

# Doggin' The Finger Lakes

***The 50 Best Places  
To Hike With Your Dog***

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**Cruden Bay Books**



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

**DOGGIN' THE FINGER LAKES: THE 50 BEST PLACES  
TO HIKE WITH YOUR DOG**

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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

The Finger Lakes can be a great place to hike with your dog. Within a short drive you can be scaling mountains that leave your dog panting, exploring impossibly scenic gorges that will set tails to wagging or trotting along glacial lakes for hours.

I have selected what I consider to be the 50 best places to take your dog for an outing in the Finger Lakes 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).

I have defined the Finger Lakes roughly to be a saddle-shaped area bordered to the north by the New York State thruway, to the west by I-390/I-86 and to the east by Route 13/I-81.

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 Finger Lakes 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 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 spend much time on the trail 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.

**🐾 Rattlesnakes and Copperheads, etc.**

Rattlesnakes 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. 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 before you ever see her. 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 obvious 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.**  
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 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 the Finger Lakes 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. In some places, there may be broken glass. 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
- ▶ insect repellent - no reason to leave your dog unprotected against mosquitoes and black 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.

### *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*

## No Dogs

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

- Baltimore Woods** - *Marcellus*
- Beaver Lake Nature Center** - *Baldwinsville*
- Bristol Hills Trail** - *Bristol*
- Cayuga Nature Center** - *Ithaca*
- Cumming Nature Center** - *Naples*
- Lime Hollow Center for Environment** - *Cortland*
- Onanda Park** - *Canandaigua*
- Sandy Bottom Nature Trail** - *Richmond*
- Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary** - *Ithaca*



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 across the Finger Lakes...

*The 50 Best Places  
To Hike With Your Dog  
In The Finger Lakes...*

# I

# Letchworth State Park

## The Park

William Pryor Letchworth entered business at the age of 15 in Auburn in 1848, working as a clerk in the saddlery and hardware trade. He soon shifted to the iron products business and was successful enough to retire at the age of 48. But he did not stop working. He became an advocate for epileptic and poor children from his post on the New York State Board of Charities, agitating tirelessly for their treatment, often with his own money.

He first bought land on the Genesee River in 1859 when he started to build his Glen Iris Estate with the help of famous landscape artist William Webster. When development of the Genesee River loomed in 1906, Letchworth scrapped plans for Glen Iris to be converted into an orphanage after his death and gave it to the State of New York instead to preserve the lands forever. A year later, and three years before William Letchworth's death, his 1,000 acres became one of the cornerstones of the New York state park system.

## The Walks

The "Grand Canyon of the East" covers more than 14,000 acres and serves up about 70 miles of trails, many of the multi-use variety. Most folks, however, don't explore much beyond the three major waterfalls at the park hub so you will have no trouble slipping away into the woods with your dog in relative solitude. If you can, bring your dog to the *Gorge Trail* early in the morning before the crowds arrive to gape at the hydrospectaculars and admire the stone bridges and stairways created by the Civilian Conservation Corps

## Livingston

Phone Number  
- (585) 493-3600

Website  
- [nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/info.asp?parkID=12](http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/info.asp?parkID=12)

Admission Fee  
- Vehicle entrance fee May to November

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

**Nearest Finger Lake**  
**- southwest of Conesus**

Directions  
- *Castile*; From I-390 take Exit 7 to the park off Route 36.

### *Bonus*

In 1743 Mary Jemison was born aboard ship, bound for the New World. Her family settled near modern-day Gettysburg on the American frontier. In 1758, in the early days of the French and Indian War, the Jemison farm was raided by French and Shawnee warriors. The raiders headed west and soon killed everyone in her family except Mary. In Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh) she was sold to Seneca Indians and renamed Dehgewanus. She lived among the Senecas, married and was led back to her husband's homeland on the Genessee River, walking 700 miles with a young son on her back. She arrived but without her husband, who fell ill and died. She would live in the valley another 70 years until the "Old White Woman of the Genessee" died in 1833 on the Buffalo Creek Reservation. Two generations later her grandchildren appealed to William Letchworth to have her remains moved to her one-time land here. He obliged, and Mary Jemison came home. You can see her grave, topped by a statue dedicated in 1910, behind the Glen Iris Inn.

during the Depression.

Good places to sneak away with your dog are behind the museum, highlighted by the *Mary Jemison Trail*, and in the northern area of the park near the campground off Schenck Road with its gorge overlooks.

*Trail Sense:* Well-mapped and blazed.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to hike and camp but are not allowed in any park building, cabin area or swimming pool area.

### **Traffic**

All kinds but you can seek out a quiet canine hike.

### **Canine Swimming**

There are some side streams in the park for refreshing splashing.

### **Trail Time**

Full days possible.



*There is plenty for your dog to see at Letchworth State Park.*

# Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve

## The Park

As Director of the Cornell Institute for Research in Chemical Ecology Thomas Eisner was well familiar with trips to exotic locales around the world in search of beneficial plants. Born in Uruguay, he had extensive field experience on four continents.

But what about in his own backyard? Was it possible that temperate climates like that experienced in Ithaca could harbor plants with medicinal value like those hunted for in humid tropical jungles?

Dr. Eisner approached the Finger Lakes Land Trust to see if they could find an ecologically diverse tract to pursue research for useful botanical chemicals. Through significant private donations the trust was able to piece together this remarkable preserve that became the world's first temperate-zone preserve for research in chemical ecology and bio-prospecting.

## The Walks

One of the joys of hiking with your dog is watching her react to her surroundings and there is plenty to stimulate the canine senses here. Ravines, heavy brush, open meadows, beaver ponds, stands of hemlock and pine, marshes, glacially carved hillside, oak-hickory forests are all on the hiking menu at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve.

The star walk here is the *Blue Trail* that mixes open meadows with long views of the surrounding hills and a hillside woodland loop. The full tour of

### Tompkins County

Phone Number  
- None

Website  
- [www.flit.org/protected\\_lands/protected\\_lands1.php?id=22](http://www.flit.org/protected_lands/protected_lands1.php?id=22)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

**Nearest Finger Lake**  
**- south of Cayuga**

Directions  
- *West Danby*; south of town on Route 34/96. The preserve lot is on the east side of the road.

### Bonus

Celia's Cup, named for the wife of a preserve benefactor, is a large depression hollowed by a mighty chunk of glacial ice. It makes an easy-to-see example of the region's "kettle and kame" topography. Kettles can contain a number of different ecosystems. Celia's Cup is a dry, unforested kettle.

the *Blue Trail* will take about an hour but you will want to mix in trips along *Red Trail* and *Yellow Trail* to get the full effect of the preserve. This is a sporty track, down one side of a wide valley and up the other. The property is drained by the Cayuga Outlet creating plenty of soft, paw-friendly soil under paw.

*Trail Sense:* There is a helpful educational kiosk and a map to take with you. The trails are well-blazed and imaginative.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome on these trails.

### **Traffic**

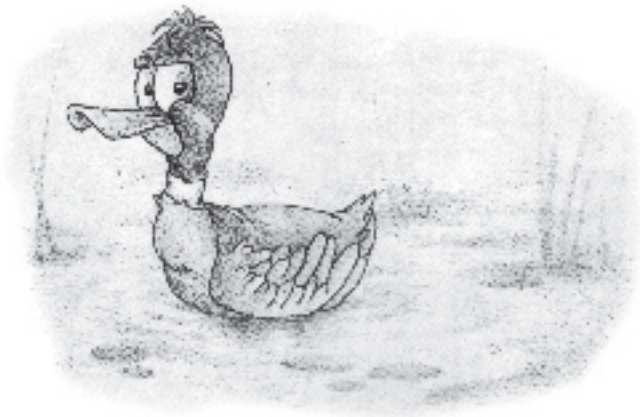
More than you typically expect at a Finger Lakes Land Trust preserve but usually far from crowded; foot traffic only.

### **Canine Swimming**

Coleman Lake is the most obvious spot for a refresher.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.



# 3

## Fillmore Glen State Park

### The Park

Dr. Charles Atwood, a local physician by vocation and a botanist by avocation, is the “Father of Fillmore Glen.” A member of the Finger Lakes State Parks Commission since it was formed in 1924, he led the preservationist movement to create this park.

The area was well-known and appreciated by the locals for its wide range of botanical wonders. Trails were open in the glen for years before it became a jewel of the Empire State park system in 1925.

The glen is named for Millard Fillmore, 13th president of the United States, born down the road in Summerhill. The park today covers 941 acres.

### Cayuga County

Phone Number  
- (315) 497-0130

Website  
- [nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/info.asp?parkID=35](http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/info.asp?parkID=35)

Admission Fee  
- Vehicle entrance fee May to November

Park Hours  
- Daylight hours

**Nearest Finger Lake**  
- southeast of Owasco

Directions  
- *Moravia*; one mile south of the village on Route 38.

### The Walks

The main canine hiking experience at Fillmore Glen is on the *Gorge Trail* that crosses Dry Creek on nine bridges and visits five major waterfalls. Much of the elaborate stonework along the trail was constructed by Civilian Conservation Corps stonemasons during the Great Depression. This is an easy trot for your dog for two miles into the glen, starting flat and becoming increasingly steep as you reach the end of the gorge. Note that the *Gorge Trail* is closed in the winter and stays very wet after a recent rain.

To complete a hiking loop back to the parking area you have two choices - the *South Rim Trail* and the *North Rim Trail*. The south rim route is the more benign of the two as it connects several picnic pavilions. The heartier canine hike is through the hemlocks on the higher side of the gorge, the north side. The most scenic side waterfall drops from this side.

### *Bonus*

Millard Fillmore was the first president born when George Washington was no longer alive and the last president who was neither a Democrat nor a Republican (he was a Whig). Fillmore was also the first non-elected President, ascending to office from the vice-presidency in July 1850 with the death of Zachary Taylor. Interestingly, he then served as President without a Vice-President. Fillmore supported the Compromise of 1850 that admitted California as a free state but also established a stricter slave law that was so controversial he was not even nominated by his own party to run for President again in 1852.

Millard Fillmore was born in a log cabin five miles from the park in 1800 and a replica of the cabin constructed from similar materials is on display by the parking lot.

*Trail Sense:* A park map is available and the gorge and trails are marked by signage.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed throughout the park, including the campground, save for the bathing areas.

### **Traffic**

Foot traffic only in the gorge.

### **Canine Swimming**

Your dog will enjoy the natural swimming pool beyond the Cowsheds, a magazine cover-worthy waterfall that drops into a semi-circular amphitheatre.

### **Trail Time**

Several hours of trail time are available.



*A replica cabin of the one Millard Fillmore grew up in is located in his namesake park.*

4

# Wesley Hill Nature Preserve

## The Park

Briggs Gully is one of the Finger Lakes' biggest gorges. Its steep sides managed to defy some loggers although plenty of timber was felled here to feed the hungry Frosttown sawmills nearby.

In 1926 three young Rochester artists - John C. Wenrich, James Havens and Colburn Dugan - bought a 90-acre slice of Briggs Gully as a place to come for relaxation and inspiration. In 1999 the Finger Lakes Trust was able to make this retreat the core of the Wesley Hill Nature Preserve. Additional purchases have increased the preserve's size to around 400 acres.



## Ontario County

Phone Number  
- None

Website  
- [www.flit.org/protected\\_lands/protected\\_lands1.php?id=31](http://www.flit.org/protected_lands/protected_lands1.php?id=31)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

### Nearest Finger Lake - east of Honeoye

Directions  
- *Honeoye*; from town, head east on Route 20A and go south on East Lake Road. Take a left on Pine Hill Road and then a right, following signs for Cummings Nature Center. The road becomes Gulick Road and you are close to two preserve parking areas. Make a right on Wesley Road to one area or stay on Gulick about one mile past Wesley to the other.

### *Bonus*

The most accomplished of the triumverate of original artist-owners was James Dexter Havens.

The son of a United States Congressman and head of the legal department for Eastman Kodak in Rochester, Havens was stricken by juvenile diabetes at the age of 14 in 1914. Doctors gave him only two years to live but he clung to life, bedridden, for eight years.

At that point, through his father's contacts, young Jim Havens became the first American to undergo insulin therapy. By the time he received treatment, he weighed less than 74 pounds at the age of twenty-two.

The treatment worked and Havens went on to live a relatively normal life until he died in 1960.

Having taken up drawing to relieve boredom during his illness, Havens first made his mark in the art world as a printmaker and was elected an Associate of the National Academy in 1951.

## **The Walks**

This a paradise for an active dog to hike. A quintet of well-blazed, interesting trails cover over six miles and visit all corners of the preserve. The star hike here, accessed from the Gulick Road lot, is the red-blazed *Rim Trail* that bounds through mature forests, visits a woodland pond, plunges into old growth stands of white pine and white oak, explores some side gullies, traces the rim of Briggs Gully and arrives at the Wenrich Cabin before looping back to the parking area for a trip of almost three miles.

To explore different habitats you can start at Wesley Road where more recently abandoned farms are in various stages of reforestation. Oh, yes. There are arresting views of the Honeoye to be had from rock outcrops on the north rim of Briggs Gully. There is plenty of room for your dog to stretch out on these generous, dirt trails.

*Trail Sense:* Map/brochures are available at the trailhead and the trails are blazed. Stay alert for trail switches at intersections.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed to hike these trails.

### **Traffic**

No horse and no bikes.

### **Canine Swimming**

There is easy access to the woodland pond from grassy banks.

### **Trail Time**

About a half-day.

# 5 Cornell Plantations

## The Park

The stated purpose of the Cornell Plantations is “to hold, manage, protect, and enhance the living botanical collections and the natural areas and gorges of Cornell for the benefit and use of the university community and the public.”

Cornell Plantations officially came into existence in 1944, when Liberty Hyde Bailey coined the name. Most of the gardens and the arboretum have been developed since the early 1970s. Cornell maintains nearly 3,000 acres in formal gardens and natural areas.

## The Walks

A college campus is often a great place to seek a canine hike with your dog, especially when class is not in session. When the campus grounds are as spectacular as Cornell University’s, it is simply a bonus.

The Cornell Plantations are a beguiling mix of landscaped grounds and natural areas. The backbone of the Plantations are 14 specialty gardens dispersed around Plantations Road. Dogs are not often permitted in public flower gardens so it is a rare treat to hike with your dog through these 25 acres of plantings. The same can be said for arboretums and your dog can enjoy the 150-acre F.R. Newman Arboretum here, trotting on serpentine paths through collections of shrubs and native New York trees.

Across Fall Creek your dog can explore such natural areas as Hemlock Grove across the stone Sackett Bridge, easily reached by foot. Pop out on the wrong trail and you may wind up on the Cornell University golf course, designed by

## Tompkins County

Phone Number  
- 607-255-2400

Website  
- [www.plantations.cornell.edu](http://www.plantations.cornell.edu)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

**Nearest Finger Lake**  
- southeast of Cayuga

Directions  
- *Ithaca*; on the Cornell campus. From Dryden Road (Route 366) turn onto Judd Falls Road. Take the jughandle exit down to Plantations Road and turn right to the Visitor Center.