

# Doggin' Pittsburgh

***The 50 Best Places  
To Hike With Your Dog  
In Southwest Pennsylvania***

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Cruden Bay Books



There is always a new trail to look forward to...

**DOGGIN' PITTSBURGH: THE 50 BEST PLACES TO HIKE  
WITH YOUR DOG IN SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**

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*“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*

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## Introduction

Pittsburgh can be a great place to hike with your dog. Within a short drive your canine adventurer can be climbing mountains that leave him panting, trotting through impossibly green ravines, exploring the estates of America's wealthiest families or circling lakes for miles and never lose sight of the water.

I have selected what I consider to be the 50 best places to take your dog for an outing around Pittsburgh and ranked them according to subjective criteria including the variety of hikes available, opportunities for canine swimming and pleasure of the walks. The rankings include a mix of parks that feature long walks and parks that contain short walks. Did I miss your favorite? Let us know at [www.hikewithyourdog.com](http://www.hikewithyourdog.com).

For dog owners it is important to realize that not all parks are open to our best trail companions (see page 14 for a list of parks that do not allow dogs). It is sometimes hard to believe but not everyone loves dogs. We are, in fact, in the minority when compared with our non-dog owning neighbors.

So 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. And maybe some others will see the light as well. *Remember, every time you go out with your dog you are an ambassador for all dog owners.*

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 the Pittsburgh region from a canine perspective. 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 his activity level.

## Weather

Hot humid 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 the prime hiking days of late fall through early spring that don't seem too warm can cause discomfort in dark-coated dogs if the sun is shining brightly. During cold snaps, short-coated breeds may require additional attention.

### Trail Hazards

Dogs won't get poison ivy but they can transfer it to you. 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.

### Ticks

You won't be able to spend much time in Pennsylvania woods 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. And when the summer sun fades away don't stop thinking about ticks - they remain active any time the temperature is above 30 degrees. 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.

### Water

Surface water, including fast-flowing streams, is likely to be infested with a microscopic protozoa called *Giardia*, waiting to wreak havoc on a dog's intestinal system. The most common symptom is 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.

At the beach, cool sea water will be tempting for your dog but try to limit any drinking as much as possible. Again, have plenty of fresh water available for your dog to drink instead.

## Rattlesnakes and Copperheads, etc.

Rattlesnakes and their close cousins, copperheads, are not particularly aggressive animals but you should treat any venomous snake with respect and keep your distance. A rattler's colors may vary but they are recognized by the namesake rattle on the tail and a diamond-shaped head. Unless cornered or teased by humans or dogs, a rattlesnake will crawl away and avoid striking. Avoid placing your hand in unexamined rocky areas and crevasses and try and keep your dog from doing so as well. Stick to the trail and out of high grass where you can't see well. 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 is bitten, do not panic but get to a hospital or veterinarian with as little physical movement as possible. Wrap between the bite and the heart. Rattlesnakes 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.



## Black Bears

Are you likely to see a bear while out hiking with your dog? No, it's not likely. It is, however, quite a thrill if you are fortunate enough to spot a black bear on the trail - from a distance.

Black bear attacks are incredibly rare. In the year 2000 a hiker was killed by a black bear in Great Smoky National Park and it was the first deadly bear attack in the 66-year history of America's most popular

national park. It was the first EVER in the southeastern United States. In all of North America only 43 black bear mauling deaths have ever been recorded (through 1999).

Most problems with black bears occur near a campground (like the above incident) where bears have learned to forage for unprotected food. On the trail bears will typically see you and leave the area. What should you do if you encounter a black bear? Experts agree on three important things:

- 1) *Never run. A bear will outrun you, outclimb you, outswim you. Don't look like prey.*
- 2) *Never get between a female bear and a cub who may be nearby feeding.*
- 3) *Leave a bear an escape route.*

If the bear is at least 15 feet away and notices you make sure you keep your dog close and calm. If a bear stands on its hind legs or comes closer it may just be trying to get a better view or smell to evaluate the situation. Wave your arms and make noise to scare the bear away. Most bears will quickly leave the area.

If you encounter a black bear at close range, stand upright and make yourself appear as large a foe as possible. Avoid direct eye contact and speak in a calm, assertive and assuring voice as you back up slowly and out of danger.

## Porcupines


Porcupines are easy for a curious dog to catch and that makes them among the most dangerous animals you may meet because an embedded quill is not only painful but can cause infection if not properly removed.



# Outfitting Your Dog For A Hike

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

- ▶ **Collar.**  
A properly fitting collar 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 dog's 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. 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 poop 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 southwest Pennsylvania is trail maintenance - your dog can pack out trash left by inconsiderate visitors before you.



🐾 *Are dog booties a good idea?*

Although not typically necessary, dog booties can be an asset, especially for the occasional canine hiker whose paw pads have not become toughened. Many Pittsburgh area trails are rocky and in some places there may be broken glass or roots. Hiking boots for dogs are designed to prevent pads from cracking while trotting across rough surfaces.

🐾 *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
- ▶ insect repellent - no reason to leave your dog unprotected against mosquitoes and biting flies
- ▶ 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 poop 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.

## *The Best of the Best*



### ***DOG-FRIENDLIEST PARK***

Townsend Park



### ***BEST INTERPRETIVE TRAIL***

Hemlock Trail - Laurel Hill State Park



### ***BEST HIKE TO MEET OTHER DOGS***

Hartwood Acres



### ***BEST 1-HOUR WORKOUT FOR YOUR DOG***

Brady's Run Park



### ***BEST CANINE HIKE TO A WATERFALL***











Hell's Hollow - McConnells Mill State Park



### ***BEST CANINE HIKE TO A VIEW***

Wolf Rocks - Laurel Summit State Park



-  ***BEST HIKE TO CIRCLE A LAKE WITH YOUR DOG***  
Keystone Lake State Park
  
-  ***BEST DOGGIE SWIMMING HOLE***  
Blue Hole Creek - Forbes State Forest
  
-  ***BEST RAIL TRAIL FOR YOUR DOG***  
Roaring Run Watershed
  
-  ***BEST PLACE TO HIKE ALL DAY WITH YOUR DOG***  
Quebec Run Wild Area - Forbes State Forest
  
-  ***BEST 5-MILE HIKE WITH YOUR DOG***  
Alpha Pass/Kildoo Loop - McConnells Mill State Park
  
-  ***PRETTIEST HIKE WITH YOUR DOG***  
Ferncliff Trail - Ohiopyle State Park
  
-  ***BEST HALF-HOUR HIKE WITH YOUR DOG***  
Flat Rock Trail - Linn Run State Park
  
-  ***MOST HISTORIC HIKE FOR YOUR DOG***  
Fort Necessity National Battlefield
  
-  ***BEST HIKE THROUGH MEADOWS***  
Friendship Hill National Historic Site
  
-  ***PARK YOU WOULD MOST WANT DOGS ALLOWED WHERE THEY CURRENTLY CAN'T GO***  
Bear Run Nature Reserve

# No Dogs

Before we get started on the best places to take your dog, let's get out of the way some of the parks that do not allow dogs at all:

Bear Run Nature Reserve

Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Todd Sanctuary

Gilfillan Farm



O.K. that wasn't too bad. Let's forget about these and move on to some of the great places where we CAN take our dogs on Pittsburgh area trails...



*The 50 Best Places  
To Hike With Your Dog  
Around Pittsburgh...*

# I

# Ohiopyle State Park

## The Park

By the 1870s the railroads had penetrated the rugged Youghiogheny River Gorge and reached Ohiopyle, chasing the timber trade. Quickly enough the breathtaking scenery held sway and soon the Baltimore & Ohio railroad was hauling tourists as well as lumber. It cost \$1 to ride from Pittsburgh to Ohiopyle and back.

Hotels popped up along the gorge, including the four-story Ferncliff Hotel built on a 100-acre peninsula where the Youghiogheny River doubles back on itself. But roads were slower to arrive than rails and with the rise of the automobile vacationers were diverted elsewhere. Hotels fell into disrepair and were torn down.

In 1973 the Ferncliff Peninsula was declared a National Natural Landmark in recognition of its many rare and interesting plants, many being Southern species at the northern reach of their range.

## The Walks

Just about anything on your dog's canine hiking wish list is on the menu in the nearly 20,000 acres of Ohiopyle State Park. Waterfalls. Swimming holes. Overlooks. Easy hikes. Vigorous workouts. The mandatory canine hike is luckily the easiest and most centrally located - the three miles of trails that sweep around and across the Ferncliff Peninsula. Hugging the water for most of its 1.7 miles, the hemlock-draped *Fernwood Trail* leads to detours through mature hardwoods and carpets of ferns and past hotel ruins.

## Fayette County

Phone Number  
- (724) 329-8591

Website  
- [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/Parks/ohiopyle.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/Parks/ohiopyle.aspx)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Ohiopyle*; from the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76), take Exit 91, Donegal. Turn left onto PA 31 east. Travel about two miles, turn right onto PA 711 and PA 381 south. Travel ten miles to Normalville, turn left onto PA 381 south for 11 miles to park.

### Bonus

The famous Lower Yough begins after the Ohiopyle Falls and flows seven miles downstream to the Bruner Run Take-out. This is the busiest section of whitewater east of the Mississippi River, studded with Class III and Class IV rapids. A half-dozen alone can be viewed from the *Ferncliff Trail*.

Waterfalls can be tracked down with little purchase on *Jonathan's Run Trail*, the *Great Gorge Trail* and *Meadow Run Trails*. Along Meadow Run the water sluices through waterslides that you don't need a kayak to enjoy. Strap on your dog's climbing gear and check out valley views along the *Kentuck Trail* and atop Baughman Rock.



Cavorting in Meadow Run.

The *Youghiogheny River Trail* is a hike/bike trail so fine that it was tabbed by *Travel & Leisure* magazine as one of the "The World's Best Walks." Your dog won't have to do all 27 miles through the park to agree. Ohiopyle is also the southern terminus for the 70-mile *Laurel Highlands Trail*, one of Pennsylvania's premier footpaths. That would be a highlight of most parks; here it is scarcely a footnote.

*Trail Sense:* A park map/brochure gives routes and topography; trails are signed and blazed.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to hike in the park but are prohibited in all overnight areas.

### **Traffic**

Many of the trails in the eastern part of the park are multi-use but most of the highlight hikes are foot traffic only.

### **Canine Swimming**

Your water-loving dog won't leave Ohiopyle without a swim, whether in a calm spot in the Youghiogheny or in a pool formed by one of the many runs racing down the mountains.

### **Trail Time**

Many hours to many days.

## 2

# McConnells Mill State Park

### The Park

The ancient 400-foot Slippery Rock Gorge was carved by glacial melt-water that happened so quickly it left rocky outcrops, massive boulders scattered across the canyon floor and swift water that remains to today. In 1974 the 930-acre Slippery Rock Gorge was designated a National Natural Landmark.

Daniel Kennedy built the first gristmill on Slippery Rock Creek. Thomas McConnell purchased the mill in 1875 and modernized it, installing water turbines and one of the first rolling mills in the country. For a half-century the mill ground corn, oats and wheat until it ceased to be profitable. The mill survived the transfer of the property to the Commonwealth and remains at the center of the state park that opened in 1957.

### The Walks

All of your dog's hiking day at McConnells Mill will be spent in the six-mile Slippery Rock Gorge. Luckily for those without a car shuttle or a hanker for retracing pawprints, there are two bridges, one open to traffic and one not, that allow a hiking loop on both sides of the turbulent waters. This 2-mile loop begins at the Old Mill and welds the *Kildoo Trail* on the east bank to the *North Country National Scenic Trail* on the west. There is plenty of rock-hopping in store for your dog - more on the east side - and, yes, they can be slippery. But with the heart-stopping scenery in the gorge you won't be in any hurry to be moving at an unsafe speed. You are seldom more than a few bounds from

### Lawrence County

Phone Number  
- (724) 368-8091

Website  
- [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/STATEPARKS/parks/mcconnellsmill.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/STATEPARKS/parks/mcconnellsmill.aspx)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Portersville*; from the intersection of US 19 and US 422, take 422 west and quickly make the first left onto McConnell's Mill Road into the park.

### Bonus

Slippery Rock Creek is 49 miles long and filled with foot-challenging boulders but is named for just one exceptionally slick rock. Located below the Armstrong Bridge and not on any park road but accessible by road, a shelf of sandstone at an Indian trail ford was made exceptionally slick by a natural oil seep. When oil wells were dug in the 1800s the oil seep was drained and Slippery Rock is no longer covered in oil.

Slippery Rock Creek that does calm down enough in places for safe dog-paddling. This is often signalled by pockets of sandy beach.

Unless it is mid-week or a lousy weather day you probably won't score one of the four parking spots at the Old Mill so you will need to start at Alpha Pass and hike into the gorge. This dirt path between boulders winds under dark hemlocks and serves as a



The McConnells Mill Covered Bridge was built in 1874 and is a National Historic Landmark.

nice warm-up for the more rugged going downstream from McConnells Mill.

The hike to take to give your dog bragging rights with her friends is the titanic 6.2-mile, one-way *Slippery Rock Gorge Trail*. Confined to the west side of the gorge, this footpath climbs to hillside overlooks and plunges into deep ravines. The all-day hike begins - or ends - in the Upper Hell Run Valley. A parallel strolling path here leads to Hell's Hollow Falls where your dog can stand inside an old lime kiln, reminiscent of the gorge's industrial past.

*Trail Sense:* The park map and accurate trail markings will keep you going in the right direction but study beforehand to find the trailheads.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to hike throughout the gorge.

### **Traffic**

Foot traffic only and little of that the further you travel from the Old Mill.

### **Canine Swimming**

Yes, but be careful and keep your dog close to shore - you don't want to discover that your dog doesn't understand how to use the life preservers provided along the trail.

### **Trail Time**

At least two hours.

# 3

## Forbes State Forest - Quebec Run Wild Area

### The Park

Forbes State Forest takes its name from General John Forbes, a Scotsman who led a methodical march on French-held Fort Duquesne in 1758. Forbes commanded the cutting of a wagon road out of the wilderness over the Allegheny Mountains, building a series of fortifications along the way to serve as supply depots.

Forbes' army was repulsed in its first attack on Fort Duquesne in September and he fell back to wait until spring for his next attempt. In the interim Indian support for the French fell apart and on November 25, 1758 the British were able to occupy a deserted and burned fort. Forbes immediately ordered the construction of a new fort between the rivers, which he called Fort Pitt after British Secretary of State William Pitt the Elder. Gravely ill from his campaign, Forbes left a week later, heading back to Philadelphia to die. His stay in the area was short but his legacy long-lasting. Before he left he named the settlement Pittsburgh.

### The Walks

Quebec Run, covering 7,441 wooded acres, is one of 16 state forest areas designated as a "wild area" - no amenities, no developments, including access roads. The forest on the east slope of Chestnut Ridge is laced with a honeycomb of footpaths and abandoned logging roads that make possible a variety of

### Fayette County

Phone Number  
- (724) 238-1200

Website  
- [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/maps/ForbesQuebecRun.pdf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/maps/ForbesQuebecRun.pdf)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Hopwood*; east of town off US 40. At the top of the mountain turn south on Skyline Drive after the Laurel Summit Inn. Go 1.8 miles past Laurel Caverns and bear left where the road goes downhill to the right. This is unmarked and unimproved Quebec Road. Drive carefully down to the parking area on the right in 1.3 miles.

### *Bonus*

Standing along Skyline Drive atop Chestnut Ridge is the last fire tower in the Braddock Division of the Forbes State Forest. Built in 1937, the 80-foot high tower is no longer manned but is open to the public briefly in the fall for unparalleled views of three states. The grounds also house a cabin once used by the full-time fire watcher, plus a pavilion and a topographical marker.

canine hiking loops. Budget at least two hours for any route you devise however.

The hemlock and rhododendron-shaded waters of Quebec Run that split the forest are a prime destination for most visitors. These lively waters are traced by the *Rankin Trail* that is intersected by a trio of trail to compose hiking loops.

Deeper incursions lead to Tebolt Run and Mill Run.

Just off Mill Run are the ruins of an old water-powered grist mill.

*Trail Sense:* Trail maps are available online but not onsite. All the main trail routes are blazed in red so it is critical to pay attention to directional signposts at trail junctions.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome in the state forest.

### **Traffic**

Foot traffic mostly with a few mountain bikes. Weekends - especially in late spring when the rhododendrons are in bloom - will be busy enough you might see another trail user every half hour or so.

### **Canine Swimming**

Quebec Run and Tebolt Run are mostly for frolicking but Mill Run is deep enough to support a doggie swim.

### **Trail Time**

A full day is possible.



There is nothing better for your dog on a hot day than the spa-like waters of Quebec Run.

# 4

## Laurel Hill State Park

### The Park

Pennsylvania's white pine and hemlock were the nation's most valuable natural resource in the mid-1800s. The timber built America and the bark tanned leather. The state's ancient forests were ravaged and laid bare.

The Laurel Hill Valley's rugged slopes staved off the onslaught until the 1880s. But the development of 70-ton Shay locomotives that could haul timber up 15-percent grades with ease ended that. It took logging companies only a few decades to clearcut the trees from the steep stream valleys here.

In the 1930s the National Park Service targeted five areas for restoration and reforestation, including Laurel Hill. The Civilian Conservation

Corps planted trees, built roads and trails and developed recreation facilities. In 1945 the federal government turned over the park centered around Laurel Hill Lake to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

### The Walks

Laurel Hill State Park is a tails-up treat for any dog, featuring a variety of diverse trails with several highlights. You get a choice of eight, all but one between one and two miles in length.

A good appetizer is the *Pumphouse Trail* that targets Jones Mill Run Dam. Like many park trails, this one uses an old logging road grade and is roomy enough to accommodate the snowmobiles that frequent Laurel Hill in the winter. Also like most of the park trails it doesn't loop so you have a choice of park roads and trails to craft a return trip. The most intriguing is the *Tram Road Trail* that hopscotches across Jones Mill Run several times.

### Somerset County

Phone Number  
- (814) 445-7725

Website  
- [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-parks/parks/laurelhill.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-parks/parks/laurelhill.aspx)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Trent*; from the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76) take the Donegal Exit and pick up PA 31 East. Go 14 miles and follow the directional signs to the park.



### *Bonus*

By looking at tree stumps you can often tell when a forest was logged. Higher stumps were cut by two-man saws held above waist level, a technique used in pre-mechanized days. These stumps last longer because they were cut as high as 40 inches off the ground.

After this easy warm-up the *Lake Trail* beckons with 500-foot climbs above Laurel Hill Lake before dropping to the shore. This slice of scenic canine workout is 1.75 miles in each direction.

The marquee attraction of Laurel Hill State Park is a six-acre stand of virgin hemlock trees that somehow escaped the logger's axe. These slow-maturing beauties can be more than 300 years old - the record age for an eastern hemlock, designated the Pennsylvania state tree in 1931, is 988 years. An interpretive loop leads your dog through this quiet arboreal shrine, hard by the banks of the rushing Laurel Hill Creek.



Posing beside the Pennsylvania state tree - one that may have been growing here when William Penn founded the colony.

*Trail Sense:* A detailed trail map/brochure is available onsite at the Visitor Center - and keep ahold of it since it will help identify the different options for cobbling together a canine hiking route.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome on the trails but not in the campground or in swimming areas.

### **Traffic**

These are hiker-only trails and not heavily used.

### **Canine Swimming**

Laurel Hill Lake will host canine aquatics. The current in Laurel Hill Creek is generally too strong but there are pools and easy access in places. The best doggie swimming hole may be beneath the Jones Mill Run Dam.

### **Trail Time**

Most individual hikes with your dog can be completed in an hour or less but you will want to combine several on your visit.

# 5 Townsend Park

## The Park

Townsend Park is an assuming hillside community oasis tucked away among quiet neighborhoods. There are no signs leading anyone here. There are small gardens and a gazebo and a picnic pavilion and a little pond stocked with fish.

So why should dog owners seek out Townsend Park? Easy. Dogs are allowed to go under voice control throughout the park, including its four miles of wooded trails. Not a dog park, a park for dogs.

## The Walks

Dogs running free? What's the catch? Well, Townsend Park is not for those who like to stand around and watch their dogs play. The first trail you come to is named *Heart Attack Hill*. It's not that bad, really, but it will likely set your dog's tongue to panting. When you reach the top, stop and look around - a pipe line cut lets you survey what you and your dog have just accomplished.

Since your dog has conquered Heart Attack Hill

## Westmoreland County

Phone Number  
- None

Website  
- None

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Murrysville*; north of town. Take Vincent Hill Street that becomes Sardis Road from US 22 past the Meadowlink Golf Course. Make the next left onto Twin Oaks Drive and left again on Townsend Park Court.



### *Bonus*

Pennsylvania's state tree, the Eastern hemlock, is under attack. The hemlock woolly adelgid, a fluid-feeding insect, was introduced from Asia into the Pacific Northwest in 1924. It was first discovered in Pennsylvania in 1967 and has been damaging hemlock ever since, and it is spreading. Hemlock woolly adelgid sucks fluid from the base of hemlock needles, accelerating needle drop and branch dieback. Although some trees die within four years, many often persist in a weakened state for a decade or more. Hemlocks that have been affected often have a grayish-green appearance instead of their natural shiny, dark green color. Infestations can leave woodlands looking like a hemlock junkyard with trunks scattered across the forest floor like you see here.

he won't be in any hurry to race back down so probe the many available connecting trail options. The natural surface trails are often padded in paw-friendly needles from the many pines and hemlocks that have infiltrated the hardwood forest.

When you finish exploring these beguiling trails there is an open grassy area for a game of fetch with your dog. And no one will stop and tell you to put that dog on a leash.

*Trail Sense:* There is a mapboard to get the lay of the land and maybe a printed map onsite. The trails are blazed with signposts at the trailheads and junctions.

### **Dog Friendliness**

That is what Townsend Park is all about - just about everyone you meet on the trails will have a canine hiking companion.

### **Traffic**

Generally light, bikes are allowed but it almost all foot traffic.

### **Canine Swimming**

The pond can host a doggie dip if no fishing lines are dipped in the water.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour possible.

# 6 Hartwood Acres

## The Park

William Flinn's family left Manchester, England for Pittsburgh's Sixth Ward in 1852 when he was barely one year old. Young William left the Pittsburgh public schools at the age of nine to work the city streets.

His father had been a small contractor but William eyed contracting on a larger scale. Mixing in Republican politics, Flinn won much of the paving and construction business in Pittsburgh during the exploding industrial times of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Flinn's daughter Mary used her inheritance to create one of the region's most magnificent country estates, pivoting around an elegant 16th century Tudor manor house. In 1969, she offered the estate to Allegheny County as a park and just like that the county had a ready-made crown jewel in its park system.

## The Walks

When you bring your dog to Hartwood Acres, you come to walk. There are no recreation or sport facilities on its 629 acres. The manor house, stable and outdoor sculptures are still in place to admire before heading out on the rolling dirt and paved pathways through the wooded countryside. A spider-web of short and long trails and immaculate bridle paths conspire to provide delightful canine hiking in Hartwood Acres. You can hike with your dog here every day for a month and never take the same route.

### Allegheny County

Phone Number  
- (412) 767-9200

Website  
- [www.alleghenycounty.us/parks/hwfac.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/parks/hwfac.aspx)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Pittsburgh*; Take PA 28 North to Exit 5, Etna-Butler, onto PA 8. Turn right in 3/4 mile onto Saxonburg Boulevard. For parking at the mansion continue on Saxonburg for four miles. For trail parking, turn left quickly onto Middle Run Road after exiting from PA 8 and continue to parking before the elementary school.

### *Bonus*

The European sport of Orienteering was first introduced to this country in southeastern Pennsylvania. The Western Pennsylvania Orienteering Club holds meets in the art of map and compass in Hartwood Acres. Try it and challenge your dog's nose in a wayfinding contest.

For lovers of sunshine begin your dog's day in the Middle Run Lot and enjoy the macadam paths through manicured fields around the Stage, a concert amphitheater. You'll leave most of the trail users (many with a dog in tow) behind if you slip off the main paved paths onto the whimsically named natural trails. The *Heebie Jeebie Trail* utilizes tight switchbacks to climb a short hill. The *Perfectly Good Trail* is just that - a shady circuit in a remote corner of the park through a junkyard of fallen hemlock trees.



The stone Hartwood Mansion calls to mind Merry Olde England.

*Trail Sense:* There are mapboards available and the many trails sport color-keyed blazes. At trail junctions the trails are distinguished by number posts.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed throughout Hartwood Acres and there is a large, fenced off-leash dog area.

### **Traffic**

Busy, yes, but not oppressively so given the extensive trail system. Since it requires a good hike to reach the dog park it is not as crowded as most that are next to parking lots. You might encounter an occasional horse.

### **Canine Swimming**

Fox Run in the wooded northern area of the park is deep enough for minnows to swim but not dogs.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.

# 7

## Raccoon Creek State Park

### The Park

In the 1930s, in an effort to add recreation lands near metropolitan regions, the National Park Service (NPS) purchased submarginal farmland to become park lands. Outside Pittsburgh the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Works Progress Administration (WPA) created the Raccoon Creek Recreation Demonstration Area, carving trails, building roads and setting up cabin camps. The federal government transferred this outstanding area to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1945, becoming one of the state's largest parks at over 7,500 acres. A tranquil lake was added in 1948, a swimming area and picnic area in 1950 and the tent and trailer campground in 1956.

### Beaver County

Phone Number  
- (724) 899-2200

Website  
- [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-parks/parks/raccooncreek.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-parks/parks/raccooncreek.aspx)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- 8:00 a.m. to sunset

Directions  
- *Hookstown*; on PA 18, south of US 30 and north of US 22.

### The Walks

The trail system in Raccoon State Park includes about 44 miles of footpaths. Experienced canine hikers will want to add the green-blazed *Raccoon Loop* to their Life List, a 19.5-mile circumnavigation of the entire park. Overnight shelters are available but camping permits must be obtained ahead of time if you don't want to swallow this ridge-hopping trek whole.

The best day-hike can be found in the eastern section of the park, wedding a pair of mis-matched opposites, the *Lake Trail* with the *Forest Trail*, to create a four-mile loop. After an easy ramble along Traverse Creek to Raccoon Lake, the narrow dirt band of the *Lake Trail* begins moving carefully up the hillside, providing an appetizer of what's in store when you meet up with the *Forest Trail* to head home. You immediately drop down but you aren't headed back to the level ground of the *Lake Trail*. Instead you and your dog have wait-

### Bonus

Levi and Mary Davis Dungan were early settlers in Beaver County, arriving in 1772 and eventually building a large log structure over "an excellent spring." A generation later James Dungan erected a three-story brick hotel that could house as many as 200 guests at a time. Soon travelers from across America were arriving at the Frankfort Hotel to take the "cure from the mineral spring in the cool, romantic glen, thickly studded with forest trees." Cave Spring contained a cocktail of carbonic acid, carbonate of magnesia, muriate of soda and sulphuretted hydrogen gas said to "regulate the bowels, strengthen the stomach, improve the appetite, clear the skin and cause great freedom of urination." The area attracted thousands of visitors until it was destroyed by fire in 1932. Although the flow of spring water has diminished, you can still take your dog to the historic Frankfort Mineral Springs via trails in the southern region of the park.

ing two major ridges and a couple of minor ones.

For a breather, take your dog to cabin area across the road and sample some of the short loops and park roads in the camp area.

*Trail Sense:* Trail maps are available and the routes well-blazed and signed.



Visiting the mineral-streaked rocks of the Frankfort Mineral Springs.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed to enjoy these trails and stay in the campground but are not allowed in the Wildflower Preserve.

### **Traffic**

Biking and horses are permitted on some trails but not enough to make it attractive for such users.

### **Canine Swimming**

The *Lake Trail* taps Raccoon Lake with easy access for your dog; most of the trails touch on a stream for at least a splash.

### **Trail Time**

Several hours to an entire weekend.

# 8 Friendship Hill National Historic Site

## The Park

When Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery reached the Three Forks of the Missouri on July 25, 1805, more than 2,500 miles from their starting point on the Mississippi River, the expedition had once again come to a critical juncture, the confluence of three previously uncharted rivers. The explorers named the rivers after Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and Albert Gallatin. Presidents Jefferson and Madison are well-known but the honor reflects the esteem with which the Swiss-born Gallatin, largely forgotten today, was once held.

Nineteen year old Albert Gallatin and a partner landed near Boston in 1780 with \$400 and a load of tea to sell. When he failed to make a profit, he took a job teaching French at Harvard. In 1786, while surveying for another partner, he bought 400 acres of land he called Friendship Hill, hoping to persuade other emigrants to settle on the Monongahela River.

Gallatin lived here for 40 years although elected and appointed positions, including Secretary of the Treasury in two administrations, kept him away most of the time. One of his last events at Friendship Hill before selling in 1825 and moving to New York City was hosting the Marquis de Lafayette during his tour of America on the 50th anniversary of the American Revolution.

## The Walks

The nine miles of trails at Friendship Hill serve up the best combination of woods and meadow hiking in southwest Pennsylvania. The *Main Loop Trail*

### Fayette County

Phone Number  
- (724) 725-9190

Website  
- [www.nps.gov/frhi/](http://www.nps.gov/frhi/)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Grounds and trails open sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *New Geneva*; one mile south of town. From I-70 take Exit 46 (US 51) South to Uniontown and US 119 South to Point Marion. Turn onto PA 166 north for 3 miles to park entrance.



### Bonus

Albert Gallatin began building the brick and stone two-story house that is the centerpiece of the park in 1789, the same year he brought his wife Sophia to the edge of the wilderness over the objections of her family. Sophia died after only six months at Friendship Hill and she is buried in an unmarked grave - at her request - in the woods below the mansion.

visits it all in the course of 3.8 miles, commencing and finishing at the Gallatin House. The paw-friendly natural surface trail picks its way through old growth forests and rhododendrons down to an old farm road on the banks of the Monongahela River. This is flat, easy going for your dog for half the hike. Don't forget to look up the hill at the rock formations as you mosey along here.



These falls on South Run are one of seven that tumble in the park.

Once back atop the bluff, several loops explore the meadows on the property. Although mostly paw-friendly grass, these wide trails across gently rolling terrain can be wet and squishy after a rain. Otherwise they are a delight in the sunshine.

*Trail Sense:* The *Main Loop Trail* is blazed in green; secondary loops are marked in red and cut-offs are designated in yellow. If you can't get a trail map from the office there are frequent "You Are Here" mapboards posted around the park and directional signs at junctions.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed across the Friendship Hill grounds.

### **Traffic**

Foot traffic only and not a great deal of it.

### **Canine Swimming**

In several places your dog can scramble down to sand/mud beaches for a swim in the Monongahela River. Keep your dog out of the streams on the property where the surface water may be contaminated from mine seepage.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.

# 9

## Moraine State Park

### The Park

As glaciers move across the landscape they shove around enormous piles of soil, rocks and rubble. This mass of debris is known as a moraine. This area was visited by at least four glaciers in intervening Ice Ages. The piles of stone blocked streams, creating three glacial lakes and shaping the topography.

When settlers arrived they downed the forests and mined the sand and minerals exposed by the scraping of the glaciers. The discovery of soft bituminous coal here led to the development of deep mining and later the land was strip-mined. In the late 1800s gas wells were drilled. When the wells dried up, they were abandoned and left unsealed.

In 1926, Frank W. Preston moved to Meridian from England. A glass researcher by trade, Dr. Preston was also a geologist and naturalist. On a trip to the Muddy Creek Valley he began entranced by the exhausted land and spent decades studying the landforms. Preston led the push to form the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to purchase land to recreate the glacial landscape and preserve open space, leading to Moraine State Park in 1970.

### The Walks

As you might expect from a park that covers 16,725 acres, this is not the destination of the casual dogwalker. There are not many trails for such a large park and expect to invest at least an hour on any canine hike here. If you don't mind the drone of high-speed traffic, the Pleasant Valley area on the South Shore is a good place to start with two trail options. The *Sunken Garden Trail*

### Butler County

Phone Number  
- (724) 368-8811

Website  
- [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-Parks/parks/moraine.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-Parks/parks/moraine.aspx)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Portersville*; bisected by PA 422 running east/west and PA Route 528 running north/south. To access the South Shore Recreation Area, take the South Shore Exit off of PA 422. To access the North Shore from PA 422 East, take the North Shore Exit.

### *Bonus*

The United States Congress has authorized eight long-distance National Scenic Trails for their particular natural beauty. The most famous are the *Appalachian Trail* in the East and the *Pacific Crest Trail* in the West.

The longest will one day be the the *North Country National Scenic Trail* (NCNST), which will stretch more than 4,600 miles from Crown Point in eastern New York to Lake Sakakawea in western North Dakota. Until that time when you can spend a year hiking with your dog across the northern United States he can content himself with 25 or so miles through Moraine State Park and neighboring McConnell's Mill.

traces one of the many fingers of restored glacial Lake Arthur between ridges of pines. The price you pay for excellent access to the water for a doggie dip is a low-lying trail that ranges from squishy to impassable during wet times. Across the road is the sporty *Hill Top Trail* that rolls through an attractive mix of hemlocks and hardwoods. Like a good rollercoaster, the route drops down immediately and offers a choice of short and long loops with one last climb to the finish.

For a completely different experience you can wrap your dog in silence on the *Wyggeston Trail*, named by Frank Preston for his boyhood school in England, reached off PA 528 on Christley Road. There is a 1.5-mile loop on the heavily wooded knob above Lost Cove. Your dog can bound across a 1.5-mile loop or set off on a three-mile leg to the Forestry Office.

The North Shore of the park is your gateway to the arduous *North Country Trail* that climbs and falls steadily from ridge to ridge. This five-mile leg can be tested as an out-and back or a car shuttle. This is a hike to separate the pups from the dogs.

*Trail Sense:* The *North Country Trail* is enthusiastically blazed and maintained but the other trails are not quite so energetically marked. Park maps and signposts will keep you oriented but the *Wyggeston Trail* is ill-defined in places, hampered by windfalls and will challenge even your dog's wayfinding nose.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome on the Moraine State Park trails.

### **Traffic**

Mountain bikes have their own trails and so do horses.

### **Canine Swimming**

There is plenty of dog paddling waiting in Lake Arthur, both from the trails and boat ramps.

### **Trail Time**

Many hours to a full day.

# Forbes State Forest - Mt. Davis Natural Area

## The Park

How long has Mt. Davis been the highest point in Pennsylvania? Well, always, of course. But it wasn't recognized as such until 1921 when the U. S. Geological Survey established the fact that the crest of Negro Mountain is 3,213 feet above sea level. This survey officially snatched the honor of "Pennsylvania's Roof" away from Bedford County's Blue Knob.

The slight rise in the 30-mile plateau of Negro Mountain was named for the long-time 19th century owner of the land, John Nelson Davis, rather than recognizing the heroic exploits of the unidentified black man who fought heroically during the French and Indian War and was buried on the mountain. Davis, himself was a Civil War veteran and naturalist who was said to be able to identify all the shrubs, wildflowers and plants growing in the area.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania purchased thousands of acres of land on Negro Mountain in 1929. The observation tower affording 360-degree views was constructed in 1935 (open steps may inhibit your dog from getting those views).

## The Walks

As tagging state highpoints goes, Mt. Davis is unique. Scaling mountain peaks does not spring to mind. Assuming you don't drive to the summit and take the short, flat walk to the highpoint, your dog's approach to the top of Pennsylvania will be a hike of nearly a mile from the Mt. Davis Picnic Area on the *High Point Trail*. This sliver of path is essentially a straight shot through an area recovering from a destructive 1951 fire. After a gentle ascent your dog

### Somerset County

Phone Number  
- (724) 238-1200

Website  
- [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/maps/ForbesMtDavis.pdf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/maps/ForbesMtDavis.pdf)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Meyersdale*; west of town via Mt. Davis Road (SR 2004) from the US 219 Bypass.

### Bonus

After a spring snowfall in 1849 several of Henry Baughman's cows wandered away from his farm atop Negro Mountain. Baughman and two of his sons set out to track down the wandering bovines. Twelve-year old August had trouble keeping up and his father, known to be of ill-temper, struck him hard with a stick.

Believing he had killed the boy, he dumped the body among a pile of deeply crevassed boulders and returned home. He bullied his other son into silence and the next day reported August missing. After an extensive search for several weeks Baughman's suspicious behavior led to his arrest for murder. His family testified against him and he was convicted despite no trace of the body being found. He served 11 years in prison and returned to

Negro Mountain to live out his life, all the while proclaiming his innocence. Years later a skull and bones were found in a nearby swamp, believed to be August Baughman and giving rise to the theory that the boy revived long enough to try to get home but perished in the swamp. Baughman Rocks can be seen near the intersection of SR 2004 and South Wolf Rock Road.

will reach the highest natural point in Pennsylvania - a rock.

A network of footpaths and old logging roads surround the Natural Area in Forbes State Forest where you can cobble together canine hiking loops around Negro Mountain from seven to 10 miles.

*Trail Sense:* A trail map is available and the routes are blazed and signed.



Trying to get as high as possible at the highest point in Pennsylvania.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are permitted to hike around Mt. Davis.

### **Traffic**

Foot traffic only in the natural area - no motorized vehicles anywhere.

### **Canine Swimming**

Tub Mill Run is best suited for splashing.

### **Trail Time**

About an hour around the summit to a half-day on Negro Mountain.

# II

## Mingo Creek Park

### The Park

Mingo Creek Park was originally a 304 acre farm owned by a Scottish immigrant named Enos McDonald, a participant in the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794. The property he called “Cathness” was purchased in 1817 by John Henry who later built a stone house still standing in the park. Descendants of the Henry family continuously occupied the house until 1961.

Today the county-owned facility covers 2,600 acres of wooded hills. The Mingo Creek Park Observatory was built in 2004 that has become the largest amateur astronomical observatory in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

### Washington County

Phone Number  
- (724) 228-6867

Website  
- [www.washcochamber.com/recreation.asp](http://www.washcochamber.com/recreation.asp)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Eighty-Four*; east of town, via 136. Turn north on Mansion Hill to the park.

### The Walks

The first stop for dog owners in Mingo Creek Park is the No-Leash Area located on the west side of the park road, just south of Chapel Hill Road at Parking Lot #3. This is not a fenced dog park but open, grassy field areas separated by patches of woodlands. A faint field trail leads steadily uphill to pine woods at the top and long views across the Mingo Creek valley. There is no real delineation to where the No-Leash Area ends so your trail companion will get plenty of chance to romp across the fields like a farm dog.

The star trail at Mingo Creek is a route that circles the park for about five miles. This multi-use pathway climbs to the top of hillsides and travels along the bottomlands of the creek, mingling long, solitary stretches with walks through the developed areas of the park.

For a hiking-only experience take your dog to the *Hemlock Trail* that begins across Mingo Creek off Park View Road. This short loop is hard to

### Bonus

Pennsylvania still has 208 covered bridges standing, including two in Mingo Creek Park - Ebenezer Covered Bridge and Henry Bridge. Romantic tales of their origin in the early 1800s include scaring off evil spirits and enticing jittery livestock to cross running water but the practical reason for covering bridges is simply to protect the wooden deck and support timbers from the environment. The bridges in this area were always painted red due to an early paint formula. Red oxides in the local soil were a natural insect-proofer. In early September the Mingo Creek spans are a focal point of the Covered Bridge Festival held in Washington and Greene counties every year since 1970. Ironically, the popular caboose-like Ebenezer Bridge wasn't even in place when the festival started. The bridge, whose beginnings are unknown, was placed on stone abutments from an earlier bridge in 1977.

discern and there actually aren't that many hemlocks but the walk is lovely and the path super soft and paw-friendly.

*Trail Sense:* A rough map can be downloaded from the website but nothing is available on-site. Trail markings are scarce and signage spotty so you can almost count on getting mis-directed at some point on longer explorations.



Hanging at Ebenezer Covered Bridge.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome throughout the park and off-leash in places.

### **Traffic**

Mountain bikes and horses are allowed on most of the park's 15 miles. The shortish *Old Spring Trail* and *Hemlock Trail* are foot traffic only but these trails are far from congested.

### **Canine Swimming**

Trout love the quick riffles of Mingo Creek and there may be a few pools deep enough for dog paddling.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.

# Jennings Environmental Education Center

## The Park

The terrain of the park was formed by a leading edge of the Wisconsin Glacier that marked the end of the last Ice Age 14,000 years ago. The natural valley was used by the Seneca Nation to travel to other members of the Iroquois Confederation. The Venango Trail - now Route 528 that cuts through the park - was heavily used by such travelers as George Washington.

Once settlers arrived the land was steadily plundered for its timber and underlying coal. In 1905, Dr. Otto Emery Jennings, who would later become the first president of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science, was a 28-year old botany teacher when he happened upon a patch of showy purple flowers clustering on 6-foot stalks. The blazing star wildflower is native to the Great Plains, not the Pennsylvania hills. Jennings had discovered a relict finger of midwestern prairies that today is the center of the park and Pennsylvania's only public and protected prairie.

## The Walks

The compact park is laced with a series of diverse short hiking loops - you can conquer a half-dozen with your dog in less than hour. The woodlands behind the Education Center on the south side of PA 528 are characterized by stream gullies and ridges. The *Ridge Trail* at the back of the property is the park's most challenging as it climbs the prehistoric glacial ridge.

Across the road are the easy-going trails through the blazing star prairie - come in the late summer for the best wildflower displays. Your dog will be trotting on soft grass through this unique Western Pennsylvania landscape. Behind the prairie the *Oakwoods Trail*, the park's longest at a few pawfalls over a mile, rolls easily among forests of oak, maple, hickory and cherry.

## Butler County

Phone Number  
- (724) 794-6011

Website  
- [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-Parks/parks/jennings.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-Parks/parks/jennings.aspx)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Slippery Rock*; southeast of town on PA 528, west of PA 8.



### *Bonus*

The massasauga rattlesnake is smaller by a third than its tumbler rattler cousin and much more rare.

The name "Massasauga" comes from the Chippewa meaning "great river mouth" and indeed the reclusive viper typically favors swamps. But its wetlands are gone and the snake has adopted the rare eastern prairie ecosystem here as its home. Its venom is more powerful than the timber rattlesnake but its smaller size makes its bite less potent. Still, keep your dog on the trails to minimize the even remote chance to meet this endangered critter.

Ambitious canine hikers can use the Jennings trails to head out on the *Glacier Ridge Trail* that leads deep into Moraine State Park. This challenging trek is a great place to disappear with your dog for a couple of hours.

*Trail Sense:* A detailed trail map/brochure is available onsite and there are junction signs to mark the many trails.



This one-of-a-kind prairie hike in Pennsylvania will be a paw-friendly treat for your dog.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are permitted to hike these pleasant trails.

### **Traffic**

Foot traffic only; no bikes or motorized vehicles on the trails.

### **Canine Swimming**

The shady Big Run slips almost unnoticed through the park, save for a little stretch of the *Black Cherry Trail* where your dog can splash-splash but not swim.

### **Trail Time**

You can spend just a half-hour in the Blazing Star prairie or several hours to completely experience Jennings Environmental Education Center with your dog.

# 13

## Forbes State Forest - Roaring Run Natural Area

### The Park

Roaring Run Natural Area was created in 1975 with the acquisition of more than 3,000 acres on the western slope of Laurel Ridge. The property protects nearly the entire watershed of Roaring Run that had been threatened by the intensive logging for over 100 years. The hillside was clearcut as recently as the 1960s. Waters from Roaring Run spill into Indian Creek on their way to the Youghiogheny River.

### The Walks

This is an exciting place to hike for any trail dog who enjoys splashing through streams - there may be as many as 30 unbridged crossings of Roaring Run and its little branches. Depending on the time you come these fords may be dry or impassable.

You get several routing options in the natural area but essentially you are working either up or down the mountain slope along Roaring Run - the stream drops 1,200 feet in five miles from its source on Laurel Ridge. You are rewarded with views in a few places in the mossy woodland, including on the *Panther Rock Trail* and Birch Rocks off the *South Loop Trail*. Although the options are plentiful, budget a full afternoon with your dog when hiking through Roaring Run, much of which takes place on old logging roads.

*Trail Sense:* There are no wayfinding aids at the trailhead and other divisions of Forbes State Forest are better marked. Try to print a map off the Internet.

### Westmoreland County

Phone Number  
- (724) 238-1200

Website  
- [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/maps/ForbesRoaringRun.pdf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/maps/ForbesRoaringRun.pdf)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Champion*; from PA 31 turn south on PA 711/PA 381. After a mile make your first left on County Line Road. Wind through the town to the parking area on the left after 1.8 miles. Parking is also available at the top of Laurel Ridge off PA 31. Use the *McKenna Trail* to reach the Roaring Run hydrospectacular.

*Bonus*

Near the head of the *McKenna Trail* at the top of Roaring Run you will find a squat obelisk monument with the inscription of three names: "D.A. SHEETS, C.K. BAKER, CATERINE SAYLOR". Under the names it reads "KILLED JAN 19, 1896." The three children died that day in a sleigh accident while returning from church.



This will be a familiar sight when hiking with your dog on Roaring Run Trail.

**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome in the state forest.

**Traffic**

Foot traffic only, and you won't find anyone out for a casual stroll.

**Canine Swimming**

Plenty of splashing but not as much swimming will be in store for your dog in Roaring Run.

**Trail Time**

At least several hours and more available.

# 14

## Frick Park

### The Park

Henry Clay Frick was born in Westmoreland County in 1849 into the Overholt Whiskey Distillery family. At 21, vowing to be a millionaire by the age of 30, he struck out on his own to manufacture coke for the steel industry. He was employing 1,000 workers by his deadline.

In 1882, while on his honeymoon in New York City, he met Andrew Carnegie and struck up a partnership that propelled Frick into one of the most influential industrialists of the Gilded Age.

Although he spent his later years in New York City, Frick bequeathed 150 acres south of his Point Breeze mansion, Clayton, to the City of Pittsburgh for a public park. He provided a \$2 million trust fund to help with long-term maintenance and the money was used to purchase more land, enlarging the park to 600 acres and making Frick Park the largest of the city's four major parks.

### The Walks

Frick Park has something to enthrall any level of canine hiker. Just out for an easy stroll with your dog? The *Tranquil Trail* travels gently up the spine of the park through Fern Hollow Valley, tracing and crossing the stream for more than one mile. If the wide, crushed gravel and dirt path isn't paw-friendly enough, grassy shoulders abound.

For trail dogs sniffing out more of a challenge, head over to Riverview Hill and the trails that wind up and around the wooded promontory. Or leave

### Pittsburgh

Phone Number  
- (412) 682-7275

Website  
- [www.pittsburghparks.org/  
Frick17.php](http://www.pittsburghparks.org/Frick17.php)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Directions  
- *Pittsburgh*; Forbes Avenue dissects the park. For the *Tranquil Trail*, turn south on South Braddock Road to parking on the right beyond the tennis courts. For the Frick Environmental Center, turn onto Beechwood Road.

### *Bonus*

The stone Frick Gatehouses provide an elegant gateway to the park. The French-style gatehouse at the north end of *Tranquil Trail* on Reynolds Street was designed by John Russell Pope, architect of the Jefferson Memorial. The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy completely restored the gatehouse, cleaning the stonework and adding a new clay tile roof and historic lighting. New cypress doors, matching the originals, were installed, reusing some of the historic hardware.

the *Tranquil Trail* and make the short spirited climb up the *Biddle Trail* or the longer but considerably more scenic pull up the *Falls Ravine Trail* to Clayton Hill and the Frick Environmental Center. Here your dog can trot the exceedingly agreeable *North/South Clayton Loop* for just over a mile. This is all shaded hiking for your dog.

*Trail Sense:* A park map is available from the Internet and mapboards can be found in the park. With map in hand, you won't need to worry about the lack of trail markings.



Taking a needed break along the Falls Ravine Trail.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to hike in the park and plenty do. Pittsburgh's first official dog park is in Frick Park off the *Tranquil Trail* at Hot Dog Dam.

### **Traffic**

You will find plenty of company in Frick Park, less on the hills. You will be most likely to run into mountain bikes on Riverview Hill.

### **Canine Swimming**

Swimming holes in the park include Hot Dog Dam and shallower water for splashing can be found along the *Falls Ravine Trail*.

### **Trail Time**

You can complete a satisfactory canine hike in under an hour or spend several.

# 15

## Ryerson Station State Park

### The Park

The land for this park was purchased in 1958 from the Lazear family but the name “Ryerson Station” was adopted at the suggestion of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, honoring a blockhouse built at the confluence of the north and south forks of the Dunkard Branch of Wheeling Creek. On April 17, 1792, soldiers carrying supplies from the Thomas Ryerson mill had clashed with an Indian war party attacking the white settlements.

Ryerson, at the very least, was a shrewd operator. He purchased several tracts of land and traveled to Philadelphia where, it was reported, he “palmed it off on an unsuspecting sea captain.” That sea captain, Joseph Richards Connell, came to Greene County to retire after a shipwreck. When he saw his new dream property he saw not a sylvan retirement community as described by Ryerson but “a few rude huts and an old blockhouse at the confluence of two wild streams, amid a dense tangle of thickets, and surrounded by rugged hills covered by unbroken forests.” Save for the streams that have been dammed to form Ronald J. Duke Lake, that would still be an apt description for isolated Ryerson Station State Park today.

### The Walks

Ryerson Station offers up some 11 miles of canine hiking trails, about equally proportioned among three main loops. Each requires about an hour to complete and make sure your dog brings his hillclimbing gear with him. Both the *Lazear Trail* and *Three Mitten Trail* are used for snowmobiles and feature wide, switchbacking farm roads to reach the high elevation of 1,389 feet so

### Greene County

Phone Number  
- (724) 428-4254

Website  
- [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-parks/parks/yellowcreek.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-parks/parks/yellowcreek.aspx)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Wind Ridge*; three miles west of town on Bristoria Road, south of PA 21, 18 miles west of I-79, Exit 14.

### *Bonus*

A wolf tree is a tree, often very old, in a bush or a thicket which is different in shape from those around it; a tree whose broader trunk and spreading branches indicate that it once grew alone but is now surrounded. A 300-year old oak tree on a ridge of the *Lazear Trail* is the park's historic wolf tree.

while panting may ensue there won't be any knockout punches delivered on these trails. A lookout on the Lazear loop looks down 400 feet at the valley. These wide pathways are often paw-friendly grass with stony patches here and there.

A more classic hiking path is the *Pine Box Trail* that scales a ravine to the Chess Cemetery and your dog will be thankful she's not carting coffins up to this graveyard.

Beginning canine hikers can stay off the ridgetops at the Maple Grove Day Use Area on the short *Bluebird Loop* and the interpretive *Fox Feather Trail* that traverses a hemlock forest and traces the stream with many lake views.

*Trail Sense:* The trails are well-blazed and a map/brochure is available on site.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the trails across the park. Note that the bridge over the North Fork on the *Iron Bridge Trail* is open grate that may inhibit some dogs.

### **Traffic**

Ronald J. Duke Lake has been drawn down since 2005 due to concerns with the dam; trail traffic would be light in ordinary times, without the lake you virtually guarantee a solitary hike with your dog.

### **Canine Swimming**

Not without the lake.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.



Stopping under the spreading limbs of Ryerson Station's "Wolf Tree."

# Harrison Hills Park

## The Park

Harrison Hills is the northernmost nugget in the necklace of Allegheny County regional parks. Each park is developed around a theme and here it is birdspotting from the bluffs high above the Allegheny River.

The centerpiece of Harrison Hills is a whitewashed wooden river overlook site dedicated to Michael Watts, a life-long resident of the area who monitored pollution of the river and reported problems to the state environmental agency. One half of all fine money collected was given to Watts, who returned his share to the county with the request that it continue his efforts to keep our rivers clean.

## The Walks

The red-blazed *Scouts Trail* is the best way to see all of Harrison Hills' 500 acres. This 5-mile loop will take in the rolling dirt path along the Allegheny Bluffs, cross ravines and pass seasonal waterfalls, traverse the heavily-forested interior and pass a woodland pond.

If you are on a time budget, the Allegheny cliffs that begin right at the parking lot should be your destination. This is easy going for your dog but there are no guardrails atop the sheer cliffs so keep a rein on a rambunctious trail dog. You can retrace your steps at any point or pick up an interior trail like the *Wetlands Trail* to get your dog back home.

*Trail Sense:* The trails are named and honestly blazed; an excellent trail mapboard is available for study at the parking lot but there is nothing to take along with you.

## Allegheny County

Phone Number  
- (724) 295-3570

Website  
- [www.alleghenycounty.us/parks/hhfac.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/parks/hhfac.aspx)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Natrona Heights*; at 5200 Veterans Lane. Take PA 28 North to Exit 16, Freeport-Millerstown. Make a right onto Millerstown Road and another right on Freeport Road after a bit more than a half-mile. Climb the hill and turn left into the park at the sign.



### Bonus

Rachel Carson was born on May 27, 1907 in a five-room farmhouse in the newly formed borough of Springdale, overlooking the Allegheny River. After her schooling Carson went to Baltimore to study and teach at Johns Hopkins University. Eventually she joined the zoology department at the University of Maryland.

She indulged a lifelong love of the sea by leaving for a post with the Bureau of Fisheries in Washington as an aquatic biologist in 1936. She began writing and editing for the government before leaving to write about biology fulltime in 1952. By this time Carson had gained world fame with the award-winning book, *The Sea Around Us*. Her seminal work, *Silent Spring*, was published a decade later and introduced Americans to the dangers inherent in widespread use of chemical pesticides. Rachel Carson died of breast cancer shortly thereafter in 1964 and is buried in Rockville, Maryland. The *Rachel Carson Trail* runs 35.7 miles from the park to North Park; a spur leads to the Carson Homestead.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on these trails.

### **Traffic**

More often than not your dog's adventure here will be shared with no one.

### **Canine Swimming**

The Allegheny River is out of reach but your dog can content herself with paddling in the park pond.

### **Trail Time**

Several hours possible.



Tri-county views await your dog atop the Allegheny River bluffs in Harrison Hills Park.

17

# Laurel Summit State Park

## The Park

At six acres, Laurel Summit is one of Pennsylvania's smallest state parks (Sand Bridge State Park, half the size, is the smallest). Established in 1922, the Laurel Summit campground was the highest in the Keystone State at 2,739 feet. After World War II the "Summit" was designated a state park picnic area.

## The Walks

While a picnic in the coolish air of the tiny picnic park may be plenty for some dogs, canine hikers will view a trip to Laurel Summit as a jumping off point for the *Wolf Rocks* and *Spruce Flats* trails in the surrounding Forbes State Forest.

The Wolf Rocks are a jumble of sandstone boulders that provide a 180-acre view of the Linn Run Valley.

They are reached on a two-hour loop hike through airy, second-growth woods that were last timbered in 1908. Like all the hiking on Laurel Ridge the trip is generally flat but not always easy as there is plenty of rock hopping under paw.

The *Spruce Flats Trail* can be used as an entry to the Wolf Rocks Loop but don't take it in the spring and early summer or you will miss a tunnel of flowering rhododendron and mountain laurel. Use the wide, flat, old logging roads through Spruce Flats on your return, however. Expect sloshy going during wet times of the year here.

If your dog is just getting warmed up after viewing Wolf Rocks there are plenty of other trails up here to sample, including a slice of the long-distance

## Westmoreland County

Phone Number  
- (724) 238-6623

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

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Rector*; from the east take Laurel Summit Road off US 30, just west of Jennerstown. From the west, turn off US 30 onto Route 381. Follow Linn Run Road through Linn Run State Park up to Laurel Summit Road and turn left to park.

### *Bonus*

It takes a special plant to make a life in a nutrient-challenged environment like the Spruce Flats Bog. Some have evolved to draw their sustenance from juicy insects. The wood bog is a good place to observe these insectivorous plants.

Ewer-shaped pitcher plants lure insects with the promise of a sweet nectar meal from which they slip into a deadly trap for consumption by a cocktail of digestive fluids in the pitcher.

Tiny hairs pointing downward prevent the doomed victims from crawling to freedom.

Small sundews growing low in the bog secrete a goeey substance to snare their next meal.

*Laurel Highlands Trail.* To really get a feel for Laurel Summit, however, take off with your dog down the *Fish Run Trail* that mimics the route of the Pittsburgh, Westmoreland and Somerset (PW&S) Railroad. This line began in 1899 to haul logs off Laurel Hill and evolved to also tote passengers to the summit. Grades were as steep as 12% and locomotive brakes needed to be replaced once a week. The trail uses part of the PW&S route that was abandoned in 1916.



Making the approach to Wolf Rocks.

*Trail Sense:* A trail map can be found in the Linn Run State Park brochure. Signposts distinguish the different trails, all blazed in red.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed to enjoy these trails.

### **Traffic**

No motorized traffic but you may run into a few mountain bikes. The hike to Wolf Rocks is one of the most popular routes in Forbes State Forest.

### **Canine Swimming**

Sorry, no.

### **Trail Time**

At least two hours.

# 18 Riverview Park

## The Park

When Pittsburgh got its first glistening downtown park from Mary Schenley in 1889 it didn't take neighboring Allegheny long to get its hackles up. Mayor William Kennedy personally spearheaded a grass roots financing campaign and residents pooled their money to buy Samuel Watson's old place where his family had been grazing dairy cattle since the 1700s. They then donated it to the City of Allegheny in 1894 for their very own showcase park.

There was a band shell, a small zoo and an elk herd. Work was begun on a fabulous observatory. The Allegheny folks knew their 200-acre park was second to none. But then the City of Allegheny became part of Pittsburgh in 1907. Over the years the park has grown to 287 acres but also faded in prominence in relation to its sister city parks

## The Walks

Riverview Park has more trails and many less visitors than any of the either three city parks - a winning combination for dog owners. It's tough to find any verdant farms in Greenland and you won't see any rivers from Riverview (although there is an inspiring vista of the city from Observatory Hill). What was once a park of open, grassy hills has been replaced by hillsides stuffed with large trees and most of your dog's exertions here will be completely shaded.

You will travel on circuitous, roomy crushed gravel and natural paths. For casual canine hikers, the *Observatory Trail* travels around the hilltop for a bit

## Pittsburgh

Phone Number  
- (412) 682-7275

Website  
- [www.pittsburghparks.org/Riverview53.php](http://www.pittsburghparks.org/Riverview53.php)

Admission Fee  
- None (and none for the Allegheny Observatory either)

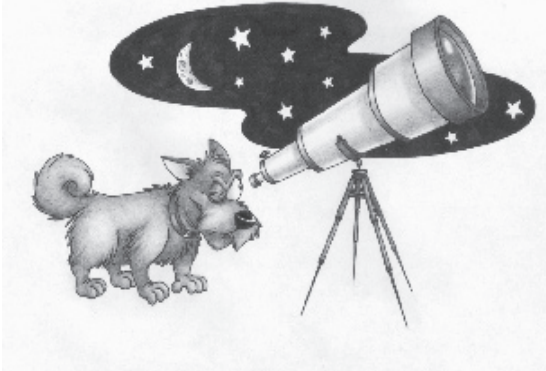
Park Hours  
- 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Directions  
- *Pittsburgh*; take I-279 to the Perrysville exit. Make a left at the end of the exit ramp to the stop light and turn right. Follow Perrysville Avenue to Riverview Avenue and turn right into the park.

### Bonus

The Allegheny Telescope Association began in 1859. Samuel Pierpont Langley, a 33-year old professor of astronomy at Western University (now the University of Pittsburgh), was named the first director. Langley would go on to become America's leading authority on aviation and the favorite to be the first man to fly before the Wright Brothers beat him to the skies.

The Allegheny Observatory became famous as the supplier of the first accurate times over several time zones delivered to the railroads. The first observatory on Perrysville Avenue was replaced by the current triple-domed, Classical Revival building in Riverview in the early 1900s. The Allegheny Observatory's 30-inch Thaw telescope is America's third largest.



more than half a mile, beginning just past the tennis courts. Serious canine adventurers will want to drop down another level to pick up the *Bob Harvey Trail*, follow to the *Wissahickon Trail* and return on the *Observatory Trail* for a vigorous two-mile loop. Another popular hiking route is a two-

mile loop on the park's winding one-way Riverview Road. While seldom busy, it is an active roadway, still not prime dogwalking ground.

*Trail Sense:* A detailed park map, complete with trail distances, exists but finding a copy is not easy (there is one at the website). Without it, you won't have a clue.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome on park trails.

### **Traffic**

You may run into a city horse on the trails, a bike or two, some joggers but trail use is generally light, especially compared to other city parks.

### **Canine Swimming**

No river views and no swimming, either.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.

# 19

## Brady's Run Park

### The Park

Samuel Brady was born near Shipensburg in 1756 and before he was 20 was serving in the Colonial Army outside Boston. He crossed the Delaware River with Washington's troops and fought in every engagement until being seriously wounded in the Battle of Brandywine. By 1780 he was back on the Pennsylvania frontier and, after his brother and father were killed in Indian raids, swearing vengeance against "the entire race." Captain Brady cut a wide swath as an Indian fighter and woodsman; spawning legends in his wake that rivaled those of Daniel Boone. In the Beaver Valley he escaped torture after capture by snatching a baby and tossing it in a fire. Most famously, he outmaneuvered Indian pursuers on both flanks by leaping across a 22-foot gorge in the Cuyahoga River near Kent, Ohio (the first gold medal in the 1896 Olympic Long Jump, contested without buckskin and not carrying a rifle, was won with a jump of 21 feet).

Samuel Brady isn't remembered much anymore in the county park that began in 1946 and bears his name. Today, the park is best known for its annual Maple Syrup Festival that attracts 30,000 visitors each spring.

### The Walks

Looking for a good workout for your trail dog? Brady's Run Park will fit the bill. The *North* and *South* trails can be welded into a 5.6-mile loop that visits all of Beaver County's largest park and countless ridgetops and drops. Most of your dog's hiking day will be spent under leafy hardwoods (the park comes by that maple syrup honestly) on natural surfaces.

### Beaver County

Phone Number  
- (724) 846-5600

Website  
- [www.co.beaver.pa.us/recreation/brady.htm](http://www.co.beaver.pa.us/recreation/brady.htm)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Fallston*; on PA 51, east of the intersection with PA 60. The park entrance is the first 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 in New York 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.

A specimen of this original prince of the American forest can be seen in the Calland Arboretum.

That is for serious canine hikers. Entry level travel dogs can test out the flat, one-mile *Walker's Loop* along the PA 51 corridor and Ed Calland Arboretum at the other end of the park. This 3/4-mile loop will introduce some of the dips and rolls you will experience on the main Brady's Run trails.

*Trail Sense:* A mapboard is available for study at the parking lot but nothing to take along.



Your dog can get an arboreal education while touring the Calland Arboretum.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed to hike the trails but can't join in the feast at the picnic shelters.

### **Traffic**

These trails are popular with mountain bikes, much less so for hikers.

### **Canine Swimming**

Your dog can cool down in Brady Run and, if it's not busy, jump into Brady Lake.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.

# 20

## Yellow Creek State Park

### The Park

The Kittanning Path that begins southeast of Altoona on the Juniata River was the major east-west overland passage through the Allegheny Mountains in the 18th century. Delaware and Shawnee Indians and early European settlers were well familiar with this area as they made their way to the Allegheny River on the Kittanning Path. They knew the “yellow waters” where the creek bottoms were full of yellow clay.

In 1963 Pennsylvania began acquiring land around Yellow and Little Yellow Creeks and started filling in an earth and rock dam. The 720-acre lake was created in 1969 and the popular day-use area formally opened in 1976.

### Indiana County

Phone Number  
- (724) 357-7913

Website  
- [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-parks/parks/yellowcreek.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-parks/parks/yellowcreek.aspx)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Penn Run*; on US 422,  
12 miles east of Indiana.

### The Walks

The star hike for your dog in Yellow Creek State Park is the *Ridge Top Trail* but you will want to stop first at the park entrance and do the leg-stretcher, *Laurel Run Trail*. This half-mile loop spends half its time tripping along the attractive stream before touching briefly on Yellow Creek Lake for easy access to a doggie dip. Wild daffodils abound on this easy, wooded route in early spring.

The *Ridge Top Trail* begins with a steady uphill pull through piney woods with views of the lake to sustain you. After passing through hemlocks on the ridge your dog will bound back down and up as the rollercoaster trail swings around. The path turns to paw-friendly grass through openings in the pines when you have conquered the ridge once again. This two-miler finishes up with a country-lane stroll on old farm roads.



### Bonus

On the North Shore, near McFeater's Cove, is the Stake Church, built in 1883 for \$751.48.

Here Father John Stake administered to a parish of 19 members. Nearby is an herb garden with plants used to sustain the culinary and medicinal needs of early settlers and a butterfly garden.

Wait for the weather to warm to see butterflies - most will not take flight until the temperature gets above 60 degrees.



For a remote, most likely solitary, canine hike, seek out the *Damsite Trail Loop* in the western part of the park. The destination is an overlook of the earthen dam before completing your 2.5-mile circuit.

*Trail Sense:* The trails are well-blazed, a map/brochure is available on site and mileage posts are placed every .2 miles.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the trails and the picnic area but not in the cottage/yurt area or on the beach which is open from late May to mid-September.

### **Traffic**

No bikes are allowed on the trails; not much traffic otherwise as most park users come for the activities on the lake.

### **Canine Swimming**

Plenty of chances in Yellow Creek Lake with access from the *Laurel Run Trail* and the *Damsite Trail Loop*.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.

# 21

## Schenley Park

### The Park

Mary Elizabeth Croghan did not spend much of her 77 years in Pittsburgh, but few have matched her lasting influence on the city. Born near Louisville in 1826, Mary was the daughter of frontier businessman James O'Hara's daughter and as her mother's only heir stood to inherit large tracts of Pittsburgh land.

That inheritance was jeopardized when, at the age of 15 in a Staten Island boarding school, she eloped with a 43-year old British sea captain named Edward Schenley. The incident became a highly publicized scandal on both sides of the Atlantic, not helped by the fact that Captain Schenley was AWOL from his post in British Guiana at the time and it was his third elopement.

Mary's enraged father voided her inheritance by an act of the state legislature. Years later after he had calmed down, the two reconciled in England and in 1850 she received her full inheritance. Through the years she donated freely to Pittsburgh churches and public schools and in 1889 she gave the land that would become Schenley Park.

### The Walks

Your dog's best hiking day in Schenley Park will be in the 456-acre park's forested interior around Panther Run. The stone stairs and bridges used to reach the floor of the ravine were mostly constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Depression of the 1930s. *Hollow Run Trail* will be your main conveyance through the valley with a choice of return paths at varying elevations. Your dog will experience paw-friendly dirt and packed clay trails as he quickly

### Pittsburgh

Phone Number  
- (412) 682-7275

Website  
- [http://www.pittsburghparks.org/\\_76.php](http://www.pittsburghparks.org/_76.php)

Admission Fee  
- None for day use

Park Hours  
- 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Directions  
- *Pittsburgh*; the Visitor Center is at 101 Panther Hollow Road. From I-376 take Exit 3A and turn right, away from the river. Turn right on the Boulevard of the Allies into the park.

### Bonus

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in the park was a gift to Pittsburgh from steel and real estate baron Henry Phipps in 1893. Phipps directed the building of a splendid Victorian glasshouse designed by the renowned architectural firm of Lord and Burnham. Today Phipps Conservatory is one of the largest celebrations of botanical diversity in the country.



The rustic bridges in Schenley Park would not be out of place in Appalachia.

loses any feel that he is in the middle of a major American city. The full trip up and down the Panther Run ravine will cover a bit less than two miles.

*Trail Sense:* A park map is available to explore the various delights of Schenley Park but don't expect much help on the ground.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed throughout Schenley Park.

### **Traffic**

Most of the park visitors don't make their way all the way down to the bottom of Panther Run but you will no doubt meet some other trail users, including bikes.

### **Canine Swimming**

In 1909 the city excavated in the ravine at Panther Hollow to create a lake for very short boat cruises. Today, if no is fishing your dog can slip into the lake for a swim where it empties into Panther Run.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.

# Linn Run State Park

## The Park

Charles Nelson Byers and Lauros H. Allen, lumbermen from Williamsport, controlled 9,500 acres of virgin timber in the Laurel Mountains in the late 1800s. In mid-1899, construction of a sawmill began southeast of Ligonier and the Byers-Allen Lumber Company organized the Pittsburgh, Westmoreland and Somerset Railroad in order to reach its timber.

By 1909 every old growth hemlock and pine tree on Laurel Hill had been cut down or burned. The sawmill closed, the railroad shortly followed. The land was widely considered to have been rendered permanently barren.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, however, took the wasteland off the hands of the Byers-Allen Lumber Company for \$442,662 and created its first State Forest Reserve in the Ohio River basin. At the foot of Forbes State Forest 612 acres were set aside for the cabins and picnic areas of Linn Run State Park.

## The Walks

The park serves up a trio of short canine hikes on the north side of Linn Run. The star would seem to be the trek to Adams Falls that is pictured on the park brochure. But you can't see the full falls from the trail and your dog won't be able to play in the plunge pool. The footpath/road to the falls is so stony your dog will favor the grassy shoulders. And past the falls the one-mile loop becomes a regular rockfest. Then a directional sign points *away* from the return loop.

## Westmoreland County

Phone Number  
- (724) 238-6623

Website  
- [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-parks/parks/linnrun.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-parks/parks/linnrun.aspx)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Rector*; at the intersection of US 30 and PA 381, turn south on PA 381 for two miles. Turn left on Linn Run Road at the small town of Rector and continue into park.

### *Bonus*

In 1995, when new trail bridges over Linn Run were required the Forest Service decided to create historically relevant footbridges. Members of the Timber Framers Guild of North America were recruited to build two Kingpost Truss bridges, recognized by the vertical triangular chord elements on either side of the span. The bridges are built of hemlock, the dominant species harvested from these slopes.

The out-and-back *Flat Rock Trail* is everything the *Adams Fall Trail* isn't. This footpath is level, wide and paw-friendly. The trail is decorated by hemlocks and rhododendron. Although the adjacent Linn Run is racing downhill your dog will find pools in which to cool off. This half-miler is the place to begin your investigation of Linn Run State Park.

For a stiffer workout for your dog, visit the southside picnic area and set out on the *Grove Run Trail* that follows the namesake creek upstream out of the park and into the surrounding Forbes State Forest. This four-mile loop will set tongues to panting with an elevation gain of nearly 1000 feet but never so severe as to demand a nap.

*Trail Sense:* The park trails are self-explanatory (save for that mischievous trail sign at a felled tree on the *Adams Falls Trail*); the *Grove Run Trail* and other state forest trails are blazed in blue.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are permitted on the state park and forest trails but not in the Linn Run State Park cabins.

### **Traffic**

No bikes are permitted on the state park trails but you can bump into a horse or bike on the *Grove Run Trail*.

### **Canine Swimming**

The mountain streams are quickstepping and rocks are slippery and dangerous but careful dogs can enjoy a refreshing respite.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.



The lively waters of Linn Run churn over a series of smooth flat rocks on the lovely Flat Rock Trail.

# 23

## Cedar Creek Park

### The Park

On June 9, 1901 William Gleason, fire boss for the Pittsburg Coal Company at Port Royal Mine No. 2 on Cedar Creek, posted danger signs at entrances No. 24 and 25 concerning the presence of explosive methane gas. The following day, for reasons unknown, mine foreman Dennis Wardley ripped down the signs and work proceeded as usual. That evening the first of two explosions rocked the valley, trapping miners underground. It would not be until mid-September that the last of 19 bodies would be recovered. In October, Port Royal Mine No. 2 was sealed forever. Today, as you travel through the cool, shady Cedar Creek Gorge there is no evidence of the tragic chambers below.

### The Walks

Travel through the park to find the canine hiking - all in the shortish Cedar Creek Gorge that runs perpendicular to the main road - in the park. The wide, open path along the *Cedar Creek Trail* runs for less than one mile through the gorge between two suspension bridges. The stream is babbling the entire way. So agreeable is this adventure for you and your dog (plenty of spots to jump in and splash) that tails will not droop if you decide to turn around and take the same route back.

### Westmoreland County

Phone Number  
- (724) 830-3950

Website  
- [www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/parks/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=619307](http://www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/parks/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=619307)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- 9:00 a.m. to dusk

Directions  
- *Belle Vernon*; one mile north of I-70. Take the the PA 51 North exit (marked Pittsburgh) and follow for ¼ mile, then turn right into Cedar Creek Park.

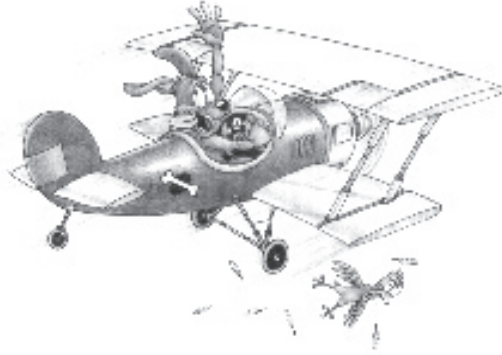


One of two scenic suspension bridges on the Cedar Creek Trail.

### Bonus

The Mon-Valley R/C Club operates out of the Model Radio-Controlled Airfield in Cedar Creek Park. On most any day you can observe these acrobatic Hellcats, Spitfires, and Mustangs and friends being put through their paces.

But serious canine hikers will want to cross the second bridge and scale the gorge wall to close your hiking loop. After a short, stiff climb all is level and easy again. But take care. The path is wide but if your dog is not controlled, he will die falling off the cliff ledge. In the middle of the return high above the water there is a strange



moment where the trail divides in two and then two again. The best route is first go right, then left but it all gets back together for a slide down the hillside (blanketed in wildflowers if you come in spring) to the finish or to take the spur to the lot at the end of Timm's Lane.

Cedar Creek park is also a jumping on point for the crushed limestone Youghioghney River Trail at about Mile Marker 36 of the 69-mile former right of way of the PL & E Railroad. At Mile 37.7 you can see an American rarity - a living rock formation known as a tufa, comparable to a fast-growing outdoor stalactite that grow from the roof of a cave. Tufas are caused by rainwater percolating down through decaying vegetation that dissolves the underlying limestone. This is one of only a few existing in the country.

*Trail Sense:* A park map is available online but not onsite and *Cedar Creek Trail* is unmarked.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed to hike these trails.

### **Traffic**

In the gorge is light foot traffic; bikes are the main mode of transport on the *Youghioghney River Trail*.

### **Canine Swimming**

At this point the Youghioghney River is wide and calm and the park features open, easy access for your water-loving dog.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.

# Forbes State Forest - Blue Hole Division

## The Park

The Blue Hole Division of the Forbes State Forest takes its name from an unusually deep pool in an otherwise shallow stream. The great depth makes the water appear a translucent blue.

## The Walks

Do you and your dog find the typical one person per hour you encounter in the 60,000 acres of Forbes State Forest too congested? Try the Blue Hole Division. The only developed hiking trail in this part of the forest is the two-mile *Cole Falls Trail* that swings from the namesake falls along Cole Run and Blue Hole Run and back up to Cole Run Road. Nearly every pawfall is accompanied by the sound of rushing water - likely the only sound you'll hear on this journey. An .8 mile hike along the wide, flat road closes this canine hiking loop.

The *Cole Falls Trail* only visits the Blue Hole via an overlook so you will have to make a special trip for your water-loving dog to enjoy this special treat. You can find the Blue Hole across from where Gary Run falls down a mountain to join Blue Hole Run. In addition to dog paddling in the deep swimming hole there is a submerged

## Somerset County

Phone Number  
- (724) 238-1200

Website  
- [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/maps/ForbesBlueHole.pdf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/maps/ForbesBlueHole.pdf)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Scullton*; from PA 381 take PA 653 east over Laurel Ridge. Passing town, turn left on Covered Bridge Road and left again on Fall Run Road. After the road curves turn left on Blue Hole Road. Continue to Cole Run Road and turn right to trailhead parking on the right (mostly unimproved roads).



Cole Falls is a treat for your dog at either end of this canine hike.



### *Bonus*

The *Cole Falls Trail* travels through an area clearcut by the Department of Forestry in 1970.

This is a forest management technique to reintroduce historical species to the woods.

Only areas with adequate tree seedlings established on the forest floor are candidates for clear-cutting.

The hope is that a diverse, vibrant forest will be reestablished by 2060 but currently there is too much black cherry and sweet birch in the forest due to ravages by uncontrolled whitetail deer.

rock ledge for diving dogs to make an artful entrance.

The network of lightly-traveled undeveloped roads can be used for extended canine hiking time in this remote valley. If you plan to spend the weekend (and this park is centrally located to the Laurel Highlands), reserve Campground Site #5 that is conveniently located across from the Cole Falls trailhead.

*Trail Sense:* The trail is blazed but there are no maps onsite.



Blue Hole is the best canine swimming hole in Southwest Pennsylvania.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome in the state forest.

### **Traffic**

No motorized vehicles are allowed on the trail but you are not likely to see much traffic of any sort.

### **Canine Swimming**

Some of the best in Blue Hole; there is no swimming for your dog in the Cole Falls plunge pool.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.

# Gallitzin State Forest - Charles F. Lewis Natural Area

## The Park

This 384-acre natural area in the Rager Mountain Division is in the Conemaugh River Gap and honors the memory of Charles Fletcher Lewis of Westmoreland County, a Latin teacher turned newspaper writer and first director of the Buhl Foundation. After mandatory retirement in 1955 at the age of 65 he left the Buhl conservation group after 28 years and thereafter helmed the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

## The Walks

Serious canine hikers only need apply - and you find out right away as you climb out of the Clark Run ravine in either direction. Before that you have choices to make. Just the 1.8-mile *Clark Run Trail*, blazed in yellow, today or add the *Rager Mountain Trail*, blazed in orange and sharing steps with its cousin route, for an additional three miles. Next you need to decide which direction to tackle the loop. Traveling counterclockwise you follow Clark Run upstream and get a better look at its many small waterfalls. Moving in this direction also means you will

## Indiana County

Phone Number  
- (814) 472-1862

Website  
- <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Forestry/stateforests/gallitzin.aspx>

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Cramer*; from US 22 turn south on PA 403 for 3.5 miles to the parking area on the left.



This is your bridge to cross Clark Run in the Charles F. Lewis Natural Area.

### *Bonus*

It is over 1600 feet from the top of Rager Mountain to the Conemaugh River below - making this the deepest gorge in the United States east of the Mississippi River.

be climbing on natural dirt trails. Heading off clockwise you climb the mountain on a rock scramble that is more difficult but preferable if you don't want to rock hop downhill. All squared away?

Most canine hikers would be advised to stick to the shorter loop, which packs the most scenic stretches along Clark Run into its hour or so of hiking. You sacrifice some long views into the Conemaugh River Gorge (although they come courtesy of power line cuts) and some intriguing rock outcroppings. But the stretch of trail between Rager Mountain Road and the junction with the *Clark Run Trail* is particularly nasty for dogs with twigs and roots under paw and long patches of greenbrier thorns right at dog's eye level.

*Trail Sense:* A mapboard is posted at the parking lot but nothing to take with you. There are plenty of blazes which helps since the trail is not always well-defined on Rager Mountain. Take care when crossing the powerlines to pick up the orange blazes - red blazes are boundary markers for the Charles F. Lewis Natural Area.

*Trail Sense:* A mapboard is posted at the parking lot but nothing to take with you. There are plenty of blazes which helps since the trail is not always well-defined on Rager Mountain. Take care when crossing the powerlines to pick up the orange blazes - red blazes are boundary markers for the Charles F. Lewis Natural Area.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed to explore the trails around Clark Run.

### **Traffic**

Foot traffic only but your dog will rarely see any of it.

### **Canine Swimming**

Clark Run is not deep enough for a swim but can be a great place for your dog to cool off after this hiking adventure.

### **Trail Time**

Between two and four hours.



Ridgetop rock outcrops are sure to interest your dog.

# 26

## Blacklick Valley Natural Area

### The Park

William Bracken was the first permanent settler in the Blacklick Valley, arriving after the American Revolution in 1786. He built a grist mill but the rugged Blacklick Valley was always too steep and rocky to be much good for farming.

In the 1840s iron making came to the Valley. Three blast furnaces were soon producing pig iron to be hauled out by wagon and shipped by canal to Pittsburgh. To stoke the furnaces the hillsides were soon denuded of their hemlocks and hardwoods.

Heavy industry receded from the Blacklick Valley and the land is recovering. Part of that rebirth is happening in this county-owned natural area that was donated in 1995.

### Indiana County

Phone Number  
- None

Website  
- <http://www.indianacountyparks.org/parks/bv/bv.html>

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Dilltown*; east of town at the end of McFeaters Road, on the north side of US 22, one mile east of PA 403.

### The Walks

Much of the canine hiking in the Blacklick Valley is easy going through the river floodplain. A level path along the riverbank draws you from the parking lot and holds on for nearly a mile. This *Blacklick Trail* begins as a pebbly farm road under paw before giving way to soft dirt to the delight of your dog. The airy woods of beech and hickory frame this quiet stroll.

You can complete a two-mile loop at this loping pace by continuing down the *Parker Lane Trail* but athletic dogs will want to test out the *Collier Trail* spur where you will gain over 300 feet in elevation zig-zagging up the mountain. You will pass open flats where colliers made charcoal from chopped wood. Charcoal was used instead of raw wood in smelting iron since it burns hotter. To operate a blast furnace required one acre of

### Bonus

Indiana County bills itself as the “Christmas Tree Capital of the World” because the national Christmas Tree Grower’s Association was founded there. There are still a large number of Christmas tree farms in the area, including several vibrant stands of spruce trees in the preserve along the *Candlestick Trail*.

forest per day.

Your reward for these exertions are some views through power line cuts. Back down from the mountain, you can take your dog around several connecting trails in the wetlands. All told, there are about five miles of trails in Blacklick Valley Natural Area.

*Trail Sense:* A map is posted on the information board in the parking lot to give a lay of the land. There are trail junction signs on the property but any blazes have not been energetically applied.



Dogs are always happy to see a Christmas Tree, like these along the Candlestick Trail.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to hike these pleasant trails.

### **Traffic**

Foot traffic only and little of that.

### **Canine Swimming**

Blacklick Creek, about 30 feet wide at this point, travels around a wide bend. There is muddy access to the shallows near the parking lot but at the furthest point in the hike the water flows deep. Your dog will need to make a little jump down from the bank to swim.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.

# 27

## Laurel Ridge State Park

### The Park

In the mid-1960s the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy began assembling 11,230 acres along Laurel Ridge from the Youghiogeny River to the Conemaugh River. This land was conveyed to the Commonwealth which became the substantial part of Laurel Ridge State Park and the 70-mile *Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail*.

The 70 miles are chopped into manageable bites by six parking areas and eight overnight shelter areas.

### The Walks

One of the easiest ways for your dog to sample the spectacular *Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail* is uphill from the park office on PA 653 in Fayette County. From the spacious parking area a short connector trail leads south to pick up the main trail just short of the 19-mile mark. Your destination will be a north-facing overlook just past the 21-mile mark.

After crossing PA 653 and managing a modest descent, the narrow trail on the mountaintop is almost perfectly level. No ravines to drop into and climb back out. No wide saddles to traverse. You could still be in Kansas, Toto.

There are some rocky patches but for the most part the dirt path is almost uniformly paw-friendly, unlike its parallel twin in eastern Pennsylvania, the *Appalachian Trail*, where “hiking boots go to die.” With this easy going in short order you reach the rock ledge overlook, the only one for more than 12 miles on the *Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail*. Do not allow your dog to scramble ahead of you to the overlook as there is a deep crevasse in the rocky outcropping.

### several counties

Phone Number  
- (724) 455-3744

Website  
- [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateParks/parks/laurelridge.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateParks/parks/laurelridge.aspx)

Admission Fee  
- None for day use

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Normalville*; park office on PA 653, atop Laurel Ridge between PA 281 and PA 381.

### *Bonus*

An unnamed pioneer cemetery from the mid-1800s, edged by a low stone wall, is just off the trail on the north side of Route 653. Of the dozen or so gravestones several are notable for their iron frames. Three are legible, including Adam Dietz who passed on June 8, 1852 at the age of 54. Dietz was prosperous enough to have filed a will with Fayette County just the day before, beginning, "My last will and testament which I make while I yet have my right senses. All the real and personal property I bequest unto Samuel S Dietz for his service rendered, but he shall maintain Elizabeth Dietz his mother and my wife out of the foresaid estate as long as she remains my widow, and he shall annually pay one hundred dollar to the heirs..."

If the pleasant pacing of your trip to the overlook has not yet quenched your dog's thirst for hiking on Laurel Ridge, you can continue on - the Grindle Ridge Shelter Area is a few miles further down the trail. If you don't want to retrace your steps, pick up a snowmobile map and chart out your own return.

*Trail Sense:* The trail is marked with yellow blazes; connector trails are marked in blue. Cement mile posts are planted every mile, which you are always certain you have missed since they never show up as soon as you expect.



A frontier cemetery now blends naturally into the Laurel Ridge forest.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed all along the *Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail*.

### **Traffic**

No horses, bicycles or motorized vehicles are permitted on the hiking trail.

### **Canine Swimming**

There is no water, save for seasonal streams, along the trail around PA 653, but down the road on the eastern slope is Lake Pyle.

### **Trail Time**

A few hours to a full week.

# Roaring Run Watershed

## The Park

In the early 1800s, after the opening of the Erie Canal threatened to suck up all of Pennsylvania's east-west trade, the legislature authorized the building of a canal from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. By the mid 1830s the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal was in business, reducing the shipping time of cross-state goods from three weeks to four days. But railroads were already making the waterway obsolete. Within 25 years many of the canal's towpaths were covered with steel rails, hauling coal from places like Roaring Run.

Fast forward 125 years and toxic drainage is seeping out of old mines and trash is clogging the cascades of the scenic Roaring Run hollow. In 1982 a group of Apollo-area residents formed the Roaring Run Watershed Association to revitalize the scarred landscape east of town. Several years later a salvage company donated the old railroad property that evolved into the crushed limestone *Roaring Run Hike/Bike River Trail*. Today the local, all-volunteer organization manages more than 350 acres - freely open to everyone for recreation.

## The Walks

The *Roaring Run Trail* is as good a rail/trail as your dog is likely to ever find. The wide, level path currently stretches 1.5 miles (with plans for an extension) along the Kiskiminetas River. Water views are intermittent early but soon they are your constant companion, framed against wooded slopes that soar more than 500 vertical feet above the path.

## Armstrong County

Phone Number  
- (724) 478-3366

Website  
- [www.roaringrun.org/](http://www.roaringrun.org/)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to midnight

Directions  
- *Apollo*; take PA 66 north from US 22. Immediately after crossing the Kiskiminetas River turn right on Kiski Avenue in town. After .8 mile the road forks into Canal Street and Cherry Lane. Bear right on Canal Street to the trail parking area at the end.



### Bonus

The trail is littered with traces of its industrial and transportation past but you have to be sharp-eyed. Stone walls covered with grass by the river are still visible and a pile of rubble obscured by mossy vegetation near the mouth of Roaring Run is what's left of the Biddle Iron Furnace that operated from 1825 to 1852. More obvious are small stone survey markers that were placed in 1827 to mark the path of the historic Pennsylvania Main Line Canal.

Alongside the main trail is a parallel dirt road part of the way and a generous grass shoulder to keep your dog out of the flow of heavy traffic, if need be. About a mile into the path you reach the mouth of Roaring Run and an old access road that leads to a completely different trail experience, winding up the contours of the hillside and crossing the energetic stream several times.

*Trail Sense:* A mapboard is available at the trailhead to help prepare you for what's down the trail but getting lost is not a concern in Roaring Run.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the *Roaring Run Trail*.

### **Traffic**

This popular trail is likely to be a communal dogwalk at any time of the year; bikes, strollers, skaters and just about any wheeled conveyance can use the trail. Horses are rarer; equestrians are allowed but can't go on the trail surface.

### **Canine Swimming**

Roaring Run and Rattling Run will yield welcome canine swimming holes and plunge pools below waterfalls; you can follow fishermen's paths to the Kiskiminetas River.

### **Trail Time**

As little or as much as you want up to three hours.



# Crooked Creek Lake

## The Park

Authorized by the Flood Control Acts of 1936 and 1938, Crooked Creek Lake was one of 16 flood control projects in the Pittsburgh District. Water stored in the Crooked Creek Lake is released periodically during dry periods to improve water quality and quantity for domestic and industrial use, navigation and recreation.

## The Walks

Adventurous canine hikers to Crooked Creek will want to tackle the *Baker Trail* that skirts the eastern side of the lake. Laid out in 1950 by the Pittsburgh Council of American Youth Hostels (AYH), the *Baker Trail*, named for attorney Horace Forbes Baker who helped found the organization, connected Pittsburgh to Cook Forest. The *Baker Trail* has since been extended to Allegheny State Forest for a total of 141 miles. But the AYH has vanished and the right-of-way, much on private land, has never had unifying oversight from any government agency.

So downed trees might not be addressed immediately and conditions may appear primitive. But your reward on this 8.5-mile stretch from SR 2035 to SR 2019 is unfettered time with your dog, views of the lake below and several stream crossings, including a covered bridge over Honey Run. Be aware that there will be short stretches of dogwalking on paved and gravel roads.

For less spirited trail dogs the *Shrub Swamp Interpretive Trail* in the Outflow Area will set tails wagging. This wooded loop travels on wide, paw-friendly paths and drops down to a fine canine swimming hole in Crooked Creek.

## Armstrong County

Phone Number  
- (724) 295-3570

Website  
- [corpslakes.usace.army.mil/visitors/projects.cfm?Id=H404280](http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/visitors/projects.cfm?Id=H404280)

Admission Fee  
- None

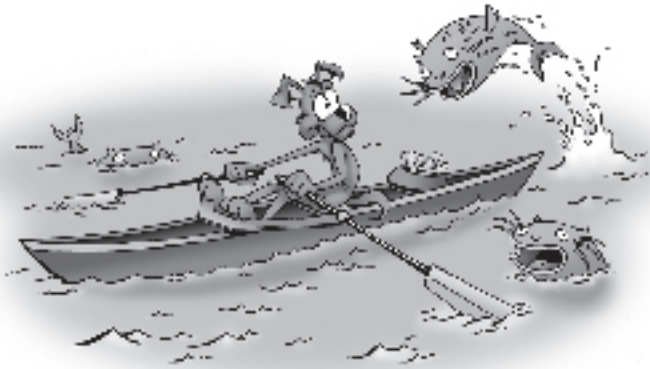
Park Hours  
- Sunrise to 9:00 p.m.

Directions  
- *Ford City*; on SR 2019 off PA 66, south of town.

### Bonus

Crooked Creek Rangers developed the Corps' first Auto Tour Trail. The trail takes in the local history of Armstrong County and local townships.

Visitors are provided information on the one room schools of 1867, the first water-powered sawmill and depreciation lands awarded soldiers of the American Revolutionary War. The trail was the combined effort of the Rangers and local historians.



In the off-season the manicured grounds of the Main Day Use Area are a top choice for your dog to roam with open grass hills, mown paths through a high grass field and two 18-inch deep skating ponds. In the Boat Launch Area your dog will find a blue ribbon swim and the *Laurel Point Trail* that hugs a wide stretch of lake.

*Trail Sense:* Due to its volunteer oversight, marking on the *Baker Trail* can be spotty - look hard for the yellow blazes (the white circles are horse trails) and occasional felled signpost. But a detailed park map/brochure available onsite should keep you rolling in the right direction.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on these trails but not in the area of the swim beach.

### **Traffic**

Light on the trails.

### **Canine Swimming**

There are deep pools in Crooked Creek in the outflow and access points for the lake behind the dam.

### **Trail Time**

Several hours possible.

# 30

## Keystone State Park

### The Park

To make steel, mills need coke, partially burned coal. To make coke, suppliers need to burn coal and quickly extinguish it. This calls for water, lots of water.

1909, the Keystone Coal and Coke Company purchased land at the meeting of McClure and Davis runs to build a lake that would supply water to wash bituminous coal douse the coke from ovens at Salem Mine No. 1. Water from Keystone Lake flowed, gravity fed, through two miles of wooden pipes to the mine.

In 1945 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania acquired the lake, company hunting lodge and surrounding land for \$35,000.

### The Walks

There are three completely different hiking experience for your trail dog in Keystone State Park. Behind the soft limestone Visitor Center on the south side of the lake a trail system climbs modestly through hardwoods and conifers. But your dog will scarcely be panting after a meandering gain of some 250 feet in over a mile of trotting on the *Stone Lodge Trail's* paw-friendly dirt.

In the eastern part of the park the *Davis Run Trail* meanders past wetlands into an upland forest generously peppered with towering pines. Before you know it you will have spent an easy hour with your dog in these out-of-the way woods.

The *Lakeside Trail* is a two-mile loop around Keystone Lake on park roads and walkways. The grounds around the lake are open almost the entire way

### Westmoreland County

Phone Number  
- (724) 668-2939

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

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Derry*; three miles south on PA 981 from US 22. The park office is on SR 1018 (Keystone Park Road).

### *Bonus*

There is little trace of the bustle and noise of the days of steel and coal in Keystone State Park but if you cut away a slice of the ground underneath the camping area you would see a maze of miles of tunnels. With a bit of hunting you can still see the sealed mine entrance of Salem Mine No. 2 that opened in 1938. Look behind the dam east of Picnic Pavilion Two and north of the cabin entrance road.

around so this hike could be one long fight to keep a water-loving dog from pulling you towards the the shore.

*Trail Sense:* A detailed park map/brochure is available on-site and the trailheads and paths are well-marked.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the trails but not in the sand area of the beach or in the modern cabins and yurts in the campground.

### **Traffic**

Most of the visitors to Keystone are drawn to the lake but those few attracted to the trails will be hikers only; bikes can use the paved roads and paths of the *Lakeside Trail*.

### **Canine Swimming**

You can almost always find a place for your dog to slip into Keystone Lake for a swim; during the off-season you will find almost univerrally easy access.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.



The park Visitor Center was once a stone lodge that executives of the Keystone Coal and Coke Company were given the use of one week a year for family vacations.

# 31

## Boyce Park

### The Park

William Dickson Boyce was born in Plum Township 150 years ago. After leaving Pennsylvania he became an energetic newspaperman, founding papers in the United States and Canada. By the age of 51 he was a millionaire many times over - and restless.

While in England he became disoriented on a London street and received guidance from an unknown Boy Scout who refused a tip for his assistance. Boyce checked on the organization and when he returned to the United States he chartered the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910. Although he was more of a benefactor than an administrator, Boyce drew upon his boyhood in rural Pennsylvania to help develop the principles for the Boy Scouts.

Boyce Park was the first of the Allegheny County regional parks to be dedicated in 1963 and almost 50 years later, over 500 of its 1,096 acres remain undeveloped in their original wooded state.

### The Walks

Two things are required to bring your trail dog to Boyce Park. One, a spirit to explore and two, a thirst for hillclimbing, as befits the only park in the region outfitted for downhill skiing, complete with lifts and a lodge. The wooded slopes on either side of Pierson Road are laced with narrow trails, most unmarked and yes, you could well find yourself hiking to a deadend on the edge of the park without warning. You won't be the first traveler to blaze a

### Allegheny County

Phone Number  
- (412) 271-3110

Website  
- [www.alleghenycounty.us/parks/bpfac.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/parks/bpfac.aspx)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Plum*; the park office is on Old Frankstown Road between Route 286 and Center Road. Exit the PA Turnpike (I-76) or I-376 onto US 22. Go north on Mossie Road to Haymaker Road to Center Road. Make a right on Old Frankstown Road to the park office on the left.

### *Bonus*

The Carpenter Log House, located on Pierson Run Road in Boyce Park, looks as if it has been standing there for 200 years. But that is not the case. The log house was built in the early 1800s by the Carpenters, descendants of Jeremiah Murry, founder of Murrysville. Members of the Murry/Carpenter family resided at the house until 1958 when the property was sold to the County to establish Boyce Park. Later that year, the house was dismantled and rebuilt in Point State Park for the Pittsburgh Bicentennial celebration of Fort Pitt. Afterwards, the logs were marked, the house taken apart again and stored in a barn on the Carpenter property for over 25 years when the Allegheny Foothills Historical Society restored the Carpenter House on its original foundation in time for Plum's Bicentennial celebration in 1988.

route through these hills - the original 200-mile Forbes Road ran through what is now Boyce Park.

Highlights of a tour of Boyce Park include abandoned coal mines, trees that appear to have survived pioneer homesteading and views from the top of the ski slopes on Indian Hill.

*Trail Sense:* A park map will provide general orientation but this is a good place to test out that new GPS unit.



The Carpenter House would have been a formidable structure on the 1820s frontier.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to hike in Boyce Park; pet waste stations are provided.

### **Traffic**

The Boyce trails are a mountain biking hotspot but don't expect to find many trail users, especially if you reach the more remote areas of the park.

### **Canine Swimming**

No, this is hiking only for your dog.

### **Trail Time**

Any outing will last at least one hour with many possible.

# 32

## North Park

### The Park

In the 1920s County Commissioner Edward Babcock looked out at the rolling farmlands still surrounding Pittsburgh and saw the need to preserve large swaths of land for public parks. Not everyone could see so clearly into the future but haltingly between 1927 and 1931 Babcock's idea for a two-park system in the north and south regions of the county became a reality. Babcock actually purchased land for the parks which he then turned over to the county at cost. North Park was the larger of the two "people's country clubs" at over 3,000 acres.

Both parks contained a golf course, tennis courts, swimming areas and rural retreat areas. North Park Lake became Allegheny County's largest artificial lake and 50,000 people turned out for fishing when it was first stocked in 1937. Edward Babcock's vision for the need for public parkland has been vindicated - on a sunny weekend day it has been estimated that 200,000 people enjoy North and South parks.

### The Walks

Your dog's best hiking in North Park will be at the Latodami Nature Center, created on 250 hilly acres of forests and wetlands in 1970. North Park had featured nature trails when it opened - designed for educational value, there were stuffed animals mounted along the paths. The hiking today is more natural but no less informative. More than a dozen short paths connect ponds,

### Allegheny County

Phone Number  
- (724) 935-1766

Website  
- [www.alleghenycounty.us/parks/npfac.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/parks/npfac.aspx)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to midnight

Directions  
- *Allison Park*; located between PA 8 (Wildwood) and to the east and Perry Highway (McCandless). From the west follow East Ingomar Road and from the east take Wildwood Road. Where the roads intersect with Babcock Boulevard, turn north and make a left into the park on Peace Mill Road past the lake. The Latodami Nature Center is at the far end of the park.



### Bonus

Your dog can't use it but stop and check out the swimming pool in North Park. It holds 2.5 million gallons of water and was once considered the largest in the world - a typical modern city pool holds maybe 30,000 gallons. When it was built people "bathed," rather than "swam." So the large pool in South Park (since replaced by the wave pool) was not more than 39 inches deep. When these two pools were the only major swimming facilities in Allegheny County attracted between 300-500,000 people per season.

meadows and hilltops on either side of Brown Road around the center's 1914 Pennsylvania Bank barn.

These natural soft grass and dirt paths will be favored by your trail dog and the many short, quick climbs will certainly keep his attention. For light woods hiking with your dog, the *Braille Trail* slides easily up a hillside around a percolating wetland.

You can extend your dog's day here on spurs like the *Crow's Trail* and *Bluebird Trail* that require out-and back trips.

To explore more of North Park proper try the 1.6-mile *Marshall Lake Trail*. North Park is also the southern terminus for the *Rachel Carson Trail* that runs to Harrison Hills; the trailhead is on the east side of Babcock Boulevard.

*Trail Sense:* A mapboard is available but some routes are not aggressively maintained and don't be discouraged if you need to retrace pawprints.



The nature center barn is decorated with a rural-themed mural.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the nature trails and there is an off-leash area near the center of the park, south of Pearce Mill Road.

### **Traffic**

Foot traffic only and you will find little competition for these trails despite the popularity of North Park.

### **Canine Swimming**

None along the Latodami trails but your dog can slip into a North Park lake when it is not busy.

### **Trail Time**

At least an hour.

# 33

## Fort Necessity National Battlefield

### The Park

In the early 1700s, as the English established themselves along the East Coast and the French set up trading routes between the Great Lakes and New Orleans, it became inevitable the two powers would tussle over the great lands of the Ohio Valley. In late 1753 a 21-year old George Washington led a expedition from Virginia to press English claims in the Ohio Valley.

The young emissary was rebuffed. But soon Washington came back in 1754, now as a newly commissioned lieutenant colonel. His orders were to build a road and help defend British fortifications. Events deteriorated

and Washington rapidly constructed a small, circular palisade he named Fort Necessity. When a force of 600 French and 100 Indians fell upon the crude fort, Washington was forced to capitulate, the only time he would ever surrender to an enemy in his career.

The confrontation at Fort Necessity was the opening battle in North America that would become the French and Indian War. It would end in the expulsion of French power from North America and India.

### The Walks

George Washington called Great Meadows, as the area surrounding Fort Necessity was then known, as “a charming field for an encounter.” You will take away the same impression today as you hike the grounds with your dog - minus the musket fire, of course. The focal point of the battlefield tour is a reconstructed fort built in the exact location of Washington’s original stockade.

### Fayette County

Phone Number  
- (724) 329-5512

Website  
- [www.nps.gov/fone/](http://www.nps.gov/fone/)

Admission Fee  
- Per person charge

Park Hours  
- Grounds open sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Farmington*; on the National Road (US 40), one mile west of town and 11 miles east of Uniontown.

### *Bonus*

George Washington's surrender did not deter the British quest for Fort Duquesne. The next year 60-year old Major General Edward Braddock assembled 2,400 men to march on the stronghold. Unschooling and unwilling to adapt to wilderness fighting, Braddock's men were routed and he himself mortally wounded. Edward Braddock was buried in the middle of the road he built for his advance, just a mile from the ruins of Fort Necessity. His grave can be visited with a short trail today. Another historic hike to take with your dog off-park is through Jumonville Glen that retains the isolated feeling of wilderness that Colonel Washington encountered when he skirmished the French and Indians here more than 250 years ago. This trail is a bit more challenging than its neighbors with dips and swirls into the ravine.

The interpretive trail traverses open meadows and light woods. Subsequent landowners grew fruit trees here that contribute to the park-like feel of one of America's oldest battlefields. Part of this easy canine hike trips along traces of the Braddock Road that was first blazed in 1750 by Nemacolin, a Delaware Indian, and built by Washington's expedition. The battlefield tour covers about one mile.

*Trail Sense:* Everything is well-laid out before you and interpretive signs and the park map lead you to the three units of the national battlefield.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are permitted to explore Fort Necessity.

### **Traffic**

Unless you catch a school trip or a tour bus you probably won't be rushed reading the battlefield signs.

### **Canine Swimming**

None.

### **Trail Time**

A couple of hours to visit all the units of Fort Necessity.



# 34

## Settler's Cabin Park

### The Park

The settler in question in the name was Gabriel Walker who arrived in 1772 with his brother Isaac from Lancaster County in eastern Pennsylvania. Gabriel built a cabin for his family here and Isaac settled at what is now Walker's Crossing. In September, 1782, a party of some 25 Indians attacked the settlement, captured five Walker children and burned the cabin. The parents escaped but the two youngest children were murdered. Walker rebuilt the cabin and it remains today in the park, restored as the Walker-Ewing Cabin.

From the 1920s the region became renowned for its high output of shallow coal, and was actively strip-mined as late as the 1960s. The property was a maze of abandoned open and back-filled mines when the county secured it. The largest of the Allegheny County regional parks, Settler's Cabin is also the wildest and least developed.

### The Walks

The trail system in spacious Settler's Cabin Park is a modest set of three stacked loops on the east side of Greer

### Allegheny County

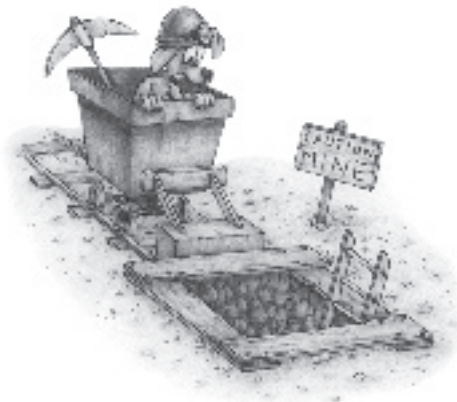
Phone Number  
- (412) 787-2750

Website  
- [www.county.allegheny.pa.us/PARKS/scfac.aspx](http://www.county.allegheny.pa.us/PARKS/scfac.aspx)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Oakdale*; exit US 22/30 at Campbells Run Road and turn left. Turn left on Ridge Road and cross the highway. You can enter the park by turning right on Bayer Road and left on Greer Road or bearing left past Bayer and turning right on Papoose Drive.



### Bonus

Allegheny County has leased part of the parkland for 99 years to the the Botanic Garden of Western Pennsylvania for \$1. Plans for the \$30 million project include a a 452-acre garden with trees, trails, flowers and greenhouses Complications from the underlying coal seams have delayed the construction of the botanical wonderland but someday...

Road and the park office. If you access the trails from the remote office (the best place to avoid the picnic shelters if it is busy), you will trot your dog down *Father Bill's Trail* a spur that remembers Holy Trinity Church's Reverend William Scholz who hiked the entire *Appalachian Trail*.



This small waterfall on Pinkerton Run is a delightful find for your dog on the Green Loop.

Otherwise the best access to the trails is near the Tomahawk Shelter and the *Teepee Loop*. This is all shady, wooded going for your dog on paw-friendly dirt paths. That *Blue Loop* circles the few developed attractions of the park so detour to the *Green* and then *Purple* loops as they drop progressively further down the slight valley away from the main park road. Eventually you will put the ambient traffic noise behind as the stream cuts through rock outcrops and you climb the opposite bank. Each of the loops is a 30-45 minute hike so it is possible to parse together a satisfying day of hiking for your dog at Settler's Cabin.

*Trail Sense:* A trail map can be had from the Internet but if you don't get one there are mapboards. The routes are well-blazed but since the overlapping loops share trail stretches it can be confusing without the map.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed to enjoy these trails but can't romp in the playground.

### **Traffic**

Most people come for the wave pool, not the trails.

### **Canine Swimming**

Pinkerton Run is mostly for splashing except in times of high water. If you do find high water it could affect your routes due to unbridged stream crossings.

### **Trail Time**

A half-hour to two hours, depending on how many loops you tackle.

# 35

## Conemaugh River Lake

### The Park

Since its construction by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1952 it is estimated that the Conemaugh Dam has prevented over \$2 billion in flood damage. The 137-foot high dam is able to lower flood levels at The Point in downtown Pittsburgh by four feet. The damming of the Conemaugh River, a tributary of the Kiskiminetas River, created a lake over seven miles long and as deep as 125 feet.

### The Walks

Canine hiking at Conemaugh River Lake commences at the dam that has plugged the valley. The *Woodchuck Nature Trail* begins atop a sandstone cliff overlooking the turquoise waters behind the concrete dam. This narrow footpath twists pleasingly up the hillside, staying in the light woods the entire journey for about one mile.

This is also an access point for the *West Penn Trail*, a 17-mile network of pathways that generally follow the route of the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal and Portage Railroad that operated from 1830 to 1864 between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. Conemaugh River Lake is roughly at the center of the rail trail that runs from Blairsville in the east to Saltsburg in the west. The highlights of this 3.5-mile stretch behind the Conemaugh Dam are four multi-arch stone bridges that date to 1907. This is easy going for your dog but if you head towards Bow Ridge prepare for a slow, gradual switchbacking trail up the face of the ridge. how intimidating is Bow Ridge? To avoid going over it, the third tunnel in the United States was constructed here.

### Indiana County

Phone Number  
- (724) 639-3785

Website  
- [www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/conemaug.htm](http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/conemaug.htm)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

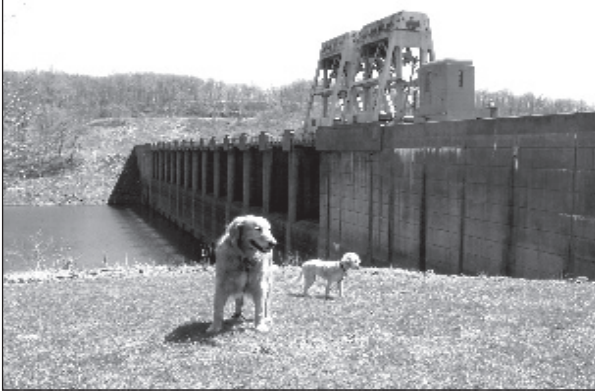
Directions  
- *Loyalhanna*; from US 22 take PA 981 north and turn right on Tunnelton Road in town. Cross the Conemaugh River and railroad tracks and turn right on Auen Road to Visitor Center.

### Bonus

Pennsylvania's most famous rodent, the groundhog, goes by any number of names. Bunnydog, land beaver, whistle pig, woodchuck. The *Woodchuck Nature Trail* takes you past groundhog burrows that often occur in open fields and rocky ravine ledges like this.

Groundhogs are excellent burrowers, moving as much as 700 pounds of dirt in construction. These burrows are used for sleeping, rearing young, and hibernating.

The woodchuck is one of the few animals to undergo true winter hibernation. The animals seldom stray far from the burrow and are under constant alert when not feeding. If spotted and alarmed by your dog you may be treated to a shrill call from a groundhog.



The Conemaugh River Dam has helped relegate catastrophic floods to the history books.

*Trail Sense:* Wayfinding will be a minor challenge at Conemaugh River Dam if you haven't pre-printed a *West Penn Trail* map from the Internet. You will find the trailheads easily enough and won't get lost but you won't know exactly where you are either.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to use these trails.

#### **Traffic**

Foot traffic only on the nature trail; horses and bikes are allowed on the *West Penn Trail* but trail usage is seldom overwhelming.

#### **Canine Swimming**

None.

#### **Trail Time**

Less than an hour for the nature trail to several hours on the rail trail.

# 36

## Powdermill Nature Reserve

### The Park

For years Dr. M. Graham Netting, an Assistant Director of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History was on the lookout for a natural area which could be used as a laboratory for the study and observation of the natural world. In 1956 his quest ended when the Carnegie Insitute received eleven tracts of land totaling 1,160 acres from Richard King Mellon. The donation apparently did not exhaust the Mellon holdings - the next year when *Fortune* magazine compiled its first ever list of wealthiest Americans, General Mellon was ranked sixth. Over the next several years, additional acreage was added that has doubled the size of the original Powdermill Nature Reserve.

### The Walks

Located down the western slope of Laurel Ridge, Powdermill Nature Reserve is an ideal spot to bring your dog to wind down after a day of more challenging fare atop the mountains or can stand alone as a diverting canine adventure in its own right.

Behind the nature center, explore the *Black Birch Trail*. This flat, garden-like canine hike covers a bit more than a half-mile and climaxes at Powdermill Run, a loud and extremely lively stream at this point. This bottomland is generously populated with black birch trees that are used as a source of wintergreen oil. The sap is fermented to make birch beer. The black birches can be identified in any season by their glossy, dark brown bark that appears to be torn or split.

### Westmoreland County

Phone Number  
- (724) 593-6105

Website  
- [www.powdermill.org/index.htm](http://www.powdermill.org/index.htm)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Trails sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Rector*; on PA 381 south of US 30. From the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76) take Donegal Exit #97. From the toll booth turn left onto PA 31 and continue east for 2.7 miles. Turn left on PA 381 North and continue 6 miles to Nimick Nature Center.



### Bonus

Today you can still find chunks of coal along the *Sugar Camp Trail*, souvenirs of an early environmentalist triumph. The hillside was the site of a low voltage pick-and-shovel coal operation in the early 1900s, but in 1946 coal-stripping operation started up here. It did not last long. The strip mining was halted in 1947 to prevent the pollution of Powdermill Run.

Across PA 381 is the trailhead to the *Sugar Camp Trail*, first blazed in 2004. The trail name remembers the maple syrup camps that operated here in the 1800s. Although rockier, hillier and longer by a half than its older sibling across the street, this route through maturing hardwoods will still not tax any level of canine hiker. The best time to visit Powdermill is in the spring when the wildflowers are ablaze but the rains that set trigger the color show also make this trail wet and iffy.



*Trail Sense:* The trails are color-blazed and well-signed.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs can enjoy these peaceful hikes.

### **Traffic**

No vehicles are allowed and little trail usage otherwise, especially when school groups are not visiting.

### **Canine Swimming**

The energetic Powdermill Run is impressive to look at but not deep enough for canine aquatics.

### **Trail Time**

Less than one hour.

# 37

## Brush Creek Park

### The Park

Brush Creek begins in Pine Township in Allegheny County and flows to Connoquenessing Creek, once named as one of the most beautiful Indian names in America in a *Reader's Digest* article long ago.

Mining within the watershed began in the early 1800s with the opening of the Murtz and Kearns mines. The Harmonie Society that played a critical role in the commerce and industry of western Pennsylvania, operated mines through the region beginning in 1815. This land, like many sister parks around Pittsburgh, is the one time home of a strip mine.

### The Walks

Driving along the park road through this narrow slice of the Brush Creek valley past the picnic areas and ballfields you may well wonder why you have brought your dog here. There are no trailheads, no signs to indicate that canine hiking is afoot.

But park the car and poke around the woods surrounding the park and lo and behold...about five miles of trails. The *East Trail* and *West Trail* each run the length of the park and combine for a four-mile loop. This is a sporty track that picks up about 300 feet from the creekbed to the hilltops, partly executed on old jeep roads that cut a wide swath through the woods.

Many dogwalkers at Brush Creek park never see the rock outcrops and traces of mine cuts but confine their visit to the balloon-shaped main road. To accommodate folks on this trip, distance markers are placed alongside the park road.

### Beaver County

Phone Number  
- (724) 846-5600

Website  
- [www.co.beaver.pa.us/Recreation/brush.htm](http://www.co.beaver.pa.us/Recreation/brush.htm)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Hazen*; entrance is on the north side of PA 588, east of the intersection with PA 65.

### *Bonus*

The central landmark of Brush Creek Park is the Woolslayer Covered Bridge, a steel queen truss, put in use in 1890. The bridge spans 75 feet over Brush Creek, supported on prominent stone foundations. No longer utilized for vehicular traffic, the scenic bridge was rebuilt in 1976.

The Woolslayer Covered Bridge is not the only dramatic crossing of Brush Creek for your dog.



There is also a swinging suspension bridge that will test any dog's nerves for sure.

*Trail Sense:* There is a park map that you can print off the Internet but if you arrive without it - nothing. Once you look around a bit you can figure out the trail system that parallels Brush Creek. You'll see a stray path here and there but they lead away from the stream so you will have a good idea that it may be a bad idea to head that way.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to hike in Brush Creek park.

### **Traffic**

Bikes and horses can both use these trails.

### **Canine Swimming**

Absolutely, although Brush Creek is wider than it is deep.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.

# 38 South Park

## The Park

South Park's 2,013 acres were developed in isolated rural splendor in 1927. Today it is in the heart of the most populated area in the region outside of Pittsburgh proper.

Earlier, in frontier times, Oliver Miller built a log cabin along Catfish Run in 1772. In the summer of 1794 musket fire erupted on the site by protesters of a new tax on whiskey to retire debts from the American Revolution. A militia of more than 12,000 men was assembled and George Washington took command to march on western Pennsylvania from Harrisburg. It was one of only two times a sitting President personally commanded the military in the field.

The "Whiskey Rebellion" was squashed without opposition and signaled to the new American people that changes to the law would have to take place through Constitutional means or the government would meet such threats to disturb the peace with force. The Miller family owned the land until selling out to the County in 1927; a stone house built in 1808 remains a focal point of South Park.

## The Walks

Most dog owners content themselves with the easy walking along the more than two miles of bike path along Corrigan Drive through the center of the park. The thoroughfare is named for Douglas Corrigan who in 1938 took off from New York for Clifornia but landed in Ireland instead. He claimed it was a navigational error. In fact, "Wrongway Corrigan" was likely protesting bureaucratic red tape that denied him an overseas flying permit.

### Westmoreland County

Phone Number  
- (412) 835-4810

Website  
- [www.alleghenycounty.us/parks/spfac.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/parks/spfac.aspx)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to midnight

Directions  
- *South Park*; take PA 51 (Clairton Boulevard) south to Route 88 (Bownsville Road) and go west to park entrance at Corrigan Drive.

### *Bonus*

Your dog can't go in but you still may want to stop in to see the South Park buffalo herd. In the park's nascent days it seemed obvious that parks should have wild animals and that the ideal caretakers would be real Indians. The County brought two tribes of Indians from a Montana reservation to live in its parks when they opened in 1927. Chief Big Beaver and his tribe went to North Park, and Chief Wild Eagle and his tribe went to South Park with great fanfare. Thirty-six head of buffalo were trucked in by means of a motor caravan, led by a tank. Things quickly went awry, however. In North Park, the Indians cared for the herd as they had done for generations - killing animals they needed for food and clothing. The Plains Indians were sent home to Big Sky country.

To hike on natural surfaces try the wooded mountain bike paths along East Park Drive. If the trails are not crowded with bikes your dog can get about an hour of hiking on these sporty hills. If the wheeled traffic is too daunting, there are plenty of route options to cut your explorations short.

*Trail Sense:* A park map/brochure is available but no trail map to define the blazed trail routes.



The Oliver Miller Homestead is not open to dogs but it is only open to people on 35 Sundays so you can usually peek in to see the 200-year old stone house.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed to join the throngs enjoying South Park; an off-leash dogpark is located off Corrigan Drive.

### **Traffic**

Almost everywhere, almost all the time.

### **Canine Swimming**

This is a dry day out for your dog.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.

# 39

## Bushy Run Battlefield Park

### The Park

For nine years during the French and Indian War from 1754 to 1763, the British sought to wrench the Delaware, Shawnees, and Western Senecas from their alliance with France. To accomplish this the British agreed to stop settlement west of the Allegheny Mountains after the fighting ended.

The British promises lasted about three months. In fact the frontier was breached more extensively than ever before. The British continued construction of Fort Pitt, a brick and stone fortification larger than any they had built in North America.

In response Pontiac, an Ottawa war chief in the Great Lakes region, besieged Fort Detroit on May 8, 1763. Pontiac wanted the French to return to the western frontier and sought to unite the diverse tribes to fight the British. He came as close as any leader would ever do so, capturing ten small forts and controlling land from Michigan to Pennsylvania, but Chief Pontiac's "Rebellion" came to a close after fighting here ended a siege on Fort Pitt. Bushy Run Battlefield is the only historic site or museum that deals exclusively with Pontiac's War.

### The Walks

Route 993 bisects the park with canine hiking available on each side. The *Edge Hill Trail* drops from the museum and remnants of the Lewis Wanamaker Farm into an airy second-growth woodland. The path is wide and inviting most of the way as the loop explores the battleground.

### Westmoreland County

Phone Number  
- (724) 527-5584

Website  
- [www.bushyrunbattlefield.com/WelcomePage.html](http://www.bushyrunbattlefield.com/WelcomePage.html)

Admission Fee  
- Yes, for the museum

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Jeannette*; northwest of town. Take the Greensburg-Harrison City exit from Toll 66 onto Business 66 North. Turn left on PA 993 West and continue to battlefield in three miles. Trail parking is on the south side of the road and museum parking is on the north side.

### *Bonus*

In the park south of PA 993 is a reconstructed log cabin typical of the kind found by travelers along the Forbes Road in the 1800s. Look closely at the sides and observe the wattle and clay filling that was used to plug the gaps between the rough hewn logs - not like today's tight-fitting, pre-fabricated log houses.



An 11-ton slab of Ligonier Blue Rock marks the spot where resistance to British expansion westward essentially ended.



A replica log cabin built on stone pillars provides a glimpse into the Spartan living conditions of the 1700s.

As you work back uphill with your dog to an open field you reach the site where British Colonel Henry Bouquet held the high ground with 450 soldiers during the skirmishing. His defensive position came to be known as the “flour bag fort” as stuffed flour bags were arranged to protect the wounded.

On the south side of Route 993 are single-track dirt paths leading into the quiet ravine cut by Bushy Run. This is classic woodswalking for you and your dog.

*Trail Sense:* Not much, but not much is needed. The natural and historical highlights of the property are marked by posts along the *Edge Hill Trail*.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed throughout the park.

### **Traffic**

This is not a heavily-visited park.

### **Canine Swimming**

Bushy Run flows lightly through the land here, more suited to tadpole swimming than your dog's.

### **Trail Time**

About one hour.

# 40

## Kooser State Park

### The Park

The land for Kooser State Park was acquired by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1922. John Kooser had been the first settler in the region in 1867 when he happened upon a natural spring here that now bears his name. The new park was quickly discovered by summer tenters who camped here from early spring until late fall. The camping area was named after George Van Dyke who was killed in an accident in the late 1800s when his salt wagon overturned.

### The Walks

Kooser State Park is a single-trail park, that being the *Kincora Trail* that grinds up the mountainside through a mixed forest speckled with hemlocks and hardwoods. There is plenty of rock-hopping for your dog on the narrow footpath and moist conditions keep the forest floor green and mossy.

Back off the hillside the trail loops around Kooser Lake, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s. You will be closing your loop along the main park roads so this is a better choice for your dog in the off-season. No matter when you come to Kooser, however, this canine hike never shakes the traffic noise wafting up from PA 31.

The hiking is not the reason to keep Kooser on dog owners' radar - this is the only state park campground that welcomes dogs in the Laurel Highlands.

*Trail Sense:* A park map is available and the *Kincora Trail* is blazed.

### Somerset County

Phone Number  
- (814) 445-8673

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

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- *Somerset*; on PA 31,  
at the eastern foothills of  
Laurel Mountain Summit.



### Bonus

During the Great Depression, with 25% of the American population out of work, Franklin Roosevelt put millions of men to work in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). "Roosevelt's tree army" set up in rural areas building roads, working on flood control and beautification projects. Several hundred men camped at Kooser and nearby Laurel Hill state parks. The rustic design and appearance of Kooser buildings are emblematic of CCC architecture. At Laurel Hill, opposite the information center, is a 6-foot bronze statue of a CCC worker. An identical tribute stands in 38 states.



Kooser State Park is the only state park in the Laurel Highlands that welcomes dogs.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the trail and in the campground but not on the beach.

### **Traffic**

Foot traffic only on the *Kincora Trail* but there will be plenty of traffic, vehicular and otherwise, on the park roads.

### **Canine Swimming**

If no one is chasing trout in Kooser Lake there is easy access for your dog. Kooser Run is shallow and swift and a great place for your dog to cool off.

### **Trail Time**

About one hour.

## 41

### Forbes State Forest - Lick Hollow Area

Fayette County

*On Route 40 east of Hopwood; access is only in the eastbound direction.*

Tucked down between mountain ridges this may be the prettiest picnic spot in all of Forbes State Forest's 58,000 acres. A .75-mile interpretive trail winds languidly through Lick Hollow but ambitious canine hikers will want to look in the opposite direction and head off on the two-mile *Pine Knob Trail*. Your destination is one of the few clear overlooks in Pennsylvania over 3,000 feet high. The climb is steady but not tortuous - shaded all the way - as you pick up over 1,500 feet in elevation on this out-and-back hike with your dog.

This adventure would be as highly rated as others for your dog in Forbes State Forest but the Lick Hollow Picnic Area is only open from Memorial Day to Labor Day from 11:00 a.m. to dusk. Even in the summer, the area is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

## 42

### Twin Lakes Park

Westmoreland County

*East of Greensburg, off US 30; turn north on Georges Station Road to McWilliams Road and park.*

The Jamison family from Northern Ireland has roots in Westmoreland County that pre-date the American Revolution. In 1892, after a dozen years of dabbling in the extraction of coal from their farmlands, Robert Smith Jamison and his sons founded Jamison Coal Co. Over the next half-century its mines and operations extended through much of Westmoreland and Fayette, some adjoining counties, and extensively in West Virginia.

In 1907, to supply water for facilities bunched northeast of Greensburg, Jamison acquired the Mellon farm and parts of the Sowash and McCarthy farms northeast of Georges Station. Water was soon being piped from a new 30-acre reservoir. This would be acquired by Westmoreland County in 1965 as a major part of what has been developed as Twin Lakes Park.

This is the acme of civilized canine hiking - a beautifully manicured park with paved walkways circling both the lower and upper lake over a distance of 2.5 miles. For a bit of a wilderness feel, try the self-guided *Tamarack Trail*, named for the resident tamarack trees. Expect plenty of company here but dogs are welcome so join the party.

# 43

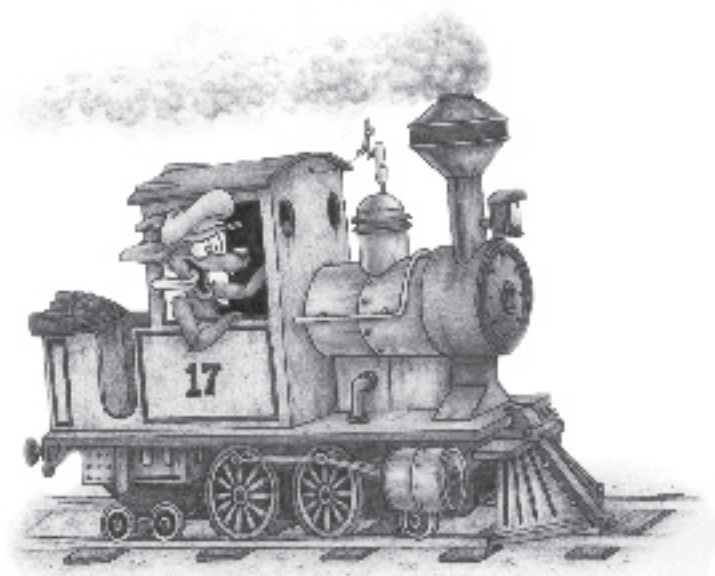
## Panhandle Trail

Allegheny County and Washington County

*Three miles west of Carnegie via Noblestown Road from Exit 57 of I-79; turn left on Walkers Mill Road to the trailhead parking area.*

The Panhandle Line was once a division of the mighty Pennsylvania Railroad. At one time you could board a westbound train and ride all the way to St. Louis. In 1999 Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) donated a 29-mile-long corridor to Allegheny County, Washington County and the West Virginia Railroad Authority that would eventually be converted into the *Panhandle Trail*, Pennsylvania's 100th rail-to-trail conversion and one of the finest of its ilk for canine hikers.

The eastern terminus is at Walkers Mill and there are many trailheads for dog owners to sample hikeable chunks before its four concluding miles in West Virginia. Highlights come early in the form of a cleaned-up rock quarry and windmill; the first access point is a little over a half-mile away at Rennerdale Station and Greggs Station is less than two miles further along. For real long-distance travelers the *Panhandle Trail* joins the 46-mile *Montour Trail* at the 8.63-mile mark. A roomy corridor gives dogwalkers an opportunity to step off the crushed limestone path and avoid heavy weekend traffic.



# 44

## Ghost Town Trail - Dilltown

Indiana County

*North of US 22 with trailhead junction on PA 403.*

The *Ghost Town Trail* was created in 1991 after the Kovalchick Salvage Company donated 16 miles of abandoned track from the Ebensburg & Blacklick Railroad. By this time mining towns such as Bracken, Armerford, Webster, Claghorn and others were just memories listed on long-ago maps. The town of Wehrum, developed by President Franklin Roosevelt's uncle, Warren Delano, once sported 230 houses, a hotel, company store, bank and jail. Ghost towns all.

Additional mileage has been added to the trail system in intervening years to bring the *Ghost Town Trail* to over 36 miles. While some grades tackle the surrounding mountains, the stretch around Dilltown is flat and inviting as it hugs the Blacklick Creek. The trail is the epicenter of the tiny hamlet with a Visitor Center/station and country store. Three miles to the east are the remains of Wehrum and six miles away is Eliza Furnace, one of the best preserved hot blast furnaces from Pennsylvania's Iron Age. Three miles to the west is the remnant stack of the Buena Vista Furnace, first fired in 1847 and named for a Mexican War battle. The crushed limestone trail on the way is decidedly rural, alternating between open fields and tunnels of leafy hardwoods.



Blacklick Creek is the dominant theme of a canine hike along the Ghost Town Trail.

## 45

### Hillman Park

Washington County

*East of Florence; from US 22 take PA 18 North and take your first on Steubenville Road and left on Haul Road into park.*

Hillman Park is managed for hunting by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Nothing has been developed in the park's 3600 acres. But if you are seeking a secluded place to hike with your dog, strap on some orange, check the hunting calendar and head to Hillman Park, located southeast of Raccoon Creek State Park.

Parking is mostly along the road where you see a fire break or opening leading into the woods. The land is comprised of open fields and mixed hardwood forest. Established as a slate dump, the remnants may often be felt under paw by your dog. Come with a mind to explore - your dog certainly won't mind the lack of amenities.



Your dog will savor the undeveloped open spaces to be explored in Hillman Park.

## 46

### Northmoreland County Park

Westmoreland County

*In Apollo, on PA 356, three miles north of PA 66.*

The main hike here is a 1.1, mostly open, loop around Northmoreland Lake. There are also some bridle trails and a wooded hillside hiking loop. But the main reason to bring your dog to this picnic-and-recreation park is that it is a super place for your dog to swim. In addition to the low, open banks to the main lake there is a fishing pond that your dog won't be able to resist.

47

## Highland Park

Pittsburgh

*North Highland Avenue at Reservoir Drive, off PA 8.*

The star hike in Highland Park, the walkway around Reservoir #1, is off-limits to dogs. Pittsburgh chose this site above the Allegheny River, originally owned by Alexander Negley, for a reservoir to provide drinking water to the city in 1879. City residents climbed the hills to the reservoir to enjoy some open space and the park opened officially in 1893. But despite the loss of the historic reservoir in the heart of the park there are still curiosities to explore with your dog.

Lake Carnegie predates the reservoir as a supply of drinking water and it still remains as a recreational lake. Paved trails lead past here and along Babbling Brook, where waste water is naturally chlorinated by tumbling over rocks, boulders, and organic material to clean it. You will find some dirt trails as you cobble together a route but much of your dog's day will be on pavement and road shoulders.

48

## Boyce-Mayview Park

Allegheny County

*In Upper St. Clair on Boyce Road, west of US 19; trail parking is in the valley west of the community garden plots.*

This 475-acre park is the wedding of two properties, a hunk of former Allegheny County park land and a farm once tended to provide food for the adjoining Mayview State Hospital that opened in 1892. The property is defined by a yawning bend in Chartiers Creek and a yawning ravine that separates north from south.

This natural area has historically been a favorite haunt of dogwalkers but as the property is developed restrictions are being imposed. Presently dogs are not allowed in the garden plots, the wetlands, the ballfields and certain trails. Plans have been floated to create a dog run to "control" dogs. For the time being there are still plenty of trails to trot with your dog, some marked and some not. The variety of footpaths include narrow dirt bands, mown grassy stretches, old farm roads and boardwalks.

# 49

## Buttermilk Falls Natural Area

Indiana County

*Two miles south of US 22 at Clyde, at the end of Valley Brook road off Clay Pike Road (SR 716).*

For 25 years from 1931 to 1956 Fred McFeely, a wealthy industrialist from Latrobe, owned the property around these impressive 45-foot falls. One of his frequent visitors was his grandson, Fred Rogers. In later years, millions would be welcomed to Mr. Rogers' "neighborhood" on television and, thanks to a donation by the owners of the nearby Conemaugh Generating Station, today your dog can explore Fred's childhood neighborhood in Hires Run Valley as well.

A short, steep trail begins at a viewing platform over the falls and leads to the stream at the bottom where your dog can frolic a bit. Across the parking lot begins the *McFeely Trail* whose faded yellow blazes craft a balloon-shaped trail through vibrant hardwoods on the site of the former estate. Stone foundations can still be seen of the rustic cottage, horse stables, outbuildings and rock-ringed swimming area.



# 50

## Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve

Westmoreland County

*At Saint Vincent College, north of US 30 in Latrobe; entrance is via the first left off PA 981.*

The Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve was established in the memory of Winnie Palmer, wife of golfing legend Arnold Palmer and a friend of Saint Vincent. Before her death in 1999, Mrs. Palmer expressed a concern that the view of the College from US 30 would one day be lost, which led to the preservation of these lands. Currently, short trails have been shaped through the thickets and woodlands (watch for cut stalks under paw). Like a new golf course, the trails will need time to mature. Canine hikers are welcome dawn to dusk, seven days a week.

A highlight on the property is the Lochry Blockhouse that was a wooden armory built on the western frontier by Archibald Lochry in 1780. Lochry would be killed the following year on the Ohio River during an attack by Mohawk Indian leader Joseph Brant but the blockhouse survived to fall into the hands of the Latrobe Historical Society that has placed it here.



This is the view of Saint Vincent College that Winnie Palmer wanted to preserve.



# Camping With Your Dog In The Pittsburgh Region

## Allegheny County

### Mountain Top Campground

Tarentum

*Exit 14 or 16 off PA 28.*

RV only                    open year-round                    (724) 224-1511

*[www.mountaintopbluegrass.com/campground.htm](http://www.mountaintopbluegrass.com/campground.htm)*

## Armstrong County

### Crooked Creek Lake Campground

Ford City

*On SR 2019 from PA 66, south of town.*

RV/tent                    open mid-May to Labor Day                    (724) 368-3564

*[www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/crookedc.htm#rec](http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/crookedc.htm#rec)*

### River's Edge Campground & Marina

Cowansville

*Off Sherret/Watsonville Road, 4.1 miles from PA 268 at Hydroplant #9.*

RV/tent                    open April through October                    (724) 545-6855

*[www.riversedgecamp.com](http://www.riversedgecamp.com)*

## Beaver County

### Crawford's Camping Park

Darlington

*Southwest of town at 251 Hodgson Road off PA 168, south of PA 51.*

RV/tent open mid-April to mid-October                    (724) 846-5964

## Harts Content Campground

Beaver Falls

*At 496 Glendale Road off Concord Circle Road from PA 18.*

RV/tent open April 15 - October 15 (724) 846-0005

## Orchard Grove Campsites

Industry

*West of PA 60, Exit 14 at 6138 Tuscarawas Road.*

RV/tent open mid-April to mid-October (724) 495-7828

## Raccoon Creek State Park

Hookstown

*On PA 18, south of US 30 and north of US 22.*

RV/tent open mid-April to mid-October (724) 899-2200

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateParks/parks/raccooncreek.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateParks/parks/raccooncreek.aspx)

## Butler County

### Bear Run Campground

Portersville

*At 184 Badger Hill Road off PA 488, East Portersville Road, east of I-79, Exit 96.*

RV/tent open April through October (724) 368-3564

[www.bearruncampground.com](http://www.bearruncampground.com)

### Breakneck Campground

Portersville

*At 226 Cheeseman Road, west of Perry Highway (US 19), west of I-79, Exit 96, via East Portersville Road.*

RV/tent open year-round except Sept-Oct (724) 368-3405

[www.breakneckcampground.com](http://www.breakneckcampground.com)

### Buttercup Woodlands Campground

Renfrew

*At 854 Evans City Road (PA 68) off PA 356, west of Butler.*

RV/tent open April 15 to October 15 (724) 789-9340

[www.buttercup.org](http://www.buttercup.org)

## Cooper's Lake Campground

Slippery Rock

*At 205 Currie Road, north of US 422, west of I-79, Exit 99.*

RV/tent open May 1 through October (724) 368-8710

*www.cooperslake.com*

## Indian Brave Campground

Harmony

*On US 19, north of PA 68 from I-79, Exit 87.*

RV only open year-round (724) 452-9204

*www.indianbravecampground.com*

## Kozy Rest Kampground

Harrisville

*At 449 Campground Road, east of town via East Mercer Road, PA 58.*

RV/tent open year-round (724) 735-2417

*www.kozyrestkampground.com*

## Lake Arthur Family Campground

North Washington

*At 243 West Liberty Road, east of PA 528, north of US 422.*

RV/tent open May through October (724) 794-9901

*www.lakearthurfamilycampground.com*

## Peaceful Valley Campground

North Washington

*At 231 Peaceful Valley Road west of town via PA 138 from PA 38.*

RV/tent open mid-April through October (724) 894-2421

*www.peacefulvalleycamp.com*

## Smith Grove Campground

Butler

*At 1085 Herman Road, east of town. From Us 422, turn south on Bonnie Brook Road and left on Herman Road.*

RV/tent open mid-April through October (724) 285-3600

## *Fayette County*

### **Benner's Meadow Run Camping & Cabins**

Farmington

*At 315 Nelson Road, north of US 40.*

RV/tent open midApril to mid-October (724) 329-4097

*www.bennersmeadowrun.com*

### **Five Pines Campground**

Farmington

*South of town at 667 Elliottsville Road (PA 381), off US 40.*

RV/tent open May 1 to October 1 (724) 329-4606

*www.quiethousebnb.com/fivepines/fivepine.htm*

### **Hideaway Campground**

Normalville

*At 166 Indian Creek Valley Road, north of PA 711.*

RV/tent open May to September (724) 455-7700

### **Indian Creek Camplands**

Connellsville

*East of town at 1132 Mount Tabor Road, south from PA 711.*

Tent only open April through October (724) 455-7900

*www.camplands.com/index.html*

### **Mountain Pines RV Resort**

Champion

*At 1662 Indian Creek Valley Road, PA 711/381, south of PA 31.*

RV only open year-round (724) 455-3300

*www.mtpinesresort.com*

### **Ohiopyle State Park - NO DOGS!**

### **River's Edge Campground**

Connellsville

*At 1101 Rivers Edge Road west of town via PA 201 and north on Adelaide Road.*

RV/tent open midApril to mid-October (724) 628-4880

*www.campriversedge.com*

## Scarlett Knob Campground

Ohiopyle

*Two miles north of town on PA 381 at.*

Tent only      open April to October

(724) 329-5200

*scarlettknobcampground.com*

## Tall Oaks Campground

Farmington

*At 544 Camp Riama Road off PA 381, south of US 40.*

RV/tent open year-round

(724) 329-4777

## Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp-Resort

Mill Run

*On PA 381, 3 miles south of intersection with PA 711.*

RV/tent open year-round

(724) 455-2929

*www.jellystonemillrun.com*

## Youghiogeny River Lake - NO DOGS!

Mill Run Campground

Outflow Campground

Tub Run Campground

## Indiana County

## Wheel-In Campground

Shelocta

*From US 422, east of PA 210, to Plumcreek Road and follow signs.*

RV/tent open mid-April to mid-october (724) 354-3693

## Yellow Creek Campground

Penn Run

*On US 422, 11 miles east of Indiana.*

RV/tent open year-round

(724) 465-4169

*www.yellowcreekcampground.net*

## Yellow Creek State Park - NO DOGS!

## Lawrence County

### Rose Point Park Cabins & Camping

New Castle

*At 314 Rose Point Road off Old Route 422 from US 422, west of I-79, Exit 99.*

RV/tent open mid-April to mid-October (724) 924-2415

*www.rosepointpark.com*

## Somerset County

### Hickory Hollow Campground

Rockwood

*On PA 281, six miles south of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76), Exit 10/110.*

RV/tent open year-round (814) 926-4636

*www.hickoryhollowcampground.com*

### Kooser State Park

Somerset

*At the top of Laurel Ridge west of town on PA 31.*

RV/tent open mid-April to mid-December (814) 445-8673

Laurel Ridge State Park - NO DOGS!

### Lost Mountain Campground

Trent

*At 195 Lost Mountain Road off Trent Road, north of County Line Road.*

RV/tent open April through October (814) 352-7310

### Pioneer Park Campground

Somerset

*At 273 Trent Road Off PA 31, 12 miles east of Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76), Exit 91.*

RV/tent open April through October (814) 445-6348

## Woodland Campsites

Somerset

*At 291 Gilmour Road of PA 601, north of Pennsylvania Turnpike, Exit 110.*

RV/tent open April through October (814) 445-8860

## *Washington County*

### Bennett Acres Campground

Burgettstown

*At 72 Bennett Acres Lane, west of PA 18, north of US 22..*

RV/tent open April - October (724) 947-5120

*www.pinecovebeachclub.com/rvresort.html*

### Campground 70

Charleroi

*North of I-70, Exit 35 off PA 481.*

Tent only open April to October (724) 239-2737

### Four Seasons Camping Resort

West Finley

*From I-70, Exit 1, follow Old Brick Road south to Beham Road east to West Finley Road south to Majorsville Road west to Camp Resort Road south.*

RV/tent open year-round (724) 428-4407

### Pine Cove Beach Club & RV Resort

Charleroi

*North of I-70, Exit 35 off PA 481.*

RV only open May through October (724) 239-2900

*www.pinecovebeachclub.com/rvresort.html*

### Washington KOA

Washington

*West of I-79 from Exit 33 and right on Vance Street Road, bearing right downhill to campground.*

RV/tent open March through November (724) 225-7590

*www.koa.com/where/pa/38146/*

## Whispering Pines Family Campground

Washington

*On PA 18 north of town.*

RV/tent open April 15 - October 31 (724) 222-9830

### *Westmoreland County*

## Buffalo Run RV Park

Ruffs Dale

*At 1412 New Stanton Ruffsdale Road north of town from intersection with PA 31.*

RV only open year-round (724) 925-1540

## Donegal Camground

Donegal

*At 106 Yeckel Drive, west of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76), Exit 91.*

RV/tent open mid-March to mid-December (724) 593-7717

## Fox Den Acres Campground

New Stanton

*Northeast of town on Wilson Fox Road, north of PA 66, Exit 1.*

RV/tent open May 1 to November 1 (724) 925-7054

*www.foxdenacres.com*

## Keystone State Park - NO DOGS

## Laurel Highlands Campland

Donegal

*At 1001 Clubhouse Drive, southeast of town on PA 31/PA711.*

RV/tent open year-round (724) 593-6325

*www.lhcampland.com*

## Lazy Acres Campground

New Alexandria

*On Slag Road, east of PA 981, north of US 30.*

RV/tent open mid-April through October (724) 668-8067

*www.lazy-acres-campground.net*



## Loyalhanna Lake

Saltsburg

*West of town off PA 981, north of US 22.*

RV/tent open May through October (724) 639-9013

*www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/loyalhan.htm#campers*

## Madison Pittsburgh KOA

Ruffs Dale

*At 764 Waltz Mill Road, north of I-70, Exit 54.*

RV/tent open April through October (724) 722-4444

*www.koa.com/where/pa/38179/*

## Mirror Lake RV Camping & Fishing

New Florence

*At 112 Trout Run Drive off PA 711, 11 miles north of Ligonier.*

RV/tent open mid-April to mid-October (724) 235-9983

*www.mirrorlakervcamping.com*

## Roaring Run Resort

Donegal

*South of town on Roaring Run Road off PA 31.*

RV only open year-round (724) 593-7837

*www.roaringrunresort.com*



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### *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*

*Other Books On Hiking With Your Dog  
from Cruden Bay Books  
www.hikewithyourdog.com*

**DOGGIN' THE MID-ATLANTIC:** *400 Tail-Friendly Parks To Hike With Your Dog In New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Northern Virginia* - \$18.95

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