

*A Bark In The Park -*

**The 44 Best  
Places To Hike  
With Your Dog In  
The Cincinnati  
Region**

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**Cruden Bay Books**

A BARK IN THE PARK: THE 44 BEST PLACES TO HIKE WITH  
YOUR DOG IN THE CINCINNATI REGION

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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

It's a great time to be a dog in Greater Cincinnati! The people and dogs of our region are fortunate to live near some award-winning public parks, many of which are open to dogs. As this book goes to press, several more large parks and smaller dog parks are under construction or in the planning stages. Within the Greater Cincinnati area, which consists of Hamilton, Butler, Warren and Clermont counties in Ohio, Kenton, Campbell and Boone counties of Kentucky and Dearborn County, Indiana, you can enjoy breathtaking views of the Ohio River and all three states, stroll along the Ohio River while watching for unusual birds, enjoy city skyline views, walk alongside smaller lakes or stroll through the same mature forests that greeted pioneers centuries ago.

This book features outstanding parks in the eight-county Greater Cincinnati area where you can walk with your dog. With the help of Maggie, my family's three-year-old Labrador retriever, I ranked the 44 best according to very subjective criteria, including the variety of hikes available, scenery and pleasure of the walks and opportunities for canine swimming. Each park is pleasant in its own way. Some parks offer long hikes on rustic trails that cross streams. Others are more developed and offer shorter strolls on paved trails. Don't get too hung up on the rankings – just find a park near your home and start walking.

Enjoy the parks!

Beth and Maggie



***Before You Go...***

## **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 Cincinnati 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 your dog's 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 days that don't seem too warm can cause discomfort in dark-coated dogs if the sun is shining brightly. In cold weather, short-coated breeds may require additional attention.

**🐾 Trail Hazards**

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



**🐾 Ticks**

You won't be able to visit any of the Cincinnati region's parks without encountering ticks. All are nasty but the deer tick - no bigger than a pin head - carries with it the spectre of lyme disease. Lyme disease attacks a dog's joints and makes walking painful. The tick needs to be embedded in the skin to

be embedded in the skin to transmit lyme disease. It takes 4-6 hours for a tick to become embedded and another 24-48 hours to transmit lyme disease bacteria.

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

### **Water**

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

*I can't think of anything that brings me closer to tears than  
when my old dog - completely exhausted afters 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*

## Outfitting Your Dog For A Hike

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

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

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

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

🐾 *Will my dog wear a pack?*

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

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

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

🐾 *How does a dog wear a pack?*

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

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

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



🐾 *Are dog booties a good idea?*

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

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

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

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

*"We are alone, absolutely alone on this chance planet; and, amid all the forms of life that surround us, not one, excepting the dog, has made an alliance with us."*

*-Maurice Maeterlinck*

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

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

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

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

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

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

*-Christopher Morley*



***The 44 Best Places  
To Hike With  
Your Dog In The  
Cincinnati Region...***

# 1

## Mount Airy Forest

### The Park

Mount Airy Forest is the site of the first municipal reforestation in the United States. The land became a candidate for an arboreal makeover by the stripping of trees on Colerain Hill. One farmer named Davey McFarlan quipped that his property was in New Orleans after he cleared trees and watched the land slide into a creek. The Cincinnati Park Board began its project in 1911 by purchasing 168 acres of land for planting new hardwoods and evergreens. Nearly a century later Mount Airy Forest is a park of almost 1,500 acres, most of which remain in a natural state. The park is the city's largest, comprising about 40% of the Park Board's acreage.

### Cincinnati

Distance from downtown  
- 6 miles  
Phone Number  
- (513) 352-4080  
Website  
- [www.cinci-parks.org](http://www.cinci-parks.org)  
Admission Fee  
- None  
Directions  
- Take Interstate 75 to Interstate 74. Take the Colerain Avenue exit. Travel north on Colerain Avenue to the park entrance.

### The Walks

The hiking trail system in Mount Airy Forest, designated a National Recreational Trail, features 14 miles of walking but visiting canine hikers would do best to concentrate on *Trail E*. The trail begins in McFarlan Woods and touches on nearly every segment of the park in its ten-mile odyssey. The path can be hiked in smaller bites that are possible throughout the route.

The trail rolls up and down ravines but is never grueling. You'll cross plenty of trickling streams and washes cut into the hillsides for your dog to splash in, souvenirs from the early days of abuse. Look for large sinkholes that also pepper the hillsides

### *Bonus*

In 1999 Cincinnati built her first dog park in Mount Airy Forest in the Highpoint Picnic Area, off Westwood-Northern Boulevard.

The two-acre dog park is encircled by a fence on a gentle hillside. It provides a place for dogs to socialize off leash. In the years after the successful development of the Mount Airy dog park, many other communities have planned or constructed dog parks.

in places. Punctuating the walks in the Mount Airy Forest are showy seasonal wildflower displays along the trails. Mount Airy Forest is a great place to see wild turkeys early in the mornings in the fall. The turkeys eat acorns and a great place to see them is near the Oak Ridge Lodge.

*Trail Sense:* The trail is well-marked with white blazes but the trailhead - like others at Mount Airy - can be hard to spot. Look for maps posted at the park police headquarters and at a shelter near the entrance of the park, off Colerain Avenue.

### **Dog Friendliness**

The prettiest parts of Mount Airy Forest are in the landscaped Arboretum with its 1,600 species of trees and shrubs. Canine hikers must stay in the wilder regions of the park - no dogs allowed in the Arboretum.

### **Traffic**

This is a very busy park but the crowds thin out along the many footpaths.

### **Canine Swimming**

Occasionally a creek or water hole will be deep enough for a doggie dip but come expecting just a splash.

### **Trail Time**

You can spend the better part of a day on the Mount Airy Forest trails.

# 2

## Miami Whitewater Forest

### The Park

When Miami Whitewater Forest opened in 1949, it was the Hamilton County Park District's third park, after Sharon Woods and Winton Woods. At 4,279 acres, it is the largest park in the Hamilton County Park District and spans three townships: Harrison, Crosby and Whitewater.

### The Walks

The park offers canine hikers seven trails, including the paved *Shaker Trace Outer Loop*, a popular paved path that glides through fields and meadows for nearly eight miles. Less crowded are the park's nature trails that range in length from less than one mile to close to two miles. The *Oakleaf Trail* slips past two ponds on its journey and for a woods hike try the loops of the *Badlands Trail* where your dog will enjoy bounding up and down small hills.

*Trail Sense:* The paved trails are easy to follow.

### Dog Friendliness

Miami Whitewater Forest always has a lot of dogs and park visitors who appreciate them. Bags are available on site for clean-up.

### Hamilton County

Distance from Beltway

- 5 miles

Phone Number

- (513) 367-4774

Website

- [www.greatparks.org](http://www.greatparks.org)

Admission Fee

- Hamilton County Park District

Motor Vehicle Permit

(\$3/year or \$1/day)

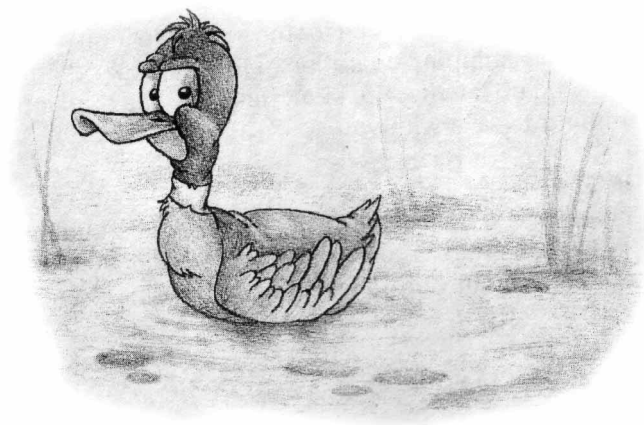
Directions

- Take Interstate 74 west to the Dry Ridge Road exit.

Travel north on Dry Fork Road and east on West Road to the park entrance.

*Bonus*

The Shaker Trace Trail penetrates a marsh that is one of the premier birding spots in the tri-state area. The areas around the wetlands are being converted from crop fields back to prairie grasses.



**Traffic**

The paved outer loop is very busy and be on the lookout for bikes, strollers and skates.

**Canine Swimming**

A stream along the *Shaker Trace Inner Loop Trail* provides a wonderful respite from the heat.

**Trail Time**

You can spend less than an hour to an entire afternoon on the trails in this large park.

# 3

## Hueston Woods State Park

### The Park

Matthew Hueston fought in the region's Indian Wars under daring Revolutionary War hero Anthony Wayne and came to settle in the area. An early conservationist, Hueston sought to preserve his forests for future generations. After the last Hueston family member died in the 1930s, Morris Taylor kept the founder's vision alive until the state bought the Hueston property and designated it as a state forest. In the 1950s, the Ohio Board of Corrections set up an honor camp here for inmates; buildings from the camp remain on the park grounds.

### Butler/Preble Counties

Distance from Beltway

- 20 miles

Phone Number

- (513) 523-6347

Website

- [www.ohiostateparks.org](http://www.ohiostateparks.org)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- From Interstate 275, take Colerain Avenue (Route 27) north to Oxford.

Turn right on Route 732 to park entrance.

### The Walks

More than a dozen trails crisscross the park's 3,000 acres. Many are less than one mile in length. The *Big Woods Trail*, the longest at 1.8 miles, takes canine hikers into a beech-maple climax forest that is a remnant of Ohio in the pre-settlement age. Nearly half the trees here are the blanched white trunks of beech trees. The *Indian Mound Trail* begins at prehistoric Indian mounds and the *West Shore Trail* is your best route to explore Acton Lake, created in the mid-1950s when a dam was constructed across Four Mile Creek and named for Clyde Acton, a Preble County lawmaker who proposed that Ohio purchase the park land.

If you are hiking in the campground area you may see waist-high white and orange posts. These are control points of a permanent course maintained by the Orienteering Cincinnati

*Bonus*

200 acres of the park, the Hueston Woods Nature Preserve, have been designated a National Natural Landmark. The preserve is especially known for its fossils. A shallow sea once covered the area and retreating waters stranded many creatures to die in the limestone and dolomite bedrock.

Fossil collecting is permitted in the park but don't come expecting dinosaurs and mammoths. Tiny invertebrates and maybe a fish bone or tooth are your more likely finds.

Club. If you want to try the sport of map and compass with your dog, a map packet is on sale in the campground store.

*Trail Sense:* Trail maps are also available at the park office.

### **Dog Friendliness**

With a variety of trails and access to water, this is a great park for dogs. Dogs are also allowed in limited sites in the campground.

### **Traffic**

This is a popular park throughout the year.

### **Canine Swimming**

Acton Lake makes a fine spot for extended canine aquatics, as do several streams on the property.

### **Trail Time**

With a large variety of trails, you can hike for an hour or a whole day.



# 4

## Symmestownship Park

### The Park

The centerpiece of the Symmestownship park system was a farm until 1993. An additional 18 acres were recently added to the 61-acre park along the southeast border making room for more trails and a new dog park where canine visitors can socialize off-leash.

### The Walks

Paved and gravel paths circle the park and lead into the forest. The *South Nature Trail* passes a meadow and perennial garden and the *North Nature Trail* explores more deeply into the wooded parts of the park. When the path gets steep, staircases give panting dogs another option.

*Trail Sense:* There will be no need to summon the St. Bernards on these trails.

### Dog Friendliness

Dogs are a common sight to park visitors.

### Traffic

There are walks of solitude possible in Symmestownship Park.

### Hamilton County

Distance from Beltway

- 3 miles

Phone Number

- (513) 683-6644

Website

- [www.symmestownship.org](http://www.symmestownship.org)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- Take Interstate 275 to the Loveland exit. Travel north on Loveland-Madeira Road and turn left on Lebanon Road. The park will be on the right.

*Bonus*

The new trail runs along a creek into the woods and leads to two small waterfalls.

**Canine Swimming**

No swimming is permitted in the pond at the center of the park, but the creek holds water all year long.

**Trail Time**

You will spend less than an hour on these trails.

*How To Pet A Dog*

*Tickling tummies slowly and gently works wonders.*

*Never use a rubbing motion; this makes dogs bad-tempered. A gentle tickle with the tips of the fingers is all that is necessary to induce calm in a dog. I hate strangers who go up to dogs with their hands held to the dog's nose, usually palm towards themselves. How does the dog know that the hand doesn't hold something horrid? The palm should always be shown to the dog and go straight down to between the dog's front legs and tickle gently with a soothing voice to accompany the action. Very often the dog raises its back leg in a scratching movement, it gets so much pleasure from this.*

*-Barbara Woodhouse*

# 5

## Caesar Creek State Park

### The Park

The United States Congress authorized the development of Caesar Creek Lake back in the 1930s to prevent regional flooding but the dikes were not built to create the 2,830-acre lake until 1978. The Caesar who once owned the creek was a black slave captured by the Shawnee on a raid along the Ohio River. The tribe adopted him and gave him this valley as a hunting ground.

### Warren County

Distance from Beltway  
- 15 miles  
Phone Number  
- (513) 897-3055  
Website  
- [www.caesarcreekstatepark.com](http://www.caesarcreekstatepark.com)  
Admission Fee  
- None  
Directions  
- Take I-71 north to State Route 73. Travel east through Waynesville. The main entrance is on the left.

### The Walks

There is a long history of walking through this area. Part of the ridge line on the eastern side of the valley was a traditional Indian trail that settlers came to value as well. They called it Bullskin Trace as they traveled from the Ohio River to Detroit and the trail was later used by abolitionists on the underground railroad. Today the Caesar Trace trail system in the park offers 43 miles of trails, including a 31-mile horse path.

Two miles of the creek meander through a 180-foot deep gorge cut by melting glaciers and the trail that visits the gorge starts behind the dam. The terrain is hilly as canine hikers traipse through the forest; steps help negotiate the rougher spots and benches provide convenient rest stops. Other walks include the *Bluebird Trail* through open fields and the *Buckeye Trail* that passes along the west side of Caesar Lake as it crosses the entire state.

*Trail Sense.* A detailed map from the park office or online leads the way around the wealth of trails in Caesar Creek State Park.

*Bonus*

Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village preserves a collection of some 18 log cabins from Ohio's pioneer days. The centerpiece is the 2-story Levi Lukens cabin, built of beech logs by the owner of a local grist mill. Other weathered buildings are even older.

**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome on the park trails. A dog-training area is available for practicing hunting skills. Pets are permitted in the campground.

**Traffic**

Pedestrian traffic is light on the trails, especially as they fan out away from the paved sidewalks closer to the dam.

**Canine Swimming**

Water-loving dogs will find streams throughout the park. There are also two waterfalls - one along the perimeter trail and another by the dam.

**Trail Time**

There is a full day of canine hiking in store in Caesar Creek State Park.

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

*-Calvin Coolidge*

# 6

## Sharon Woods Park

### The Park

Established in 1932, Sharon Woods Park was the first park in the Hamilton County park system. Shortly after the park opened a dam was built on Sharon Woods Creek to create Sharon Woods Lake. Enormously popular from the beginning, by the late 1930s as many as 700,000 people were using the park each year. After the lake was restored in the 1980s, the re-opening celebration of the 761-acre park was so heavily attended that shuttle buses were needed to transport crowds from the harbor to parking areas.

### The Walks

The park offers three trails for canine hikers. A peaceful 2.6-mile paved trail circumnavigates Sharon Woods Lake. Oak, maples and ash trees shade much of the path on summer afternoons. The hike-bike path is similarly shaded by mature trees.

The *Richard H. Durrell Gorge Trail*, named for a park commissioner, is a 1.6-mile walk into a spectacular 90-foot glacial cut. The hilly trail is highlighted by a series of educational displays.

*Trail Sense:* The trails are extremely well-marked and trail maps are available.

### Hamilton County

Distance from Beltway

- less than 1 mile south

Phone Number

- (513) 563-4513

Website

- [www.greatparks.org](http://www.greatparks.org)

Admission Fee

- Hamilton County Park District

Motor Vehicle Permit

(\$3/year or \$1/day)

Directions

- From I-275 in Sharonville, take the US 42 (Reading Road) exit south. If you are going to Sharon Woods Lake, travel south on US 42 about .4 mile to Kemper Road. Follow Kemper east for .4 mile. Turn right into the park. If you are traveling to Heritage Village Museum or Sharon Centre, take US 42 about one mile south of I-275. The park entrance is on the left.

*Bonus*

The Sharon Woods Golf Course carries a distinguished links pedigree. The layout was designed by noted midwestern golf course architect Willaim Diddel and when the course opened in 1937 legendary golfer Bobby Jones drove the first ball.

A photo of Jones hitting the historic shot hangs in the clubhouse. Sharon Woods Golf Course has recently been retrofitted to its original layout.



**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are practically expected at Sharon Woods. At each trail the park provides bags for disposing of dog waste. The attendant welcomed Maggie with a dog biscuit when we bought our park pass.

**Traffic**

This crowded park is the place to come for a communal dog walk.

**Canine Swimming**

While tempting, canine swimming is outlawed in Sharon Woods Lake.

**Trail Time**

Allow an hour to circle the lake, 45 minutes on the gorge trail.

# 7

## Rowe Woods

### **The Park**

Rowe Woods is the home of the Cincinnati Nature Center. Founded in 1965 and spearheaded by local businessman Stanley M. Rowe, the 790-acre park is now one of the largest nature centers in America with 5,300 members. Non-members can use the trails by paying a daily access fee.

### **The Walks**

Close to 15 miles of trails radiate to every corner of Rowe Woods. Some are flat, others require a moderate climb but little that will set your dog to panting. Most of the walks are shaded - 5% of all the old-growth forest in the state of Ohio is in Rowe Woods.

*Trail Sense:* Pick up a map and make sure that you stay on the trails. The grounds are large and you could become lost otherwise.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome but owners must pick up after them and keep them on the pathways.

### **Clermont County**

Distance from Beltway

- 2 miles

Phone Number

- (513) 831-1171

Website

- [www.cincynature.org](http://www.cincynature.org)

Admission Fee

- \$3/adult and \$1/child on weekdays. \$5/adult on weekends. Annual memberships are \$35 for an individual and \$60 for families.

Directions

- Take Interstate 275 to the Route 50/Hillsboro exit. Turn toward Hillsboro and follow to Perrintown. Turn right on Round Bottom Road. Watch for the Nature Center sign on the left.

*Bonus*

The original owners of the property were Carl and Mary Krippendorf. The son of the founder of the Krippendorf-Dittman shoe company, Carl was stricken with Typhoid Fever and in 1898 bought 97 acres here as a retreat to help speed his recovery. An early conservationist, he saved the land from becoming a tobacco farm.

The Krippendorfs would come to live 64 years in their "Lob's Wood."

The couple planted hundreds of different varieties of daffodils in the forest, never allowing a visitor to leave without a handful of flowers or bulbs. Today you and your dog can wander in the midst of this legacy of daffodils every April.

**Traffic**

The trails in the Cincinnati Nature Center are seldom crowded.

**Canine Swimming**

No wading in the creeks is allowed.

**Trail Time**

More than an hour of canine hiking in on hand; the longest trail takes over two hours to walk.

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

*- Samuel Butler*

# 8

## Stonelick State Park

### The Park

Once a battleground for settlers and Indians, land acquisition began in 1948 for a park here. A dam to create a wildlife area for sportsmen was finished in 1950 and Stonelick State Park remains that way today.

### The Walks

The park features seven miles of trail, mostly through an unusual mature forest. Typically oaks and maples and beech trees will dominate a northern hardwood forest like this, but in Stonelick State Park sweet gums are the stars. The trails are also decorated by a dazzling array of wildflowers. The *Red Fox Trail* loops for about two miles near the campground and the *Lakeview Trail* hugs the banks of the the 200-acre Stonelick Lake for a mile-long canine hike.

*Trail Sense:* Trail maps are available at the park office.

### Dog Friendliness

All trails and most areas of the park are open to dogs. Pet camping is permitted.

### Clermont County

Distance from Beltway

- 12 miles

Phone Number

- (513) 625-7544

Website

- [www.ohiostateparks.org](http://www.ohiostateparks.org)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- Take Interstate 275 to Milford and exit onto Route 28, going east. Take the Bypass 28. In Mount Repose, turn right on Woodville Pike. Follow it until the road dead ends near the park entrance.