the 1870s the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Company would become the largest corporation in the world. The mining operations faded away and nature began reclaiming the land. Today the State Game Lands 211 is the second largest completely roadless area in Pennsylvania.

### The Walks

Almost anything your dog desires is open in the State Game Lands 211. The two most prominent access trails are 30 miles of the *Appalachian Trail* and the 19-mile *Stony Valley Rail Trail*. This

### Dauphin

Phone Number

- None

Website

- None

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- The State Game Lands 211 is northeast of Harrisburg. The easiest access is to the western terminus of the Stony Valley Rail Trail. Take Route 322 north to the Dauphin/Stony Creek exit (Route 255). In short order, make a right at the Stony Creek sign onto Schuylkill Street; make a right onto Erie Street and go to the end of the road; turn left onto Stony Creek Road and follow to Ellendale Road in about five miles. Continue on Ellendale (unimproved) for two miles to the trailhead at the end of the road.

### *Bonus*

The Stony Valley is essentially a vast ghost town. The industrial activities here once supported as many as 2,000 people. As your dog pokes around you can chance upon the foundations of ancient dams and bridges, sawmills and forges, hotels and office buildings, railroad and mining relics and more.

One of the most fascinating survivors of a time gone by is "The General" - a pioneering gas-powered shovel that stands rusting in the woods.

It can be found just off a blue-blazed Sand Spring Trail, accessed from Route 325 along Clark Creek.

nearly flat, wide trail uses the old rail bed of the Schuylkill and Susquehanna Railroad and makes for some of the easiest, most pleasant canine hiking around. The eastern trailhead for the rail-trail is on Gold Mine Road in Lebanon County.

As with all State Game Lands, the mature oak-hickory forest is managed for hunting. Deer, bear, and coyote can all be found here so check for warnings to hikers in-season, especially if you plan to venture off the rail-trail.

*Trail Sense:* Published maps of the area are available before you arrive but you will need to remember where you've been to make your way back on many of the blazed and unblazed trails through this wilderness.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to romp through this wilderness.

#### **Traffic**

This is a secluded and wild area. There is bicycle traffic on the rail-trail but if a bike or two an hour is too much traffic you can always delve deeper into the woods.

#### **Canine Swimming**

There are streams and ponds and swamps but an outing here is mostly a trotting-only affair for your dog on the rail-trail. Once dead from acid mine drainage, the Stony Creek has been neutralized by a water restoration process.

#### **Trail Time**

Several hours to several days.

*"Dogs' lives are too short. Their only fault, really."*

*-Agnes Sligh Turnbull*

# 20

## Gifford Pinchot State Park

### The Park

Gifford Pinchot studied in France and became the first American trained in forestry. He was named Chief Forester of the U. S. Division of Forestry and served under his good friend Theodore Roosevelt from 1898 to 1910. Together the two placed over 200 million acres of national forest came under scientific land management. Policies developed by Pinchot still help guide most national and state forests. In 1922 Pinchot began serving the first of two terms as governor of Pennsylvania. He created the first state budget and erased the state's debt, starting by cutting his own salary. This state park was dedicated in his honor in 1961, fifteen years after his death at age 81.

### The Walks

The focal point of Gifford Pinchot State Park is a multi-fingered lake. The trail system, with nearly 20 miles of paths, is constrained by the water although a variety of canine hikes can be cobbled together. The *Lakeside Trail* covers 8.5 miles around the lake and includes stretches on gravel, macadam and natural surfaces. There are some gentle hill climbs along the way but most of the canine hiking around Gifford Pinchot is easy on the paw.

You can head out on numerous short trails in a network at

### York

Phone Number

- (717) 432-5011

Website

- [dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

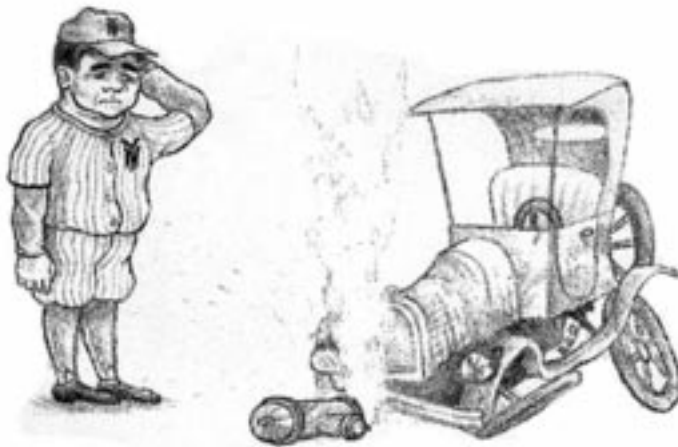
- The state park is situated between Harrisburg and York. From Harrisburg use the Lewisberry Exit (35) of I-83 south then PA 177 south; or by US 15 south to Dillsburg, then to PA 74 south. From York, take PA 74 north or I-83 north. From I-83, take the Newberrytown Exit (32), PA 382 west to PA 177 south.

### Bonus

The legacy of Gifford Pinchot is wide-ranging, but not without controversy. Although regarded as a pioneer in American land conservation his developmental policies were hotly contested in California and led to the formation of the Sierra Club, now the nation's leading voice for protecting our natural resources.

During the Depression in the 1930s Pinchot established work camps throughout Pennsylvania that President Franklin Roosevelt used as a model for the national Civilian Conservation Corps.

Pinchot's crews built 20,000 miles of paved roads for "taking the farmer out of the mud." His first hard-surfaced, high-crowned road is now PA 177, running across the northwest boundary of the state park.



the campground or latch on to the *Mason-Dixon Trail* as it nears its conclusion from the Brandywine Valley south of Philadelphia to the Appalachian Trail on South Mountain.

*Trail Sense:* The state park map is always available or use the lake for orientation.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the park trails but not in the spacious campground.

#### **Traffic**

Some of the trails are of the multi-use variety and it can get crowded near the parking lots.

#### **Canine Swimming**

When the trail closes in on Pinchot Lake.

#### **Trail Time**

Several hours available.

# 21

## *Chickies Rock County Park*

### **The Park**

American Indians called this bend in the Susquehanna River turns “Chiquesalunga” - the “place of the crayfish.” When settlers moved in, the crustaceans were forgotten and the area became an industrial and transportation center. The county began acquiring land for its second largest park in 1977. Its 422 acres are now managed to preserve the area’s natural resources, the most notable of these being the gigantic namesake outcropping of quartzite rock that towers 200 feet over the river. □

### **Lancaster**

#### Phone Number

- (717) 299-8215

#### Website

- [co.lancaster.pa.us/parks/](http://co.lancaster.pa.us/parks/)

#### Admission Fee

- None

#### Directions

- Chickies Rock is on the Susquehanna River, north of Columbia and Route 30. Take the Columbia/Route 441 Exit off Route 30 and head north. Heading uphill on the left will be the Breezy View Day-Use Area. The small parking lots (both sides of the road) for the Chickies Rock Overlook are at the crest of the hill.



*The view from Chickies Rock makes up for a lackluster uphill hike through a utility cut.*

### Bonus

Henry Haldeman operated a successful sawmill at Chickies Rock in the early 1800s. In 1845, to take advantage of the iron ore mined in open pits in the area, he built the first Chickies Furnace to refine iron on the same site. Before the end of the century seven blast furnaces and rolling mills would support a vibrant community. Remnants of this industrial heritage can still be seen in the quiet park today.



## **The Walks**

The best canine hiking at Chickies Rock is at Breezy View Day-Use Area that travels through a reclaimed woodland and natural meadow that flows down Chickies Hill to the river, known as Kerbaugh Lake, a filled-in body of water. First timers will have to try the *Chickies Rock Overlook Trail* for the river views but this stony pathway holds no thrills for dogs. Skip the *Clayton B. Shenk Hiking Trail* on the east side of the road altogether - it is steep, narrow and scarcely discernible in most places.

*Trail Sense:* Park maps are available.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the park trails.

### **Traffic**

Everybody is heading for the same spot on the same trails so they can seem crowded even when the park is not.

### **Canine Swimming**

None.

### **Trail Time**

About one hour.

# 22

## Theodore A. Parker III Natural Area

### The Park

When ninety acres of unspoiled woodland was ticketed to become a Lancaster County park, it was named for Lancaster City native Theodore A. Parker III. Born in 1953, Parker quickly developed an affinity for birding. By the age of 13 he knew every bird by its Latin name and while still in high school he established a national record for most birds observed in North America in a single year. He would come to recognize 4000 different birds by call. Concentrating his life's work in the tropics, Parker became an internationally known ornithologist discovering and cataloging rare species of rain forest birds. Nearly 100 species were named for him before he died tragically in a plane crash in Ecuador in 1993.

### The Walks

You will be leading your dog on a skinny interpretive trail that hugs the banks of Stewart Run through this lush ravine. To follow along you will need to make toeholds on exposed roots and scamper up and down wild rock formations. There isn't a distinct ending to your canine hike here once the information signs evaporate, it varies with your determination to forge ahead.

### Lancaster

Phone Number

- (717) 299-8215

Website

- [co.lancaster.pa.us/parks/](http://co.lancaster.pa.us/parks/)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- The Theodore A. Parker III Natural Area is located in southeast Lancaster County. Take Route 222 South through Quarryville for three miles and turn left on Blackburn Road after Solanco High School. Follow Blackburn Road for another three miles and make a sharp left back onto Wesley Road. The small parking lot is on the left, just past a small bridge.



*Bonus*

The impressive rock formations and sheer walls in the ravine have been one of nature's longest ongoing projects. The metamorphic rocks date back 400 million years to the Cambrian-Ordovician Era, the Age of Marine Invertebrates. Pieces of quartzite can be seen shining in the waters of Stewart Run.



*Lively Stewart Run on its race to Octoraro Creek will be sure to delight your dog in Theodore A. Parker III Natural Area.*

Although essentially flat terrain, this is a spirited hike for your dog with the stream never more than a jump away and twists and turns up and around yellow poplars and black birches and massive boulders.

*Trail Sense:* There is not a trail map but there is only one trail that leads into this narrow valley. It is up to you to decide where the trail ends.

**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to visit this area.

**Traffic**

Foot traffic only and very light. Mostly Fishermen visit Stewart Run.

**Canine Swimming**

The stream pools are seldom large enough for more than a few dog paddle strokes.

**Trail Time**

About one hour.

# 23

## Spring Valley County Park

### The Park

In 1972, when York County officials established Spring Valley County Park on 868 acres of old farm fields and a shaggy forest along the East Branch of Codorus Creek they wiped the name "Rehmeyer's Hollow" off local maps. Nelson Rehmeyer lived in this remote valley alone - even his wife resided outside the hollow - until a November night in 1928 when he was murdered by a man and two teenagers who believed the old man held a spell over them. The resulting trials for the "Hex Murders"

brought southern York County worldwide attention - much of it negative as a backwards culture in a booming industrial age. For many local residents Spring Valley will never replace "Hex Hollow" - annual events related to the macabre events of 1928 remain popular fundraisers.

### The Walks

Don't go to Spring Valley park without a mind to explore. Trails - there are six listed multi-use trails totalling about six miles - are marked sporadically or not at all. You are likely to pop out on a farm road or an open field or a horse ring. If you find yourself on a park road, however, you can easily continue your canine hike - you aren't likely to encounter much vehicular traffic in the park.

### York

Phone Number

- (717) 840-7740

Website

- [york-county.org](http://york-county.org)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- Spring Valley County Park is south of York. From I-83, take Exit 8, Glen Rock, and pick up Route 216 East. Before you accelerate turn right onto Potosi Road. Go 2 miles to an information board at Crest Road. Continue on Potosi to Line Road that runs along the north-south spine of the park.

### Bonus

Gold fever! It is believed that 1 in 6 York County streams contain gold - flakes about a quarter-inch in size that have eroded out of local quartz and settled in the sediment of streambeds. The Codorus Creek is one of the best for those seeking this placer gold. On the final Saturday of every July the park hosts a Gold Panning Seminar.



The trails climb away from the East Branch of Codorus Creek up moderate slopes, usually on paw-friendly grass or dirt. Expect single-file passages in some places, leash-stretching going in others.

*Trail Sense:* Trail maps can be picked up in the park and the numbered trails sport signposts.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the park trails. There is a Dog Training Area open to train sporting dogs from August 1st through March 31st. The area open to off leash training is: Everything within park boundaries that is south of Potosi Road, Potosi Road Extended and Sunlight Drive. The Fish For Fun Pond is open for dog swimming during the same time. A General Use Permit is required before a dog is allowed to run off leash.

#### **Traffic**

Equestrians and mountain bikers share all these trails but there is little visitation in this big park - estimated at about 20 visitors a day.

#### **Canine Swimming**

The East Branch of Codorus Creek is a narrow stream more suitable for canine splashing than swimming. Dogs are not allowed in the Fish For Fun Pond.

#### **Trail Time**

Several hours.

# 24

## Wildwood Lake Sanctuary

### The Park

For most of the 19th century this lake was known as Wetzel's Swamp and mostly ignored. In 1901 the City of Harrisburg established Wildwood Park as its part of the nationwide "City Beautiful" movement. Within a few years trails were built and pleasure boats were plying the gentle waters. Eventually a zoo and riding stables were included and Wildwood Park was a busy place indeed. But the zoo closed in the 1940s and interest in the park faded away. For decades the park changed from

popular playground to popular dumping ground. The turnaround began in the 1980s in the form of determined volunteers and government grants. The National Audubon Society named Wildwood Lake one of its national Important Birding Areas and in the late 1990s food service magnate Ben Olewine donated \$800,000 towards the creation of a state-of-the-art multi-million dollar nature center to complete the revitalization.

### The Walks

The main canine hike here is a circle of a little more than three miles around the lake. The lake is shoehorned into a few hundred acres dominated by major roadways and an industrial park but once the barrage of vehicular noise and public address pages disappear into background noise, the magic of the sanctuary

### Dauphin

#### Phone Number

- (717) 221-0292

#### Website

- [wildwoodlake.org](http://wildwoodlake.org)

#### Admission Fee

- None

#### Directions

- Wildwood Lake is in northern Harrisburg, just across I-81. From Route 322/22 North, take the Linglestown Road (Route 39) Exit and turn left. Make your first left at the light onto Industrial Road. There are three parking lots on your left heading down the road and another at Olewine Nature Center.

### *Bonus*

Wildwood Lake is home to the endangered American lotus, a particularly showy member of the water lily family, found in only two places in Pennsylvania.

The Paxton Creek is highly susceptible to an accumulation of silt that builds up in the shallow waters of the lake - ideal growing conditions for the yellow water lilies that blanket the water.



reveals itself. The hike is mostly flat, save for a rise in the north-east corner. You start out on paw-friendly woodchips on the *Towpath Trail* before transitioning on pavement. The *Delta Boardwalk*, accessed across a drawbridge, meanders for a half-mile through an active marsh and is just part of the extensive canine trotting on wood at Wildwood Lake.

The circuit is completed on a choice of the busier multi-use, paved *Wildwood Way Trail* or the traditional narrow dirt path on the *East Shore Trail*. Either way, be sure to sample the short loops that pop up on this stretch of trail.

*Trail Sense:* There are mapboards at every trailhead and you can print a map to carry off the web.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed to use the trail.

#### **Traffic**

The further removed you are from the parking lots at the towpath, the lighter it gets. Bikes are allowed on the paved Wildwood Way Trail.

#### **Canine Swimming**

Wildwood Lake is not a place for canine aquatics.

#### **Trail Time**

Several hours.

# 25

## Apollo County Park

### The Park

Paper manufacturer P.H. Glatfelter donated 149 acres for this park in 1969 that was christened "Apollo" for the moon landing on July 20 of that year. The park is quite possibly the first public facility named to honor the men who walked on the moon. The park remains undeveloped. In 2001, when a parking lot was first built, county officials estimated visitation at three people per day. The tiny lot scarcely accommodates three cars so it is unlikely that visitation has exploded since the building of the lot.

### The Walks

Apollo County Park is a lesson in not judging a trail by the parking lot. The sliver of dirt leading up a hill through a small opening in the trees holds little promise but soon the woods open up to reveal a thick carpet of ferns as you reach the trail loop that begins at the junction with the *Mason-Dixon Trail*. It is best to enter the loop going downhill in a clockwise direction.

At the bottom you make the first of two stream crossings of Wilson Run and soon you reach the second and begin the prettiest stretch of trail in York County as tumbling water rushes all about you in a hemlock-filled ravine. To complete the loop on this #1

### York

#### Phone Number

- (717) 840-7740

#### Website

- [york-county.org](http://york-county.org)

#### Admission Fee

- None

#### Directions

- Apollo County Park is southeast of York on the Susquehanna River, just upstream from Safe Harbor Dam. Take Route 74 South through Red Lion and make a left on Burkholder Road after town. Continue on Burkholder when it becomes Route 425 in New Bridgeville. Continue east for 3.5 miles and turn left on Boyd Road. Go to bottom of the hill and a Y-intersection with two gravel roads. Bear left to the end of Boyd and the small parking lot.

### *Bonus*

The steep walls of the Wilson Run ravine house some of the most dramatic fallen trees you can see anywhere. Logs scattered on the slopes and massive trunks crashed across the stream when bases erode can be seen along the Mason-Dixon Trail, especially past the park loop.

*Trail*, a scramble up a rock-filled stream cut is required. This is some of the nastier canine hiking in the area and you may be better served to retrace your steps on the *Mason-Dixon Trail* and spend extra time in the ravine.

There is additional canine hiking available on the *Mason-Dixon Trail* as it leaves county land. To the west, it is a short distance to the end of the ravine (much of it rock-hopping on often slippery boulders) and to the east it is about one mile to Boyds Run below the Safe Harbor Land. The trail runs atop a high river bluff in this direction.

*Trail Sense*: A trail map is available (usually) at the information board in the parking lot and the #1 Trail is marked by green signposts. If you have the map available, use it to keep a sharp eye out for the trail markers to turn while on the *Mason-Dixon Trail*. The *Mason-Dixon Trail* is blazed in blue.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the park trails.

#### **Traffic**

Almost none. The trails are too rugged for mountain bikes and the parking lot too small for horse trailers. Eight times out of ten you will probably have Apollo park trails to yourself and your dog.

#### **Canine Swimming**

The clear-flowing Wilson Run is deep enough for trout but not dog paddling.

#### **Trail Time**

About one hour for the park loop; limitless outings on the *Mason-Dixon Trail*.

*"They are superior to human beings as companions. They do not quarrel or argue with you. They never talk about themselves but listen to you while you talk about yourself, and keep an appearance of being interested in the conversation."*

*-Jerome K. Jerome*

# 26

## Heritage Rail Trail County Park

### The Park

The Northern Central Railroad began carrying passengers in 1838, rolling from Washington D.C. to Lake Ontario but the road was known mostly to farmers and coal miners until November 18, 1863 when Abraham Lincoln boarded a regular coach, sitting with other passengers, headed for Gettysburg to dedicate a new national cemetery (contrary to popular folklore he did not scribble out the Gettysburg Address on the back of an envelope on the train). Less than two years later the President's funeral train would travel the same route. Passenger service would continue until 1972 when Hurricane Agnes finished the fading line by washing out bridges and tearing up track. The 21-mile stretch of line from the Colonial Courthouse in York to the Maryland line, covering 176 acres was established in 1992 as the Heritage Rail Trail County Park. The trail connects with 20 miles of abandoned Northern Central bed in Maryland that the state opened in 1984 after removing 600 tons of trash along the right-of-way.

### The Walks

The Heritage rail-trail is broken up by nine parking lots so canine hikers with a two-car shuttle system can reduce the trail to manageable 2-3 mile segments. The crushed limestone and clay more or less follows Codorus Creek with some stretches through private farm fields and some wooded lanes. Most of the going on

### York

Phone Number

- (717) 840-7440

Website

- [ycwebserver.york-county.org/Parks/RailTrail.htm](http://ycwebserver.york-county.org/Parks/RailTrail.htm)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- In downtown York the northern terminus for the rail-trail begins directly behind the Colonial Courthouse on West Market Street.



### *Bonus*

A bit past five miles from York the rail-trail runs through Howard Tunnel, thought to be America's oldest railroad tunnel in continuous service.

Rather than continue laying track along the twisting Codorus Creek engineers opted to drill through 370 feet of rock to open the passageway in 1838.

The stone facework you see as you pass through the tunnel today was completed two years later.

In 1868 the brick-lined Howard Tunnel was rebuilt to accommodate a second track.



the rail-trail is over gentle grade; if you are searching for a heartier workout for your dog try the New Freedom trailhead.

*Trail Sense:* Trail maps are available and posted in the parking areas. Wooden markers signal trail distances.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed to use the rail trail.

#### **Traffic**

Bikes, skates, scooters - anything with wheels and no motor - use the Heritage Rail Trail. Horses, too. Skiers in the winter. The adjacent rail line is still active so keep an eye out for passing trains. With an estimated 300,000 annual users, this is York County's busiest park.

#### **Canine Swimming**

Much of the land along the rail corridor is private but it is possible to slip into Codorus Creek at times.

#### **Trail Time**

Several hours to all day.

# 27

## Shenks Ferry Glen Wildflower Preserve

### The Park

The Shenk family operated a ferry across the Susquehanna River at this point in the 1800s. But they were not the first inhabitants here. When archaeological digs uncovered an Indian village it was first believed to be a group of familiar Susquehannocks. But study of things like burial patterns indicated otherwise. These “lost people” were determined to be a prehistoric tribe from the 1300s who disappeared before European settlement. Now known as Shenks Ferry people, all that is known of them comes from bits and pieces of their culture found in the ground

here. In more recent times the sheltered ravine was the site of mining operations and a dynamite factory. On June 9, 1906 the factory exploded, killing 11 men and levelling every building in the area. Today the fortunes of these 50 acres in the glen is in the hands of the PPL Corporation. □

### The Walks

Most people make their way to this remote region for the most impressive wildflower display in the region. More than 70 species burst into bloom in spring with another 60 biding their time until summer. The main *Wildflower Trail* heads straight out from the trailhead before winding up in a grotto. The path is wide

### Lancaster

#### Phone Number

- (800) 354-8383

#### Website

- [pplprojectearth.com](http://pplprojectearth.com)

#### Admission Fee

- None

#### Directions

- The preserve is south of Lancaster on the Susquehanna River. From Route 324 take River Road north and make your second left onto River Hill Road. Turn right onto Green Hill Road and continue to the trailhead at the bottom of the hill. Alternatively, Green Hill Road can be accessed in the opposite direction from the village of Green Hill at River Road.

### *Bonus*

Early Indians spent great time in preparing their pots, decorating them with lines, dots and distinctive tops to make them unique. In addition, different groups used different clays found in the soil near their villages, all of this led to a distinctive kind of pot for each group. The Shenks Ferry pottery is characterized by crushed granite or quartz with the cords aligned vertically to the vessel. Decoration would come from incised lines in geometric patterns around the rim. So pay attention if your dog starts digging with purpose.



*The end of the line for canine hikes on the Wildflower Trail.*

and airy and easy going for any dog. Side trails scoot out of the ravine but the only way to create a circuit hike is to use the main dirt road.

*Trail Sense:* A bulletin board orients you at the trailhead; a brochure with a map and descriptions of the wildflowers in the glen is sometimes available at the preserve or can be printed online.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed in the preserve.

#### **Traffic**

Traffic is restricted to hikers only and there will seldom be much of it.

#### **Canine Swimming**

Grubb Run is only deep enough for splashing for your dog.

#### **Trail Time**

About an hour.

# 28

## William H. Kain County Park

### The Park

William H. Kain founded the family law firm in 1842 in York, where he also served as Superintendent of Schools. One hundred and thirty-seven years later his grandson, William H. Kain Jr., president of the York Water Company, executed a 50-year lease agreement to use the Water Company Reservoir Lands for a county park. The pioneering deal was the first United States county park developed in cooperation with a public utility. The William H. Kain County Park consists of 1,637 acres surrounding two lakes, Lake Williams (220 acres) and Lake Redman (290 acres).□

### York

Phone Number

- (717) 840-7740

Website

- [york-county.org](http://york-county.org)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

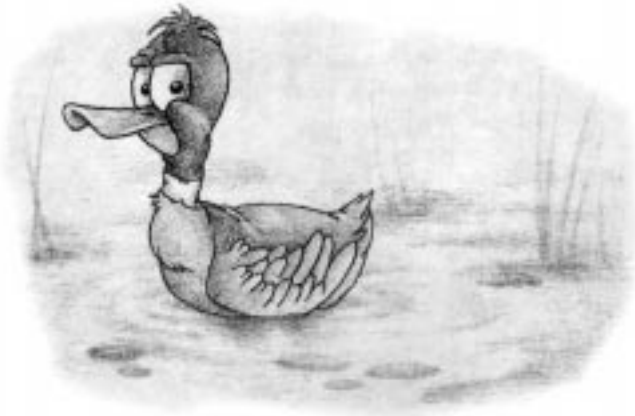
- Kain County Park is south of York on the north edge of Jacobus. From I-83, take Exit 14, Leaders Heights Road, west for one mile to Susquehanna Trail. Turn left and continue to the first of seven park lots on the right at Lake Williams.

### The Walks

Kain County Park features 12 miles of multi-use trails - all used by horses and mountain bikes. There are seven numbered trails, most of which do not loop. It is difficult to patch together a circuit hike without taking your dog along a paved suburban road. If that is your idea of an invigorating canine hike you can actually circumnavigate the two lakes. Whatever trail you choose around Lake Williams and Lake Redman expect a healthy workout for your dog on the many hills in the park. Paths range from roomy fire roads to the occasional ribbon trail. You will encounter stands of tall trees and stretches of wetlands and open hiking.

*Bonus*

With the help of 8,000 deck screws a 350-foot walking deck juts into Lake Redman near the Iron Stone Hill Road parking lot. A variety of waterfowl can be viewed from the deck, especially during the spring and fall migrations. Look for *Trail #5* to access the Bird Observation Deck, that required 8 months of negotiation to obtain building permits.



*Trail Sense:* Trail maps can be picked up in the park and the numbered trails are sometimes marked, sometimes not. There are many trails that do not appear on maps and aren't marked.

**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the park trails.

**Traffic**

These trails are popular with horses and mountain bikers - in York County parks dogwalkers must yield to horses

**Canine Swimming**

The trails drop down to lakeside every now and then; Codorus Creek is deep enough for dog paddling in the park's extremities.

**Trail Time**

Several hours.

*"What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight but the size of the fight in the dog."*

*-Dwight D. Eisenhower*

# 29

## *Conewago Recreational Trail / Lebanon Valley Rail Trail*

### **The Park**

First came the ore deposits - there are 82 different minerals in the hills around Cornwall. Then came the furnace to smelt the ore into iron. The first was built in 1742. Then came the rail lines to move the ore from the mines to the furnace. There would be three - the last built in 1883 by Robert H. Coleman to compete with the Cornwall Railroad operated by other members of his prominent family. Coleman's Cornwall & Lebanon Railroad tracks often ran alongside his competitors' and it was not unusual to see trains racing each other to provide superior service. Coleman eventually extended his line to Conewago Junction, tapping into the world's largest railroad system - the Pennsylvania Railroad. In 1910 there were eight passenger trains a day plying these tracks. Automobiles gradually ate away at the train business until Hurricane Agnes ripped up enough track in 1972 to close the Cornwall & Lebanon forever. The historic line was preserved by the county of Lancaster in 1979.

### **The Walks**

The 5.5-mile *Conewago Recreation Trail* is one of the best of the rail-to-trail family of abandoned railroads, exuding a peaceful country feel. You will slip under a tunnel of trees, past producing farms and massive boulder fields. The meandering Conewago Creek is never far away. Travel on the cinder path is

### **Lancaster**

#### Phone Number

- (717) 299-8215

#### Website

- [co.lancaster.pa.us/parks](http://co.lancaster.pa.us/parks)

#### Admission Fee

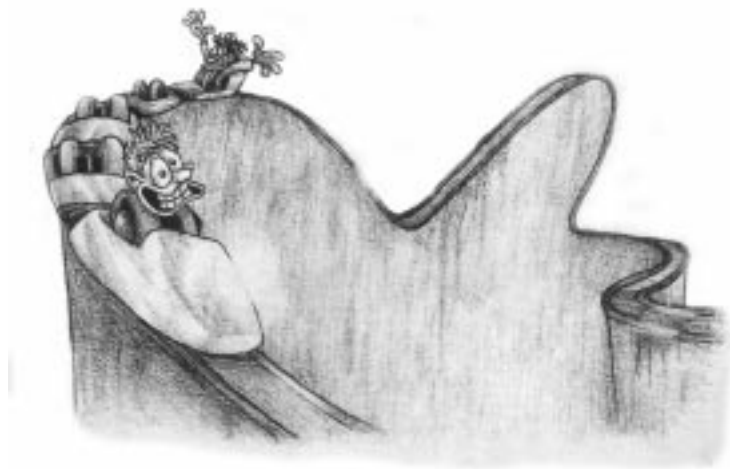
- None

#### Directions

- The rail trail are located between Lancaster and Harrisburg, in Elizabethtown. The trailhead is one mile northwest of town along Route 230.

### Bonus

Once you build a railroad you need a reason for passengers to jump aboard and pay a fare. So Robert Coleman built a sylvan retreat called Mt. Gretna. Thanks to the Cornwall & Lebanon's connection to the Reading and Pennsylvania railroad lines, his outdoor camp was accessible to vacationers across the country. President Benjamin Harrison passed some time here. Coleman created an early amusement park with a primitive switch-back rollercoaster, a dancing pavilion, a fancy carousel and other attractions. Today, Mt. Gretna is still a quiet retreat for those looking for an escape.



almost universally flat, make this some of the easiest canine hiking around.

The *Lebanon Valley Rail-Trail* extended down to its ninth mile - including the 1000th mile of old Pennsylvania railroad track converted to footpath - and connected with the Conewago trail in 2002 to create extended canine hiking in this area.

*Trail Sense:* The trail is marked every half-mile so if you are not using a car shuttle you can easily decide when to turn back.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed to use the trail.

#### **Traffic**

Horses are allowed and cyclists are common. No motorized vehicles allowed.

#### **Canine Swimming**

Conewago Creek can be accessed in several places and the waters can get frisky at times.

#### **Trail Time**

Several hours.

# 30

## Samuel S. Lewis State Park

### The Park

In 1954, following a distinguished career of service in local and state government, 79-year old Samuel S. Lewis donated 35 acres of his family farm to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Lewis did not stop there. He convinced his neighbor, Walter Stine, to donate five acres on which he had been planting exotic species of trees for years. Some additional land was quickly purchased from the adjoining Almoney Farm and the park was opened

to the public on Independence Day 1954. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources annexed a final 14 acres in 1999 to bring Samuel S. Lewis State Park to its current size of 85 acres atop Mt. Pisgah.

### The Walks

The canine hike at Samuel S. Lewis is the *Hill Top Trail*, a circuit loop of a little over a mile, partly through a small woodland and partly across open, mowed grass fields. The trail drops off the hilltop on the southern side into a mature pine plantation and injects a dose of hardiness for your dog into this pleasant stroll. The path through the woods is laid down with small rocks but is a paw-friendly grass in the recreational areas of the park.

At the top of 885-foot Mt. Pisgah, the end of a high ridge blocking Kreutz Creek Valley from East Prospect Valley, the trail slides through George E. Stine Arboretum. Although many trees

### York

Phone Number

- (717) 432-5011

Website

- [state.pa.us](http://state.pa.us)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- Samuel S. Lewis State Park is east of York. From US 30 take the Wrightsville exit onto Cool Creek Road, heading south. At Mt. Pisgah Road in 1.5 miles turn right and then left into the park in .5 miles.



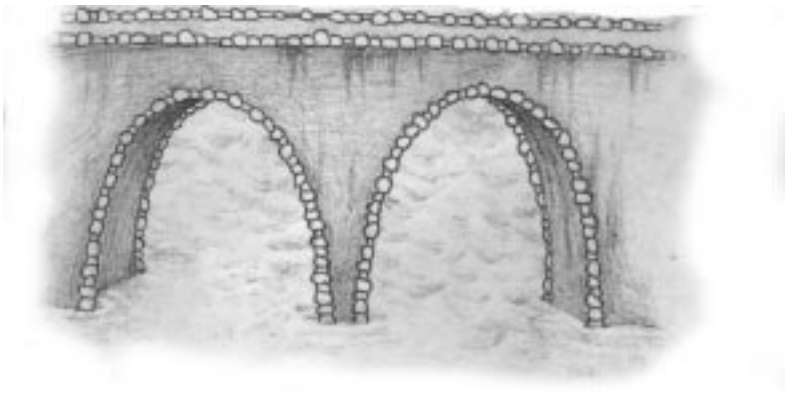
### Bonus

The open fields on the east side of Mount Pisgah serve up a 20-mile sweeping view of the Susquehanna River.

The area beneath you was under consideration as the site for the capital of the United States before the final selection on the Potomac trumped this safer inland site as a compromise with Virginian legislators.

The first bridge across the river - one mile wide at this point - to replace the busy ferry operated by the Wright family was built in 1812 and was the longest covered bridge in the world at that time.

The original Route 30 bridge (now Route 462) was finished in 1925 and is thought to be the world's longest multiple arch bridge.



fell victim to recent windstorms, several unique specimens still stand such as the European beech, much loved for its handsome trunk and copper-colored autumn leaves. Other trees that enjoy the open hilltop include the white fir, whose non-aromatic wood was once favored for butter churns, and the persimmon, treasured for its tasty fruits and hard wood used for golf club heads.

*Trail Sense:* Park maps are available on site and the trails are well-marked with red blazes and signposts at trail junctions.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the state park trails.

#### **Traffic**

The park is a popular destination for picnics and even weddings. The trails are reserved for foot traffic.

#### **Canine Swimming**

There is no water atop Mount Pisgah.

#### **Trail Time**

Less than one hour.

# 31

## Turkey Hill Trail

### The Park

Turkey Hill is a bulbous knob that juts into the Susquehanna River. A series of islands just north of the knob foster a rich fishing ground that has attracted interest since the days of the Susquehannock Indians. William Penn considered the area north of Turkey Hill for a “new Philadelphia” and Blue Rock Road was an early candidate as America’s “Gateway to the West.” The rich farmland yielded great harvests of tobacco in the 1800s but is better known today for the Frey family dairy that began as a door-to-door milk delivery business during the Depression in the 1930s. The trail is under the stewardship of the Lancaster County Conservancy. □

### Lancaster

Phone Number

- (717) 392-7891

Website

- [lancasterconservancy.org](http://lancasterconservancy.org)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- The Turkey Hill Trail hugs the Susquehanna River south of Columbia. From Washington Boro, at the junction of Water Street (Route 441) and Penn Street (Route 999), take River Road out of town. The northern trailhead is in a wooded patch about 1.5 miles down the road. There is limited parking here. A bigger lot is at the southern trailhead, past the Turkey Hill Dairy and behind the Highville fire station, still on River Road. To find the trailhead follow the fenceline on the right.

### The Walks

The Turkey Hill Trail is a 3.3-mile string path that can be a challenge for canine hikers. The sensational views of the Susquehanna River that make this a popular hiker’s destination are often found on exposed cliffs that will not favor an overly rambunctious dog. Active railroad tracks come into play on this canine hike. And without a car shuttle it can be a long hiking day

### *Bonus*

Just a short hike from the northern trailhead as Wisslers Run is America's largest patch of pawpaw trees north of Washington DC.

The pawpaw tree is a North American native found mostly in the south, although it can grow as far north as Ontario and west to Nebraska.

It is known for its stubby banana-like fruit that is custard-like in texture. The pawpaw is being manipulated by growers attempting to breed a tree to bear fruit appealing to a wide audience.

Substances found in the pawpaw twigs may provide a powerful anti-cancer drug and a safe natural pesticide.

for a dog to see the whole trail.

Still, the actual hiking is not strenuous as you stay atop the ridgeline for most of the route. The hardwood forest makes for a pleasant passing and the overlooks are a great location for spying eagles, ospreys, vultures and hawks hunting in the waters below.

*Trail Sense:* There are no maps and the way to go can sometimes be hard to discern, especially from the northern trailhead. Narrow stretches can lean toward overgrown in the summer.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the Turkey Hill Trail.

#### **Traffic**

Foot traffic only; popular with birdwatchers and leaf peepers.

#### **Canine Swimming**

Wisslers Run, as the northern boundary of the trail, and Manns Run, in the middle of the canine hike, are a water-loving dog's choices, rather than the Susquehanna River.

#### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.

*"Dog. A kind of additional or subsidiary Deity  
designed to catch the overflow and surplus of the  
world's worship."*

*-Ambrose Bierce*

# 32

## *Indian Steps Museum*

### **The Park**

York attorney John Edward Vandersloot spent much of his free time unearthing artifacts from ancient civilizations along the banks of the Susquehanna River, which is named for the American Indian word for a long, winding river. In 1907 he purchased 9.5 acres along the river in Lower Chanceford Township to build a cabin to house his collection. He called it Indian Steps for notches carved in river boulders as footholds for fishermen dropping nets over shad runs. Vandersloot's multi-level cabin

was unique, to be sure. He embedded the masonry walls with thousands of artifacts to form Indian patters, birds, animals and reptiles. He constructed a great circular kiva -used in ceremonies by the Anasazis of the Southwest - inside his cabin. When Vandersloot died in 1936 the property was acquired by Pennsylvania Water & Power who agreed to keep Indian Steps open for public recreation and education. And so they have. John Vandersloot's wondrous cabin has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **The Walks**

The grounds of the Indian Steps Museum feature a 60-tree arboretum highlighted by a holly tree estimated to be over 350 years old. A southern species, this 65-foot tree is considered the

### **York**

#### Phone Number

- (717) 993-3392

#### Website

- [fieldtrip.com/pa/77553777.htm](http://fieldtrip.com/pa/77553777.htm)

#### Admission Fee

- Yes, nominal for the museum open Thursday-Sunday, April-October

#### Directions

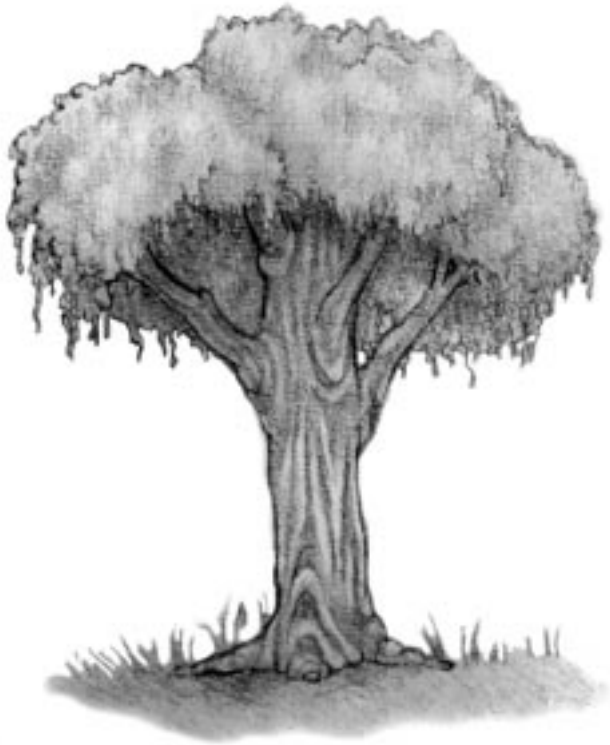
- From York, take Route 74 South (Peach Bottom Road) to Airville. Turn right onto Rt. 425 East, go about 2 miles to Indian Steps Road. Turn right to the museum on the left.

### *Bonus*

On the Indian Steps grounds is a traditional Pacific Northwest totem pole. Carved of prototypical red cedar, totem poles - the name used by Europeans for the carved wooden pillars - tell tribal stories, often symbolized by animals. This totem pole features seven levels and depictions of a fish, a turtle and a raven, among others.

largest holly tree at this latitude in the United States. Across the street is Ulmer-Root-Haines Memorial Park that features a self-guided nature trail that slices across a wooded hillside. A short detour leads up the hill to series of picturesque cascades when water is flowing.

*Trail Sense:* There is an information board and signs across the property.



#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the museum grounds.

#### **Traffic**

Visitation is slight in this peaceful setting, except for school groups.

#### **Canine Swimming**

Your dog can slip into the Susquehanna River for a dip in front of Indian Steps.

#### **Trail Time**

Less than one hour.

# 33

## Capital Area Greenbelt

### The Park

Unique among Pennsylvania cities, Harrisburg's 20-mile Capital Area Greenbelt was a century in the making. After a European tour in 1900, naturalist Mira Lloyd Dock returned to Harrisburg with a vision of an "emerald necklace" of parks and pathways to energize the increasingly polluted city. An impassioned speech by Dock to the Harrisburg Board of Trade led to a commitment to greenspace that increased city park acreage from 46 in 1902 to 958 in 1915. Dock lived into her 90s but her death in 1945 and suburban flight cost the Greenbelt its leading voice and necessary tax funds. It would take another half-century and a national revival in linear urban parks to revive the Greenbelt. The park is maintained through a blend of private activism and governmental action.

### The Walks

Canine hiking on the Greenbelt is on paved or hard gravel surfaces. The route travels along the Susquehanna River, industrial areas and under shaded lanes at times. Most canine hikers new to Harrisburg will want to try the stretch along the river - much of this land has been recycled on layers of iron slag from local iron furnaces.

*Trail Sense:* The trail is tagged with signs every now and then and some parking lots feature large mapboards.

### Dauphin

Phone Number

- (717) 921-4733

Website

- [caga.org](http://caga.org)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- The Greenbelt is actually a linear park connecting and passing through Riverfront Park, Cameron Parkway, Paxtang Park, Paxtang Parkway, Reservoir Park, the grounds of the State Hospital, Harrisburg Area Community College, and Wildwood Lake.

### *Bonus*

Off PA 441, west of the East Mall and the county prison, is the Five Senses Garden, with plantings designed to stimulate your smell, taste, touch, sight and sound (listen to the gurgling Spring Creek).



#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed to use the trail.

#### **Traffic**

Heavy; in busy times you dog will be sharing the Greenbelt with strollers, skaters, bikes, joggers, and other dogs.

#### **Canine Swimming**

There is an occasional chance to slip into the water but that is not a feature of the Greenbelt.

#### **Trail Time**

As much as your dog wants.

*“My dog can bark like a Congressman, fetch like an aide, beg like a press secretary and play dead like a receptionist.”*

*-Gerald Solomon*

# 34

## Shank Park

### The Park

Shank Park, created in 1977, is the largest of the several Derry Township parks around Hershey. Although most of Shank Park's 90 acres are given over to ballfields, a 1.63-mile nature trail rings the property.

### The Walks

The nature trail is a welcome find for your dog just minutes away from the crush of tourists. There are just enough woodlands to engulf the canine hiker in trees - many of which are marked to make this a good hike for tree identification. The route slips in and out of woods, through a pine plantation and up and down sporty hills.

You can also access the 11-mile, paved *Jonathan Eshenour Memorial Trail* that connects Derry Township parks. The trail, that remembers a young victim of a bicycle accident in 1997, is paved and crosses many active roadways. In Bullfrog Valley Park, the first park north of Shank Park on the route, there is a scenic half-mile stretch against a wooded hillside that traces a duck pond and a lively stream. It is a worthy adjunct to a canine hike in Shank Park.

*Trail Sense:* A park map is posted on bulletin boards but there are no distinct markings for the trailhead.

### Dauphin

Phone Number

- None

Website

- None

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- Shank Park is south of Hershey. Just east of the Route 422/Route 322 split, turn south on Bullfrog Valley Road on the western edge of the Hershey Medical Center of Pennsylvania State University. Go about two miles to the park entrance on the right.



### *Bonus*

In the 1850s this was the center of a bustling brownstone quarrying area. Eleven quarries operated to remove the prized building stone and a wagon road was built to transport the rough-cut brownstone to New York and Philadelphia and other major cities where it was used to build some of America's most elegant buildings. In 1892 the Brownstone-Middletown Railroad was built to link the quarries to the Reading Railroad. The quarries closed in the 1920s when brick became a less expensive building alternative and on July 10, 1939 the rail line closed after cleaning up leftover stone. The old roadbed is now part of the Eshenour Trail.



#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed in the park away from the ballfields.

#### **Traffic**

This is a popular park and the trail loops across the entrance road and parking lots. The Eshenour Trail supports bike and wheeled traffic.

#### **Canine Swimming**

This is strictly a hiking outing.

#### **Trail Time**

Less than one hour, unless you set out on the bike/hike trail.

# 35

## Lock 12 Historic Area

### The Park

In America's great canal-building age of the 1820s and 1830s there was obvious interest in creating an efficient waterway down the Susquehanna to the Chesapeake Bay. In 1835 the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal Company was chartered to build a canal 45 miles from Wrightsville to Havre de Grace. Engineers had to overcome an elevation drop of 233

feet with the construction of 28 lift locks. The canal was ready for traffic by 1840 and until 1894 thousands of barges hauling coal, lumber, iron and grain bound for Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York maneuvered through the canal at speeds no greater than four miles per hour. The Pennsylvania Power & Light Company maintains the Lock 12 Historic Area for public use.

### The Walks

The Lock 12 Historic Area is one of the first encounters with the 190-mile *Mason-Dixon Trail* as it enters York County on its peripatetic journey from Chadds Ford south of Philadelphia to the Appalachian trail west of Harrisburg. The narrow band of trail is akin to walking atop a stone wall as it travels through the park. A satisfying canine hike is to take the *Mason-Dixon Trail* north until it swings across River Road and south through the Lock 13 area.

*Trail Sense:* A detailed map is available on the information board and in the park brochure. The *Mason-Dixon Trail* is blazed in blue.

### York

#### Phone Number

- (800) 354-8383

#### Website

- [pplprojectearth.com](http://pplprojectearth.com)

#### Admission Fee

- None

#### Directions

- In southern York County, the park is on River Road at the Norman Wood Bridge on Route 372 over the Susquehanna River.

### *Bonus*

Lock 12 has survived in remarkably pristine condition and has been preserved by the power company.

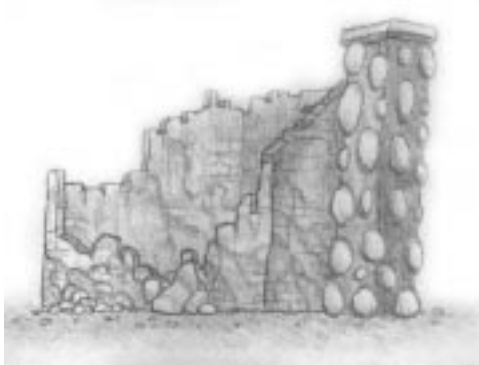
The walls, meticulously constructed of native schist-stone by hand, are still intact although the wooden gates that closed to seal in water and raise the barges 8.8 feet in less than 10 minutes have disintegrated.

For those who prefer their historical ruins less groomed, walk a half-mile downstream to the remains of Lock 13.

You can still see the fine craftsmanship that has enabled the stone walls to survive more than 100 years after they were abandoned, albeit in a much wilder state.

Large trees even grow in the middle of the lock now.

Another reconstructed remnant of the Industrial Age in the historic area is a hillside limekiln used to prepare limestone as a top dressing for farm fields and conjuring plaster and mortar. Additional ruins at the site include a foundation of a sawmill, the remains of Stab Tavern and the traces of an old covered bridge.



#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed throughout the historic area.

#### **Traffic**

Foot traffic only and very little.

#### **Canine Swimming**

Much of the river bottom below the Holtwood Dam is exposed, creating small pockets of water that are ideal doggie swimming pools. Heed the signs to evacuate the area if a water release from the dam is signaled.

#### **Trail Time**

About one hour.

# 36

## *Speedwell Forge Park*

### **The Park**

James Old and David Caldwell built the Speedwell Forge in 1760. They selected 40 acres on Hammer Creek, 11 miles south of Lebanon for their nascent ironworks. The forge was kept busy producing munitions during the Revolution and at war's end Old sold the business to his son-in-law, Robert Coleman, a 38-year old Irish bookkeeper. Coleman used the Speedwell Forge as the keystone in a mining and foundry empire that would prosper to such an extent that he is widely regarded as Pennsylvania's first millionaire. The forge shut down just before the Civil War and nature gradually reclaimed the land. The county added 415 acres to its holdings in creating this undeveloped park.

### **The Walks**

A quiet trail snakes through a variety of habitats in Speedwell Forge Park. You start on a paw-friendly grass and dirt path that traces the winding Hammer Creek wetlands before heading up into cultivated fields and a wildflower meadow. This mile-long loop returns to a stream and finishes down an old wooded, country lane. Of course, this canine hike is pleasant enough for you to turn around and do it again.

### **Lancaster**

**Phone Number**

- (717) 299-8215

**Website**

- [co.lancaster.pa.us/parks/](http://co.lancaster.pa.us/parks/)

**Admission Fee**

- None

**Directions**

- The park is located north of Lancaster, south of Lititz. From the intersection of Routes 501 and 322 in Brickerville, travel west on Route 322 for 200 yards and turn left onto Long Lane. Follow Long Lane to the end at a T-intersection in 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Speedwell Forge Road and after one-half mile cross a small bridge and turn right into the small parking lot.

*Bonus*

When Robert Coleman bought the Speedwell Forge it came with a three-story mansion built in 1760. The house stayed in his family until 1941 and is now being restored as a bed and breakfast. Included in the restoration of this historic property is a stone, three-hole outhouse. The “necessary” also features two doors and two windows.



Down the road from Speedwell Forge Park is Speedwell Forge Lake. No canine hiking, but a great place to stop for a doggie swim (boat launch at Zartman Mill Road).

*Trail Sense:* There are signposts to guide you on this trail.

**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed in this undeveloped park.

**Traffic**

Almost none.

**Canine Swimming**

Hammer Creek is deep enough to act as a canine swimming hole.

**Trail Time**

Less than one hour.



*The swimming is easy for dogs in Hammer Creek in Speedwell Forge County Park.*

# 37

## *Stoever's Dam Park*

### **The Park**

Stoever's Dam Park lies on the ancestral land of Martin Light who farmed around several springs in the late 1700s. His grandson sold the farm to John Stoever in 1821 and construction was promptly begun on a dam to provide water for the Union Canal. The venture was never a full success and the property including the dam passed through the Reading Railroad, the Lebanon Water Company and eventually Bethlehem Steel. In 1966 the land around the dam was leased by the City of Lebanon

for recreational purposes and seven years later the city took ownership for one thousand and one dollars. In 1979 the dam was declared unsafe and recommended for permanent breaching. Instead local support saved the dam and the park has grown and thrived ever since.

### **Lebanon**

Phone Number

- None

Website

- [stoeversdam.8k.com/  
index.html](http://stoeversdam.8k.com/index.html)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- Stoever's Dam Park is in the northeast area of the city of Lebanon. Take Route 422 into town and turn north onto 8th Avenue. After about 1.8 miles turn left onto Miller Street and continue until you see the Nature Barn in less than one mile.



### Bonus

A 125-year old barn has been converted into the “Nature Barn,” with a greenhouse and displays on animals native to the park - including a working beehive with 10,000 bees. Nearby is a carefully planted arboretum.



### **The Walks**

A walking path circumnavigates the lake, squeezing past farm fields, wetlands and residential housing. This is easy, level canine hiking with plenty of open air and sunshine. Another pleasant ramble with your dog in Stoever’s Dam Park is through the widely spaced arboretum on a marked trail.

*Trail Sense.* There is some signage for the trail system in the park or you can poke around on your own.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed in the park; poop bags are provided.

#### **Traffic**

On good days there can be quite a crowd enjoying this pleasant stroll.

#### **Canine Swimming**

The water level is below the path most of the way but there is the chance for your dog to slip in for a swim.

#### **Trail Time**

Less than one hour.

## Dog Parks

*Dog parks often begin as informal gatherings of dog owners that eventually become legitimized by local government. Citizen activists in many places in the region are advocating for future dog parks but only one area public park currently allows dogs off leash in designated dog parks:*









**Buchanan Park Dog Park** (*Lancaster City: Buchanan Avenue and Race Avenue on the campus of Franklin & Marshall College*)

- ▶ fenced enclosure
- ▶ dirt and grass surface
- ▶ no lights; closed at dusk
- ▶ benches and tables
- ▶ poop bags and trash cans





## ***Tips For Enjoying Your Visit To The Dog Park***

-  Keep an eye on your dog and a leash in hand. Situations can change quickly in a dog park.
-  Keep puppies younger than 4 months at home until they have all necessary inoculations to allow them to play safely with other dogs. Make certain that your older dog is current on shots and has a valid license.
-  ALWAYS clean up after your dog. Failure to pick up your dog's poop is the quickest way to spoil a dog park for everyone.
-  If your dog begins to play too rough, don't take time to sort out blame - leash the dog and leave immediately.
-  Leave your female dog at home if she is in heat.
-  Don't volunteer to bring all the dogs in the neighborhood with you when you go. Don't bring any more dogs than you can supervise comfortably.
-  Observe and follow all posted regulations at the dog park.
-  **HAVE AS MUCH FUN AS YOUR DOG!**

This list is thankfully short - it can go on for pages in other nearby areas; some state parks in Maryland don't allow dogs and many parks and nature centers near Philadelphia ban dogs...

# No Dogs!

*Berks County*  
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

*York County*  
Nixon Park (on trails)

## *How To Pet A Dog*

*Tickling tummies slowly and gently works wonders.*

*Never use a rubbing motion; this makes dogs bad-tempered.*

*A gentle tickle with the tips of the fingers is all that is necessary to induce calm in a dog. I hate strangers who go up to dogs with their hands held to the dog's nose, usually palm towards themselves.*

*How does the dog know that the hand doesn't hold something horrid? The palm should always be shown to the dog and go straight down to between the dog's front legs and tickle gently with a soothing voice to accompany the action. Very often the dog raises its back leg in a scratching movement, it gets so much pleasure from this.*

*-Barbara Woodhouse*

# Index To Parks

## ***Berks County***

	<i>page</i>
Blue Marsh Lake Recreation Area	48
French Creek State Park	20
Mount Penn	42
Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center	14
The Pinnacle	24
State Game Lands 110	30

## ***Dauphin County***

	<i>page</i>
Boyd Big Tree Conservation Area	34
Capital Area Greenbelt	78
Joseph E. Ibberson Conservation Area	16
Shank Park	80
State Game Lands 211	50
Wildwood Lake Sanctuary	60

## ***Lancaster County***

	<i>page</i>
Central Park	36
Chickies Rock County Park	54
Ferncliff Wildflower and Wildlife Preserve	44
Kellys Run Natural Area	22
Money Rocks County Park	40
Shenks Ferry Glen Wildflower Preserve	66
Speedwell Forge Park	84
Susquehannock State Park	18
Theodore A. Parker III Natural Area	56
Tucquan Glen Nature Preserve	26
Turkey Hill Trail	74

## ***Lebanon County***

	<i>page</i>
Conewago/Lebanon Valley Rail Trail	70
Governor Dick	38
Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area	46
Stoever's Dam Park	86

## ***York County***

	<i>page</i>
Apollo County Park	62
Codorus State Park	28
Gifford Pinchot State Park	52
Heritage Rail Trail County Park	64
Indian Steps Museum	76
Lock 12 Historic Area	82
Rocky Ridge County Park	32
Samuel S. Lewis State Park	78
Spring Valley County Park	58
William H. Kain County Park	68

*"If there are no dogs in Heaven,  
then when I die I want to go where they went."*

*-anonymous*

