

# Doggin' The Mid-Atlantic

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**400** Tail-Friendly Parks  
To Hike With Your Dog in  
New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware,  
Maryland and Northern Virginia



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

**DOGGIN' THE MID-ATLANTIC: 400 TAIL-FRIENDLY PARKS TO TAKE YOUR DOG IN NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA, DELAWARE, MARYLAND AND NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

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# HOW TO USE AN E-BOOK

If you are new to e-books, several navigation aids have been built into the book to make it easy to navigate, including:

- 1) The **Scroll Bar** on the right side of the screen will allow you to browse the parks in a general manner.
- 2) **Bookmarks** are your main weapon in accessing the information in this book. The content is arranged alphabetically by state and the parks are listed alphabetically within each state. From the Bookmark Tab on the left you will be able to open the Book mark menu. Scroll down the lists, pick a park, click on it and the page for that park will open.
- 3) There is also a tab for **Thumbnails**. Opening this tab will enable you to get to each page via a miniature picture of that page.
- 4) You can also go to the Table of Contents page (next) and click on the subject you want to go to and you will end up in there.
- 5) If a park has a website you can click on the **blue-colored link** on the park's page and you will wind up at the Internet and the park's page for additional information.

*“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*


## *Ahead On The Trail*

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# Introduction

The Middle Atlantic states are a great place to hike with your dog. Within a short drive in the region you can hike on sand trails, climb mountains that leave your dog panting, walk on some of the most historic grounds in America, explore the estates of America's wealthiest families or circle lakes for miles and never lose sight of the water.

This book describes and rates 400 Middle Atlantic parks that welcome dogs. What makes a great place to take your dog hiking? Well, how about a paw-friendly surface to trot on? Grass and sandy dirt are alot more appealing than asphant and rocks. A variety of hikes is always good - long ones for athletic dogs and short ones for the less adventurous canine. Dogs always enjoy a refreshing place to swim as well. Each park has been assigned a rating of between 1 and 4 paws as follows:

 A park that any active dog owner will want to visit. Expect a variety of interesting hikes and great swimming for your dog.

 A fun park that will not disappoint any canine hiker.

 A dog-friendly park that may lack a variety of hikes or swims

 A park that allows dogs but offers little more than a bit of exercise; not one that merits a special outing.

Did I miss your favorite? Let us know at [www.bikewithyourdog.com](http://www.bikewithyourdog.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.

***Now, grab that leash and hit the trail!***

# 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 Mid-Atlantic 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 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 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 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.

## 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.

## **Rattlesnakes**

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.



## **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.

**🐾** *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. Some trails around New Jersey involve rocky terrain. 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 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 is trail maintenance - your dog can pack out trash left by inconsiderate visitors before you.

**🐾** *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 blackflies
- ▶ veterinarian's phone number



# 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.*

*"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*

# *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?*

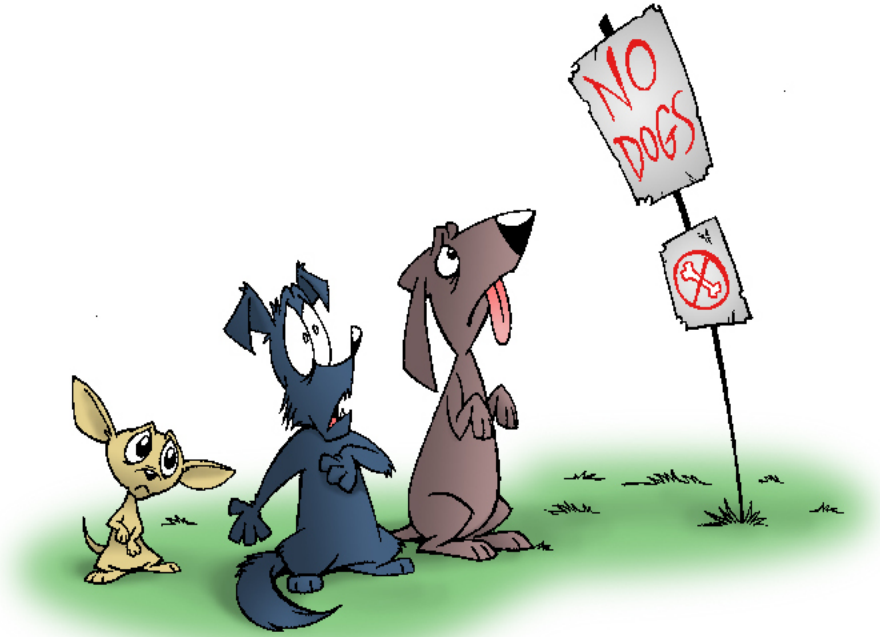
*The palm should always be shown to the dog and go straight down to between the dog's front legs and tickle gently with a soothing voice to accompany the action.*

*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:



## MARYLAND

### Allegany County

Dan's Mountain State Park

### Anne Arundel County

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary  
Sandy Point State Park

### Baltimore County

Hart-Miller Island State Park

*(dogs are allowed on Pleasure Island, accessible only by boat and with no formal trails)*

Patapsco State Park - Avalon Area, Hollofield Area, McKeldin Area, Orange Grove Area

### Calvert County

Breezy Point Beach  
Calvert Cliffs State Park

**Caroline County**

Martinak State Park

**Charles County**

Myrtle Grove Wildlife Management Area

Smallwood State Park

**Dorchester County**

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

**Frederick County**

Cunningham Falls State Park

**Garrett County**

Deep Creek Lake State Park

Herrington Manor State Park

New Germany State Park

Martinak State Park

**Montgomery County**

Seneca Creek State Park - Clopper Day Use Area

**Queen Anne's County**

Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center

**Washington County**

Fort Frederick State Park

Greenbrier State Park

Hagerstown City Park

Washington Monument State Park

**Worcester County**

Assateague State Park

Pocomoke River State Park - Shad Landing

**NEW JERSEY**

**Bergen County**

Flat Rock Brook Nature Center  
Monument Park  
Tenafly Nature Center

**Burlington County**

Rancocas Nature Center

**Camden County**

Palmyra Cove Nature Park

**Cape May County**

Cape May County Park  
Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge  
Cape May State Park - trails

**Gloucester County**

Ceres Park  
Greenwich Lake Park  
Red Bank Battlefield Park  
Scotland Run Park  
Washington Lake Park

**Middlesex County**

Plainsboro Preserve

**Monmouth County**

Deep Cut Arboretum

**Morris County**

Bamboo Brook Education Center  
Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge  
Willowood Arboretum  
Martinak State Park

**Ocean County**

Forsythe NWR - Holgate

**Passaic County**

Weis Ecology Center

**Somerset County**

Lord Stirling Park

**Sussex County**

Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge

**Warren County**

Johnsonburg Swamp

Pequest Wildlife Management Area

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**Berks County**

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

**Bucks County**

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve

Churchville Nature Center

Five Mile Woods Forest Preserve

Honey Hollow Environmental Education Center

Peace Valley Nature Center

**Chester County**

Battle of the Clouds Park

Binky Lee Preserve\*

Crow's Nest Preserve\*

East Whiteland Township Preserve

Great Valley Nature Center

Jenkins Arboretum

Kardon Park

Kerr Park

Sharp's/Canterbury Woods\*

Stroud Preserve\*

Valley Creek Park

**Delaware County**

Hildacy Farm\*

Saw Mill Park

The Willows Park

Tyler Arboretum

Wawa Preserve\*

**Monroe County**

Mountain View Park

**Montgomery County**

Alverthorpe Park

Briar Bush Nature Center

Gwynned Wildlife Preserve\*

Lorimer County Park

Mill Grove/Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary

Morris Arboretum

Saunders Woods\*

Stone Hills Wildlife Preserve

Upper Schuylkill Valley Park

**Pike County**

Childs Recreation Area

Dingmans Ferry

**York County**

Nixon Parks (on trails)

**\*indicates a park where dogs are allowed but not encouraged to visit**

**VIRGINIA**

**Fairfax County**

Fraser Preserve

Winkler Botanical Preserve

**Fauquier County**

Wildcat Mountain Natural Area

Sandy Point State Park

**Prince William County**

Bull Run Mountain State Natural Area

Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge

## 13 Cool Things To See On Baltimore Trails With Your Dog

**AIRPLANES.** The **BWI Airport** is the only airport in America that features a recreational trail. The Thomas A. Dixon Jr. Aircraft Observation Area on this 12.5-mile paved trail, opened in 1994, provides an ideal spot to watch the planes land directly in front of you. You won't be able to see the rubber hit the ground here but can see it from other spots along the trail. To get the feel of a big jet soaring directly over your head walk down a half-mile to the east (you'll see stop signs) and stand here. It won't be only jets using the airport either - you can spot an occasional propeller plane as well.



**AMUSEMENT PARK RUINS.** Although only 20 acres in size, the Bay Shore Park was considered one of the finest amusement parks ever built along the Chesapeake Bay. Built in 1906, the park featured an Edwardian-style dance hall, bowling alley and restaurant set among gardens and curving pathways. There were rides such as a water toboggan and Sea Swing. Visitors would come out from Baltimore on a trolley line. Most of the park was torn down after its closure in 1947 but you and the dog can explore the remains of the turn-of-the-century amusement park, including the wood-framed trolley station and the restored ornamental fountain, in **North Shore State Park**. Complete your tour with a hike down the old Bayshore Pier which juts almost a quarter-mile into the wind-swept Bay - a diving board once operated here where benches are today.

**BALD EAGLES.** With nearly 13,000 acres of undeveloped space, the **Patuxent Research Refuge** is said to be the largest patch of green space remaining on the East Coast between Boston and Raleigh. Research done here was used by Rachel Carson to argue that the pesticide DDT was weakening the shells of bird eggs, especially bald eagles, causing them not to hatch. Her book, *Silent Spring*, led to the banning of DDT and launched the modern environmental movement. Today more than 250 species - 8 of every 10 birds that can be seen in the Baltimore area - have been sighted at Patuxent, including a pair of nesting bald eagles in the North Tract in Anne Arundel County. These representatives of America's national symbol quite possibly could be the bald eagles living closest to the White House. Don't let your dog dig around at the North Tract - this land was once a testing ground for Fort Meade and may still harbor live ammunition.

If you aren't lucky enough to spot the eagles in flight at the refuge, try hiking the Hashawha Trails at the **Bear Branch Nature Center** in Carroll County. Here is the chance for your curious dog to look a bald eagle in the eye. The Nature Center maintains a M.A.S.H. unit for raptors who have been injured too badly to be returned to the wild. The cages for eagles, kestrels, hawks, owls, turkey vultures and other recovering birds of prey are on the Vista Trail.

**CANAL LOCK.** Near **North Park** in Havre de Grace, the 444-mile Susquehanna River is busy emptying 19 million gallons of fresh water every minute into the Chesapeake Bay that it has drained from 13 million acres of land. The rocky river upstream from here, however, is not navigable and the 45-mile Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal opened for barges, pulled at 4 miles per hour by mules, to haul goods between Havre de Grace and Wrightsville, Pennsylvania. The first of 29 locks operated here and it has been restored to its original appearance including a pivoting footbridge that swung open to allow barge traffic to pass. The handsome brick Lock House, now a museum open on weekends, dates to the canal's opening in 1840. The large grassy lawn can be used for a first-rate game of fetch.

**DAMS.** After a long hike at **Robert E. Lee Park** around Lake Roland you can sit on top of the Greek Revival valve house completed in 1862 and look over the stone dam. Lake Roland, created after plugging up Jones Falls, was Baltimore's first reservoir. This smallish dam is just an appetizer for the dams yet to come that were built to quench Baltimore's thirst. Others to see include hiking to the base of Liberty Dam at the end of Feezer's Lane in **Patapsco State Park** or using the Gunpowder South Trail in the Herford section of **Gunpowder Falls State Park** to see the Prettyboy Dam, built in 1933. No tour of Baltimore's dams would be complete without a visit to Conowingo Dam, America's longest concrete slab dam across the Susquehanna River. You can take the dog to gaze out at the Conowingo Dam in **Susquehanna State Park**.

**FORTS.** At **Fort Howard Park** your dog can climb into an actual gun battery and scan the Patapsco River just like gunnery officers who once aimed guns capable of accurately firing 1,000 pound projectiles eight miles. Ruins abound at the former “Bulldog at Baltimore’s Gate,” including remainders left over from the 1960s when a mock Vietnamese village was created for training at Fort Howard. Batteries and magazines that once formed the coastal defense of Baltimore in 1899 can also be seen at **Fort Armistead Park** and **Fort Smallwood Park**. As for Baltimore’s most famous fort, dogs are also welcome at **Fort McHenry National Monument**. Unlike the others, your best friend won’t be able to explore the actual fort but there is plenty of fresh grass to romp on outside the bastion walls.

**MINES.** The first chromium mines in America were opened in rural Baltimore County in 1808 and from 1828 to 1850 just about every scrap of chrome in the world came from here. Along the Choate Mine Trail in **Soldiers Delight Natural Environmental Area** you can stand in front of the entrance to the Choate Mine and look into the slanting hole kept open by half-timbered posts. So close the cool air will rustle your dog’s fur. The mine once ran 200 feet deep and 160 feet across.



**MODEL TRAINS.** Thomas Winans made his fortune building the Russian trans-continental railroad for Czar Nicholas I. He learned railroading from his father Ross who invented the swivel wheel truck that enabled trains to negotiate curves. Their railroad heritage is preserved at **Leakin Park** in Baltimore by the Chesapeake & Allegheny Live Steamers who maintain three miles of track for miniature steam trains that carry passengers (sorry, no dogs) free of charge the second Sunday of every month. Capable of speeds of 25 mph, the trains rumble along instead at a passenger-friendly 6 mph.



**MODERN ART.** The natural beauty of **Quiet Waters Park** in Annapolis is augmented by the outdoor sculptures that grace the grounds. Sculptures are chosen by jury from national and international artists working with a variety of material and installed on a rotating basis. When your dog tires of sniffing the statuary, you can take her to Anne Arundel County's first dog park at the back of **Quiet Waters**. Not only are there two large fenced-in enclosures for big and small dogs but there is a dog beach on the South River for serious dog paddling.

**POT ROCKS.** From the parking lot on US 1 at the **Big Gunpowder Falls** there is great canine hiking on both sides of the river in either direction. On the opposite bank heading downstream on the Big Gunpowder Trail, about a mile down, are the Pot Rocks. You and the dog can walk out and examine the conical depressions created in the bedrock by swirling waters armed with millions of years worth of grinding cobbles. These unique potholes can be a foot or more deep. Keep hiking another two miles down the river and you reach the last series of rapids on the Gunpowder as the water leaves the hilly Piedmont region and slips into the flat Coastal Plain.

**RARE TREES.** Growing unobtrusively beside the parking lot at **Tridelpia Recreation Area** is one of the rarest native ornamental trees in the world, the *Franklinia Alatomaha*. A relative of the camelia, this flowering tree is prized at any time of the year - in the winter for its striped bark, in the summer for its palm-sized snow white flowers, and in the fall for its deep red leaves. The Franklinia was discovered by Philadelphia botanist John Bartram in 1765 in a remote corner of Georgia along the Alatomaha River and named for his friend Benjamin Franklin. It has not been found growing in the wild since 1790. For a true arboreal education however, treat the dog to **Cylburn Arboretum** in Baltimore, one of the few such tree museums that permit dogs on the grounds. The collection at Cylburn features several Maryland Big Tree Champions including an Italian maple and a paperback maple. Two easy champions to see are on the lawn in the right front of the mansion: a castor aralia with large glossy leaves and an Amur maackia. Both trees are native to Asia and are resilient to pests. The maackia is a member of the pea family discovered by 19th century explorer Karlovich Maack along the Amur River between Siberia and China.

**TUNNELS.** The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad built its first line west along the Patapsco River and the trails at Henryton Road in **Patapsco State Park** follow a particularly historic stretch of the Old Main Line. On a rainy night in 1830 Irish laborers, tired of waiting for back pay, rioted and managed to destroy all this track for five miles to Sykesville. The disturbance prompted the first ever American troop transport by train when the Baltimore militia rode out to squelch the rampage. When the trail crosses this section of railroad track look to the west and see the Henryton Tunnel. Opened in 1850, it is the second-oldest tunnel in the world that remains in active railroad use.

**UNUSUAL BRIDGES.** Hiking in **Gunpowder Falls State Park** in Harford County, downstream from Jerusalem Mill about 1/2 mile, is Jericho Covered Bridge, one of only six remaining covered bridges in Maryland and the only one of its kind in Baltimore and Harford counties. Old folk wisdom held that these bridges were built to resemble a barn so as to entice a wary horse across water but the bridges are covered simply to protect the expensive wooden decks. The ford at this point across the Little Gunpowder Falls dates to Colonial times; the bridge was constructed in 1865. Builder Thomas F. used three truss types in its construction: the simple Multiple King Post; the horizontal Queen Post extension; and the Burr Arch, patented in 1804 by Theodore Burr, for stability. Renovated in 1981, the Jericho Covered Bridge still carries traffic. In Howard County's **Savage Park**, on Foundry Road at the trailhead for the Historic Mill Trail, is the last remaining Bollman Truss bridge in the world. Your dog can trot across the first successful iron bridge used by railroads, patented by Wendell A. Bolman in 1852. This example, a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, originally carried traffic on the Baltimore & Ohio main line but was disassembled and put into service here for Savage Mill in 1887.

# 10 Cool Things To See On New Jersey Trails With Your Dog

**GLACIAL ERRATICS.** **Pyramid Mountain** is best known for its glacial erratics - boulders that were sprinkled across the landscape by retreating ice sheets from the last Ice Age. The most famous is Tripod Rock, a boulder various estimated at between 150 and 200 tons, that is suspended heroically off the ground by three smaller stones. Nearby notable neighbors include two massive monoliths: Whale Head Rock and Bear Rock, that with a little imagination does resemble a recumbent bear. A short detour from the summit of the **Tourne** leads to a gravity defying glacial erratic called Nouse Cradle Balancing Rock. Clarence DeCamp named it in 1897 when he discovered a mouse nest in a nook in the rock. The 54-ton boulder is balanced on two points of a ledge rock and a hidden wedge stone.

**PREHISTORIC BONES.** At the Ghost Lake parking lot on Shades of Death Road in **Jenny Jump Forest** you can take your dog along a short, rocky trail along the lakeshore to a steep rocky slope. Here you will find a cave known as Faery Hole. The cave room has a flat floor and enough headroom for a Great Dane to stand on two legs. The opening was excavated in the 1930s by state archaeologist Dorothy Cross who recovered thousands of mammal bones, including the tooth of a long-extinct giant beaver. In Haddonfield, in the north end of the borough, is the heavily wooded **Pennypacker Park** where dinosaur bones were discovered in 1838 in a steep ravine carved by the Cooper River. When a full excavation was initiated by William Parker Foulke in 1858 nearly 50 bones of a plant-eating, duck-billed dinosaur were discovered. Haddonfield was suddenly famous as the site of the most complete dinosaur skeleton ever found. A small memorial marks the spot where *Hadrosaurus Foulkii* was unearthed at the end of Maple Street.

**CAPE MAY DIAMONDS.** The beach next door to **Higbee Beach WMA** is the similarly dog-friendly **Sunset Beach**, famous for its Cape May Diamonds. The “diamonds” are actually pieces of quartz crystals that have been eroded from the Upper Delaware River and been polished by a 200-mile journey of churning and jostling that can last a millennium or two. The stones, that can be cut and faceted to do a passable imitation of a diamond, are found in abundance here because the tidal flow bounces off a unique concrete ship that rests offshore. The *Atlantus* was built to transport soldiers during steel-short World War I. The reinforced-concrete ship worked but the recovery of post-war steel supplies made her obsolete and the *Atlantus* was being towed to Cape May to serve as a ferry slip when an accident dumped her on a sand bar where she remains today.

### REVOLUTIONARY WAR RELICS.

The trails at **Morristown National Historic Park** lead directly into reconstructed Revolutionary-era huts that you can explore with your dog. How many dogs do you reckon got the luxury of staying inside these huts in 1777 when more than a dozen soldiers huddled inside?

### LOST UTOPIAN COMMUNITIES.

In 1845, Daniel Felt founded Feltville as a small company village for workers of his specialty paper business, Stationer's Hall. Felt's "marbleized" paper was often used for book end covers. He created his town in the Utopian image of social reform that was popular in America in the mid-19th century. He constructed the buildings in a trendy Greek Revival-style. In 1882 Feltville became a middle class resort called Glenside, and the cottages were remodeled like rustic Adirondack cabins. By 1916 the resort was in decline as automobiles carried city vacationers well beyond the Watchung Mountains. The "Deserted Village" stands today and will be encountered on the Sierra Trail in **Watchung Reservation**.

### UNIQUE MEMORIALS.

Emilio Carranza Rodriguez was nephew to the founder of the Mexican Air Force, a war hero and his country's greatest aviator. He befriended Charles Lindbergh after the American completed the first solo flight across the Atlantic and then made the second longest non-stop flight from Washington D.C. to Mexico City. Plans were hatched in 1928 for a Mexican capital-to-capital flight. Carranza, then just 22 years old, was selected to make the attempt, carrying the pride of an entire nation in his plane, "The Excelsior." Haunted by bad weather Carranza was forced to navigate by dead reckoning and came down in an emergency landing in North Carolina. He continued on to Washington and New York City, where he was feted as a hero for accomplishing the longest flight ever made by a Mexican aviator. Preparations for a return flight to Mexico City were continually delayed until Carranza could wait no longer. On the evening of July 12 he took off in an electrical storm and was never seen alive again. The next day his body was found near the wreckage of his plane, "The Excelsior," in the Pine Barrens where he crashed. Mexican schoolchildren collected pennies to pay for the stone monument on the **Batona Trail** that marks the location of his death. Post 11 of the American Legion from Mount Holly, whose members participated in the recovery of the body, still hold a memorial service every year on the second Saturday of July at 1:00 p.m. to honor the memory of Captain Emilio Carranza.

### CARNIVEROUS PLANTS.

The prime attraction of the interior Cedar Trail Loop in **Shark River Park** is an Atlantic White Cedar bog where you can chance to see a carnivorous pitcher plant. The nutrient-challenged bog doesn't provide enough sustenance for these ewer-shaped plants so they must lure insects into a deadly trap for consumption by a cocktail of digestive fluids in the pitcher. Tiny hairs pointing downward prevent the trapped insects from crawling out to freedom.

**CRANBERRY BOGS.** The cranberry is a native American fruit that was harvested naturally in the Pine Barrens for centuries. Commercial production began around 1835 in New Jersey and today only Massachusetts and Michigan grow more cranberries, named because its flower resembles a craning neck. The restored cranberry sorting and packing house at **Double Trouble Park** is the finest of its kind from the 19th century. The bogs are still producing and if you come in the fall you can see thousands of the buoyant berries bobbing on the surface; at other times of the year you will have to make do with looking at a few harvest escapees washing against the shoreline.

**CLASSIC DUTCH ARCHITECTURE.** **Holmdel Park** is an excellent place to study Dutch architecture from the earliest days of European settlement in central New Jersey. At Longstreet Farm is the oldest Dutch barn in Monmouth County. Dating to 1792, the barn is immediately recognized as Dutch by the high wagon doors placed in each end of the gables that slope near the ground. Surrounded by the park, but not in it, the Holmes-Hendrickson House is snuggled in a grove of trees. THE red frame house was built in 1754 by William Holmes, who ignored the fashionable trend of symmetrical Georgian house-building in favor of his traditional Dutch design.

**OLD MINES.** The landscape has been churned up from the mining operations at **Mount Hope Historical Park** bringing the minerals from the earth and leaving them on the surface. You can still find pieces of magnetite iron ore on the trails; look for small black stones with angular shapes that feel heavier than normal rocks.



## 9 Cool Things To See On Philadelphia Trails With Your Dog

**FOLK ART.** In 1855, a hotel entrepreneur built a new inn on Rex Avenue. To draw attention to his hostelry he constructed an Indian from old barn boards and propped it up on top of a rock overlooking the Gorge. In 1902, when the Indian Rock Hotel was long gone but with the silhouette still there, artist Massey Rhind was commissioned to make a representation of a “Delaware Indian, looking west to where his people have gone.” The kneeling warrior has gazed up the Wissahickon Gorge ever since. A switchback trail in **Fairmount Park** leads to the Indian Statue where you can get close enough to pat his knee. And take in a breath-abducting view.



**MONUMENTAL MONUMENTS.** The Multi-Use Trail at **Valley Forge National Historic Park** rolls past reconstructed huts and parade grounds that transport you back to the Revolution. The National Memorial Arch, a massive stone tribute dedicated in 1917, stands out along the route. The inscription reads: “Naked and starving as they are, we cannot enough admire the incomparable patience and fidelity of the soldiery. Washington at Valley Forge, February 16, 1778.” In the southern part of **White Clay Creek State Park/ Preserve**, reached by the Twin Valley Trail, is the Arc Corner Monument marking one end of the 12-mile arc that forms the Pennsylvania-Delaware state line, unique in American political boundary-making. The circular divide dates to William Penn’s directive of August 28, 1701, when Delaware was still a part of Pennsylvania, known as the Lower Three Counties.

**AMERICAN CASTLES.** While on the trails on the **Woodlawn Trustees Property** several times you will break out of the woods to views of a spectacular home on a neighboring hill. It is Granogue, one of the ancestral duPont family homes in the Brandywine Valley. You hike past another at **Bellevue State Park**. Other historic mansions you can view up close with your dog are Fonthill at **Fonthill**, Oakbourne at **Oakbourne Park**, the Curtis estate in **Curtis Park** and the Swayne Mansion in **Hibernia County Park**.

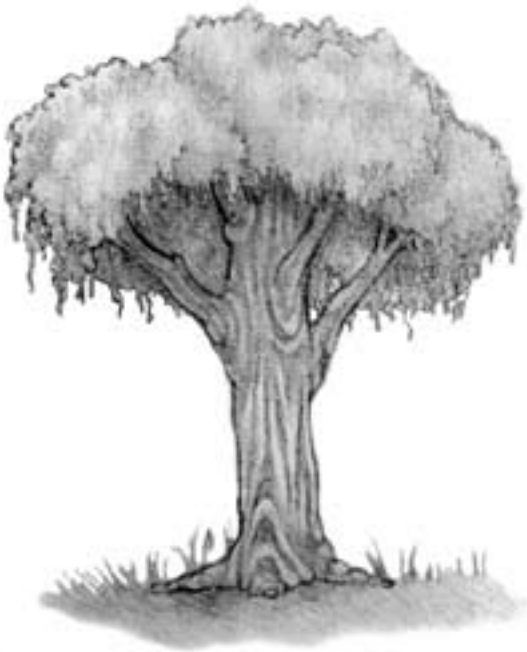
**REMARKABLE BRIDGES.** In the farthest northern section of **Tyler State Park** is the longest covered bridge in Bucks County. The 117-year old Schofield Ford Covered Bridge burned in 1991 but after five years of fundraising the 166-foot, two-span crossing was entirely rebuilt by volunteers on its original stone abutments using authentic period materials and methods. An elaborate, reinforced wooden railroad trestle bridges a ravine on the Glen Trail in the **Wenonah Woods**. The trail runs by a stream under the trestle and there are sweeping views from the top. A walk through **Brandywine Park** provides a quick lesson in the history of bridge architecture. The classical arch form is represented in grand style with the magnificent stone viaduct across the river and numerous reinforced concrete spans. There is even a small iron arch bridge over the mill race. A prototypical 19th century pier and girder iron bridge transports trains over the Brandywine. And the pedestrian footbridge across the water, the Swinging Bridge, is a little suspension bridge employing the same engineering principles as the mythical Brooklyn Bridge. Along the Paper Mill Trail in the **Pennypack Preserve**, just off the Creek Road Trail, is a stone double-arch bridge built in 1847. In what is now **Pennypack Park**, William Penn asked in 1683 that “an order be given for building a bridge over the Pennypack.” Designated a National Civil Engineering Landmark, the first Three Arch Stone Bridge is the oldest stone bridge still carrying heavy traffic in America. In 1850 Albert Fink, a German railroad engineer, designed and patented a bridge that used a latticework of rods instead of cables to reinforce stiffness. This construction was cheap and sturdy, making the Fink Truss one of the most commonly used railroad bridges in the 1860s, especially favored by the powerful Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. Only one Fink Truss bridge remains in the United States - an abandoned 108-foot span in Zoarsville, Ohio. A wooden reproduction of a Fink Truss is in a field at **Warwick County Park** for you and your dog to climb.

**IMPRESSIVE FORTS.** Where else can a dog climb into an actual battery and scan the Delaware River where gunnery officers once aimed guns capable of accurately firing 1,000-pound projectiles eight miles like he can at **Fort Mott State Park**? **Fort DuPont**, named for Civil War fleet commander Admiral Samuel Francis duPont and now a Delaware state park, saw active duty in three wars before becoming a state park. The 1-mile River View Trail, a grassy loop path, begins in the marshland along the Delaware River and finishes in shaded woodlands. The trail takes you past several ruins of the military installation, camouflaged to river traffic, and features sustained views of the Delaware River and **Fort Delaware** on Pea Patch Island.

**CANAL LOCKS.** Pennsylvania's first canal system was cobbled together in 1815 using 120 locks to stretch 108 miles from the coal fields of Schuylkill County to Philadelphia. Railroads began chewing away at canal business in the 1860s and the last coal barges floated down the Schuylkill River in the 1920s. Today, the only sections of the canal in existence are at Manayunk and Lock 60, built by area name donor Thomas Oakes, at the **Schuylkill Canal Park**. In 1985 the Schuylkill Canal Association formed to keep the canal flowing and maintain the lock and towpath. In 1988, the area was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The **Delaware Canal State Park** features a strolling towpath that runs for 60 miles north of Bristol to Easton.

**CHAMPION TREES.** The **Taylor Memorial Arboretum** provides a 12-Tree Self-Guided Tour. The collection is especially strong in Far Eastern specimens and spotlights three Pennsylvania State Champion trees: the Needle Juniper, the Lacebark Elm and the Giant Dogwood. Also on the tour is a Dawn Redwood, an ancient tree known only through fossils until 1941 when a botany student tracked down living specimens in rural China. Some of the first seed to come to America resulted in this tree. Liberated from their sun-stealing neighbors of the crowded woods in **Springton Manor Park**, the "King" and "Queen" White Oaks have spread out into a massive canopy of leaves.

The "Queen" measures seventeen feet around at the thickest part of the trunk and the "King" is closer to twenty. The two trees are part of the "Penn's Woods" collection of 139 trees standing when William Penn arrived to survey his Pennsylvania colony. The arboreal oldsters reside at the last stop of the park's Nature Trail. **Awbury Arboretum** in East Germantown was the summer estate of 19th century Quaker shipping merchant Henry Cope. Across the 55 acres are plantings of groves and clusters of trees set amidst large swaths of grass fields in the English landscape garden tradition. You can investigate more than 200 species, mostly native, in your informal explorations of the grounds. Old macadam paths lead to most areas of the odd-shaped property. Also on the grounds are wetlands surrounding an artificial pond.



**RUSTIC BARN.** While many of the Hospital Farm's buildings have disappeared in **Norristown Farm Park**, the unique dairy barn remains. Built in 1914, it is shaped like a wheel with four spokes. In 1961 alone, nine cows produced 1.1 million pounds of milk - more than 300 pounds of milk per cow per day. At the Riverbend Education Center the Visitor Center is a restoration of a 1923 Sears & Roebuck mail order barn. A century ago Sears sold anything and everything by mail - including kits for building houses and barns. The kit, which could cost as little as a few hundred dollars depending on style, would include rough lumber, framing timbers, plank flooring, shingles, hardware, sash and paint. Usually shipped by train from the west, the barn kit would be loaded onto a freight wagon and hauled to the building site for assembly by local carpenters.

**MUSICAL ROCKS.** In a boulder field of volcanic rocks in **Ringing Rocks Park** are stones whose metallic bands stressed by several ice ages produce a ringing sound when struck by a metal object. Short, wide trails lead through the woods to the boulder field where you can mystify your dog by pounding on rocks with a hammer. Musical rocks ping while others just thud on "dead" spots.



# 10 Cool Things To See On Northern Virginia Trails With Your Dog

## **HISTORIC GRAVEYARDS.**

In **Fountainhead Regional Park** the Davis family cemetery, anchored by a majestic white oak, pops up in the woods just a few steps into the canine hike on both the white and blue trails. The graveyard was established in the 1860s. At **Leesylvania State Park** is the original hilltop resting place of prominent Lee family members and at **Ball's Bluff Regional Park** is one of the smallest national cemeteries in America with only the remains of 54 Union soldiers from the Civil War.

## **HIGH WATER MARKS.**

In **Great Falls Park** is a High Water Mark Pole that records the depths to which the Potomac far below can flood. The most recent marking is from January 21, 1996 when the river rose 85 feet in 48 hours. That mark is about eye-high to a beagle - it was only the fifth largest flood of the past 100 years. For the highest mark you'll have to look overhead to see where the waters of the Great Potomac Flood of 1936 reached.

## **OUR NATIONAL BIRD.**

Mason Neck has been named one of the Top Ten sites in America for viewing bald eagles. The eagles arrive in October and spend the next two months courting and breeding where they are visible feeding in the marsh. By February they have re-built their nests and are ready to lay eggs. The eaglets hatch in April and spend the next several months gaining strength before the cycle begins anew. Eagles can be viewed on trails in **Mason Neck State Park** and **Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge**.



### EARLY INDUSTRIAL SOUVENIRS.

In the center of the **Occoquan Regional Park** is the last of nine beehive brick kilns that were used by prisoners to churn out many of the red bricks used in Northern Virginia buildings. Along the **Potomac Heritage Trail** are the rusty hulks of 19th-century boilers used to quarry Potomac bluestone. This 500-million year old schist was a popular building stone for many buildings around Northwest Washington, including the Old Stone House in Georgetown, built in 1765. Several of the animal houses in the National Zoo use Potomac bluestone, the Panda House and the Elephant House are just two.

### BIG WILDFLOWERS.

The *Trillium rhomboideum* variety *grandiflorum* was given its name by french botanist Andre Michaux in 1803. The specific name, very appropriately means “large-flowered.” Sometimes called Snow Trillium because it is the first trillium to bloom and therefore would be caught in a late snowfall, the white-flowered plants (the petals turn pink with age) prefer to inhabit slopes 1,000-3,500 feet in elevation. Of the 10 or so species of trillium in the Blue Ridge, *grandiflorum* may be the most abundant. The largest colony in the country can be found in the **G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area**, where an estimated 18 million plants thrive.



### A CARPET OF BLUE.

The *Bluebell Walk* begins on the Nature Trail near the Visitor Center of **Bull Run Regional Park** and makes its way to the confluence of Cub Run and Bull Run. This is a meandering 1.5-mile canine hike through the largest stand of bluebells on the East Coast. In springtime the display on the forest floor is unforgettable.

### INSPIRATIONAL MONUMENTS.

Nestled in the center of **Theodore Roosevelt Island** is a 17-foot bronze statue by Paul Manship. The memorial overlooks a diorama of fountains and four 21-foot granite tablets, inscribed with the tenets of the 26th President's thoughts on Nature, Youth, Manhood and the State.

### ANCIENT FOOTPATHS.

The last known undeveloped section of the historic Vestal's Gap Road runs across **Claude Moore Park**. This trail, first used by American Indians, was used as early as 1692 by the Rangers of the Potomac under David Strahan. It became the major route for travel between Alexandria and Winchester. George Washington used the road frequently in his travels between Mount Vernon and the western frontier. Major General Edward Braddock's troops, including Daniel Boone, traveled Vestal's Gap Road during the French and Indian War and today your dog can hike a short ways on the ancient thoroughfare.

### WELL-BUILT BRIDGES.

The bridge across the Accotink Creek linking the trail system in **Accotink Bay Wildlife Refuge** was built by D Company of the 11th Engineer Battalion. The unit was activated during World War I to maintain railroads in northern France and in August 1917 was the first American unit to enter the European theater. Until World War II the regiment conducted numerous missions over the rugged terrain and dense jungles of the Panama Canal Zone and adopted the nickname "Jungle Cats." This bridge is a suspension bridge in the manner of the famous Brooklyn Bridge.

### OLD MINES.

In Prince William Forest Park, if you head off on the *North Valley Trail* and continue about one mile down the *Pyrite Mine Trail* along the North Branch of the Quantico Creek you will reach the remains of the Cabin Branch Pyrite Mine. The mine opened in 1889, pulling nugget-like rocks known as "fool's gold" for their appearance to the precious metal. In fact pyrite is loaded with sulfur (needed to make gunpowder) that kept the operation profitable into the 1920s, including an important stretch during World War I when as many as 300 men worked the mine. Many acres of historic underground workings, pilings and foundations have been reclaimed by the Park Service and are remembered today.

# DELAWARE



# Abbott's Mill Nature Center



**Phone** - (302) 422.0847

**Website** - <http://www.delawarenaturesociety.org/abbotts/index.html>

**Admission Fee** - Yes, to use the trails

**Directions** - *Milford; southwest on Route 113. Take Route 36 west to Road 620 and turn right, following signs.*



## The Park

In 1795 local carpenter Nathan Willey bought the land on this site. By 1802 he had finished a large grist mill and asked authorities to build a road to it. Willey died in 1812. Over the next century the property passed through many hands, with the mill remaining viable. Ainsworth Abbott took possession of the mill in 1919 and remained here until 1962. The state of Delaware bought the property in 1963 and today is operated as the downstate center for the Delaware Nature Society.

## The Walks

There are two short hiking trails open for dogs at Abbott's Mill, both leaving and returning to the parking lot from the same trailhead. *The Tulip Woods Trail* travels for just under a mile on natural surface paths. Delaware was once under an ancient ocean and the flat, sandy trails here are a souvenir of the area's prehistoric past. The *Millstream Trail* is a ten-minute exploration, mostly on boardwalk, beside Johnson's Branch. Both of these walking paths are completely in the forest and your dog will hike in shaded comfort on even the hottest days.

**Where The Paw Meets The Earth:** Natural dirt through woods

**Workout For Your Dog** - Easy canine hiking

**Swimming** - A 23-acre pond has access from a boat launch across the road from the main building is a nice cap to a hike with your dog.

**Restrictions On Dogs** - None

## Something Extra

On your exploration of the nature center you will see the state tree of Virginia (the dogwood), the state tree of Maryland (the white oak) and the state tree of Delaware (the American holly). The colorful holly tree has been a symbol of the winter holiday season since ancient times. Found in abundance in Delaware forests, a major export industry was developed in the early 1900s. By the 1930s, Delaware was the leading producer of holly wreaths in America. So important was the tree to Delaware's economy during the Depression that the American holly was designated the state tree.

# Alapocas Woods Natural Area



**Phone** - (302) 577.7020

**Website** - <http://www.destateparks.com/wilmsp/wilmsp.htm>

**Admission Fee** - None

**Directions** - *Wilmington; behind the DuPont Experimental Station, off Route 141 on Alapocas Drive. The trailhead is in the woods at the back of the parking lot. You can also access the trails from Alapocas Drive.*



## The Park

The original 123 acres of the 145-acre park were deeded to Wilmington in 1910 by William Poole Bancroft, founder of the city's park system. Today, Alapocas is a part of Wilmington State Parks, although the gate on the bridge connecting the park to Rockford Park is locked more often than not.

## The Walks

The main *Alapocas Woods Trail* tumbles up and down wooded hillsides for 1.8 miles. After a narrow start (a new trail segment), the path is wide, the trees are mature with little understory to block your views and the canine hiking is splendid. Most of the way, including side loops like the *Paw-Paw Trail* (that is the tree, not a dogs-only trail), the footpaths are covered in paw-friendly dirt. If, however, you venture off the main track and hike down to the Brandywine River you will do so on a steep, rocky track that is hard on foot and paw. Your reward for this exploration is a descent into the industrial heritage of the river. As you walk along the water you will be in the shadow of the Bancroft Mills complex, once the largest cotton finishing works in the world.

**Where The Paw Meets The Earth:** Natural; also macadam down by the Brandywine

**Workout For Your Dog** - Plenty of rolls around the park

**Swimming** - Yes, the namesake creek is superb

**Restrictions On Dogs** - None

## Something Extra

Squeezed between the Piedmont and coastal plain zones, Alapocas offers some of the most dramatic geology in Delaware. The granite cliffs here are high enough to claim the state's only natural waterfall and plentiful enough for the Brandywine Granite Company to have once quarried over 600,000 tons of Wilmington "Blue Rocks" from this site between 1883 and 1888.

# Ashland Nature Center

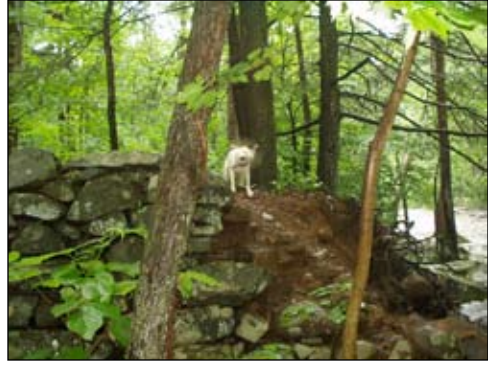


**Phone** - (302) 239.2334

**Website** - <http://www.delawarenature-society.org/ashland/index.html>

**Admission Fee** - Yes, to use the trails

**Directions** - *Hockessin; off Route 41 on Barley Mill Road, between Creek Road (Route 82) and Brackenville Road.*



## The Park

A mill operated here as early as 1715. Since 1964, when the Delaware Nature Society was founded, 130 acres at Ashland Nature Center have been preserved for the conservation and study of natural resources.

## The Walks

There are four self-guiding nature trails here, each a loop between .8 and 1.3 miles. *Sugarbush* and *Treetop* trails explore the wooded hillside beyond the Ashland Covered Bridge, built in the days before the Civil War; the adjoining *Succession* and *Flood Plain* trails visit meadow, marsh, pond and forest. There is a good deal of hillwalking at Ashland, save for the benign *Flood Plain Trail*.

**Where The Paw Meets The Earth:** Natural dirt and grass

**Workout For Your Dog** - The park is set in rolling hills

**Swimming** - Birch Run and the Red Clay Creek flow through the property. Neither is deep enough to dog paddle in.

**Restrictions On Dogs** - None on the trails

## Something Extra

The Ashland Covered Bridge across the Red Clay Creek, built in the days before the Civil War, is one of Delaware's only two remaining historic covered bridges.

# Banning Park



**Phone** - None

**Website** - None

**Admission Fee** - None

**Directions** - *Wilmington; the entrance is off Maryland Avenue (Route 4) at the intersection with Boxwood Road.*



## The Park

Banning Park is Wilmington's premier recreation park. This heavily-used urban park features a central road loop through ballfields and picnic areas. The park also offers a wooded area squeezed between the Amtrak railroad lines and busy Maryland Avenue.

## The Walks

There is a certain wonderment to wandering among tall trees as you are serenaded by the bustle of passing cars and the rumble of heavy locomotives. The terrain in the woods is flat; the well-worn dirt paths are wide and dog-owner friendly. The stroll around the main road is pleasant in early morning before the park surges to life.

**Where The Paw Meets The Earth:** Natural and paved surfaces

**Workout For Your Dog** - Flat trails

**Swimming** - There is ample opportunity for your dog to go swimming in Lewis Pond and the often vegetation-choked Follies Pond.

**Restrictions On Dogs** - None

## Something Extra

Doggie Social Hour! The dogs gather each Sunday morning to wag tails and exchange tales of their harrowing week gone by.

# Battery Park



**Phone** - None

**Website** - None

**Admission Fee** - None

**Directions** - *New Castle; located in New Castle at the end of Delaware Street, off Route 9. Convenient parking lots are located along 3rd Street.*



## The Park

New Castle, originally named Fort Casimir, was founded in 1651 by Peter Stuyvesant, who was sent to provide the Dutch with command of all river traffic. Its strategic location led to constant bickering among colonizing European nations until the English established permanent control. William Penn stepped ashore a few yards from Battery Park in 1682 to take possession of his extensive land holdings that would become Pennsylvania and Delaware. The Trustees of New Castle Common, a body of 13 Trustees, oversee a nonprofit charitable organization founded by Penn, which was incorporated in 1764 and reincorporated by assembly in 1792. The Trustees bought and developed Battery Park, established the river walkway and rehabilitated the adjacent wetlands.

## The Walks

The paved walking path out of Battery Park reaches 2.5 miles along the Delaware River. In addition to unobstructed vistas across the Delaware, there are some interesting marsh views on the opposite side of the trail as well. The walking is flat and easy. When you arrive back in Battery Park, reverse your course and take your dog on the brick sidewalks through historic New Castle.

**Where The Paw Meets The Earth:** Macadam path

**Workout For Your Dog** - Easy canine hiking

**Swimming** - The Delaware River laps gently to shore here and there are several points of access for your dog to enjoy a great swim - a concrete boat ramp, small sand beaches and a rocky beach at the end of the trail.

**Restrictions On Dogs** - None

## Something Extra

The ticket office of the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad in Battery Park dates to 1832 and is the oldest ticket office in the United States. Battery Park was the terminus for the pioneering railroad.

# Bellevue State Park



**Phone** - (302) 761.6963

**Website** - <http://www.destateparks.com/bvsp/bvsp.htm>

**Admission Fee** - Yes, May to October

**Directions** - *Wilmington; north of the city off Exit 9 of I-95. The main entrance is on Carr Road, between Marsh Road and Silverside Road.*



## The Park

Bellevue is the former estate of William du Pont, Jr., one of Delaware's greatest sportsmen. Here he stabled his Foxcatcher Farms horses and five Kentucky Derby horses worked on the training track now used by cyclists and joggers. He brought pari-mutuel racing to Delaware and designed Delaware Park. As president of the Wilmington Country Club he donated the golf course's original holes to the city of Wilmington for the Porky Oliver Golf Course. The tennis courts at Bellevue were one of the greatest private tennis complexes ever when du Pont hosted international stars at his famous "tennis Sundays." He married one of America's greatest court stars, Margaret Osbourne, in 1947. Bellevue became a 328-acre state park in 1976, ten years after William du Pont's death.

## The Walks

The main attraction for hikers at Bellevue is the 9-furlong (1 1/8 miles) training track. It is wide, flat and exceedingly pleasant to walk. Unfortunately for canine hikers, in recent years the dirt track has been covered in crushed stone and dogs have been banned. Your dog can still trot on the grass shoulder, however. You can also cobble together a canine hike around the perimeter of the park by following paved bike paths and unpaved horse trails. These lead to community gardens, a small nature preserve, the historic paddocks and estate buildings.

**Where The Paw Meets The Earth:** Dirt and grass and pavement

**Workout For Your Dog** - Easy strolling around the estate

**Swimming** - No, the park pond is for fishing not dog paddling

**Restrictions On Dogs** - No dogs on the training track

## Something Extra

When William du Pont took over the property he transformed a Gothic Revival castle into a graceful replica of President James Madison's home, Montpelier. It is now the centerpiece of the park.

# Blackbird State Forest



**Phone** - (302) 653.6505

**Website** - <http://state.de.us/deptagri/forestry/forest.shtml>

**Admission Fee** - None

**Directions** - *Smyrna; office is located in the Tybout Tract, about 4 miles north-west of Smyrna. Take Route 15 South and make a left on Oliver Guessford Road. Follow to the end. Make a right on Blackbird Forest Road and the entrance to the office is 1/3 mile down on the left. From Route 13, turn left on Blackbird Forest Road (County Road 471). Continue for 1.5 miles to the office. .*



## The Park

The Blackbird State Forest manages about 3,400 acres on 10 non-connecting tracts. Here you can see such New Castle County arboreal regulars as yellow poplar, white oak, maple, gum and bayberry mingling with an occasional regal loblolly pine just north of its natural range.

## The Walks

An informal tangle of fire road, deer paths and primitive trails extend for over 40 miles in the forest. The best canine hiking is in the Tybout Tract where the paths are generally wide and well-trod. Most of the trails in the other tracts are rustic enough in many places to be termed "overgrown" at certain times during the year.

**Where The Paw Meets The Earth:** Dirt and pine straw

**Workout For Your Dog** - Flat, flat, flat

**Swimming** - Not much water fun in narrow streams of the forest

**Restrictions On Dogs** - None

## Something Extra

Of immediate interest in the Blackbird Forest are the Delmarva Bays or "whale wallows." These series of shallow depressions, filled with water in rainy times, are found only in the Blackbird State Forest and the Millington Wildlife Management Area in nearby Kent County, Maryland. Their origins are a mystery - local lore maintains that they are the result of struggling whales, stranded after a biblical flood receded. Other theories suggest glacial scraping or even meteorites. Whatever their origins, when wet, these "living museums" support rare plants and wildlife. Seven of the Delmarva Bays have been dedicated as nature preserves in the Blackbird State Forest. A prominent "whale wallow" near the office in the Tybout Tract is opposite the southernmost picnic area. Although there are no trails leading to this Delmarva Bay, you can claw your way through the woods to reach it.

# Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge

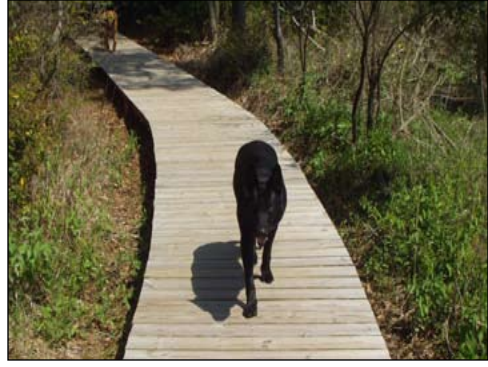


**Phone** - (302) 653.9341

**Website** - <http://www.fws.gov/north-east/bombayhook/>

**Admission Fee** - Yes

**Directions** - *Smyrna; off Scenic Route 9, north of Leipsic. From Delaware 1 take the Smyrna South Exit, following signs to Route 6 East.*



## The Park

European settlement of this area began in 1679 when the Indian Machacksett, Chief Sachem of Kahansink, sold Dutch settlers some marshland called "Boompies Hooek" - roughly translated as a thicket of trees in German. The cost was "one gun, fower hands of powder, three Mats coats, one anckor of Liquors and one Kittle." Many of the trees that gave Bombay Hook its name were destroyed in the Great Storm of 1878. Bombay Hook joined the National Wildlife Refuge System, a legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, in 1937. Since then the refuge's 15,978 acres have been managed to provide a diversity of habitats: freshwater, brackish and salt marsh, bay, grassland, cropland and forest to encourage plant and animal diversity.

## The Walks

At Bombay Hook there are several short nature trails but your best canine hiking bet may be around the refuge on the hard-packed dirt auto road. Vehicle traffic is sparse and moving turtle-slow when it comes.

**Where The Paw Meets The Earth:** Dirt roads and boardwalks

**Workout For Your Dog** - Flat, open walking

**Swimming** - Over 13,000 of the refuge's acres are tidal marshes intersected by winding rivers and creeks but none of it is for doggie aquatics.

**Restrictions On Dogs** - None

## Something Extra

Much of the energies at Bombay Hook are devoted to supporting migrating geese and ducks. There are even crops of winter wheat and clover grown for the wildlife. As a result the refuge lists 278 species of birds that can be seen along the western shore of the Delaware Bay. If you want to see waterfowl, visit during March and November. If you are interested in shorebirds and songbirds come during May, August and September.

# Brandywine Creek State Park



**Phone** - (302) 577.3534

**Website** - <http://www.destateparks.com/bcsp/bcsp.asp>

**Admission Fee** - Yes, May to October

**Directions** - *Talleyville; the main entrance is on Adams Dam Road, between Thompson's Bridge Road (Route 92) and Rockland Road. Other parking areas are at Thompson's Bridge and off Rockland Road, opposite Rockland Mills.*



## The Park

Once a du Pont family dairy farm, this spectacular swath of land became a State Park in 1965. Delaware's first two nature preserves are located here: Tulip Tree Woods, behind the park office, and Freshwater Marsh, at the edge of Brandywine Creek. The stone walls that criss-cross the 850-acre park are the legacy of skilled Italian masons who crafted the barriers from locally quarried Brandywine granite - the original "Wilmington Blue Rocks."

## The Walks

There are eight blazed trails totalling 14 miles on both sides of the Brandywine Creek. All are short, all are woodsy and if you can't reach out and touch the water you are moving up or down a hill. The *Hidden Pond Trail* and the *Indian Springs Trail* each travel along the water and visit 200-year old tuplip polars. The star walk at Thompson's Bridge is the rugged, 1.9-mile *Rocky Run Trail*, winding around the closest thing to a mountain stream in Delaware. Nearby, the *Multi-Use Trail* tags the stream for the better part of two miles.

**Where The Paw Meets The Earth:** Dirt and grass

**Workout For Your Dog** - Some good climbs; mostly across the creek

**Swimming** - Yes, the namesake creek is superb

**Restrictions On Dogs** - None

## Something Extra

In the winter of 1802 a rudderless French immigrant living in New Jersey named Eleuthere Irenee du Pont was invited to the Brandywine Valley to hunt game. It was not a successful trip. The damp weather fouled his gunpowder so that his musket continually misfired. It was so bad du Pont decided to re-enter the industry he had turned his back on in France as a youth: black powder. When it came time to launch his new business he remembered what you see today in the park: the hardwood forests that would burn to charcoal, one of the ingredients he would need for powder; the abundant granite in the hills to build his mills; and the swift-flowing river to power the mills. And so he returned to Delaware to found a dynasty. Incidentally, the favorite breed of dog for the du Pont family when they lived here: the greyhound.

# Brandywine Park



**Phone** - (302) 577.7020

**Website** - <http://www.destateparks.com/wilmsp/wilmsp.htm>

**Admission Fee** - None

**Directions** - *Wilmington; the main parking lot for Brandywine Park is on the north banks of the river at the foot of Monkey Hill, off of 18th and Van Buren streets.*



## The Park

Brandywine Park, Delaware's first park, created in 1885 and partially designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, can stand beside any of America's downtown riverwalks for person and dog. The 178-acre park of wooded trails, formal gardens, and sculptures was added to the National Historic Register in 1976.

## The Walks

The 1.8-mile *Brandywine Nature Trail* connects Brandywine Village and Rockford Park. Through Brandywine Park it traces the north shore of the Brandywine River for about a mile. Once across the Swinging Bridge, the trail veers away from the water towards Rockford Park via Kentmere Parkway. Along the way you'll enjoy native and ornamental plantings in the Rose Garden, the Waterwalk Garden, the Four Seasons Garden, the historic Josephine Gardens and elsewhere.

**Where The Paw Meets The Earth:** Concrete sidewalk and macadam

**Workout For Your Dog** - Plenty of rolls around the park

**Swimming** - Dogs can enjoy a dip in the Brandywine River and in the mill race cut on the south side. In 1954, the Brandywine Canoe Slalom, America's first ever slalom race for kayaks, ran in these waters south of the Washington Street bridge. Two decades later water kayaking would become a popular Olympic sport.

**Restrictions On Dogs** - None

## Something Extra

A canine hike through Brandywine Park provides a quick lesson in the history of bridge architecture. The classical arch form is represented in grand style with the magnificent stone viaduct across the river and numerous reinforced concrete spans. There is even a small iron arch bridge over the mill race. A prototypical 19th century pier and girder iron bridge transports trains over the Brandywine River. And the pedestrian footbridge across the water, the Swinging Bridge, is a little suspension bridge employing the same engineering principles as the legendary Brooklyn Bridge.

# Brandywine Springs Park



**Phone** - None

**Website** - None

**Admission Fee** - None

**Directions** - *Mill Creek; at the corner of Newport Gap Pike (Route 41) and Faulkland Road (Route 34). The entrance is on Faulkland.*



## The Park

One of the first resort hotels and spas in America was built here in 1827. The recreational heritage of the area was revived with the advent of a popular amusement park decades later featuring, among other attractions, a boardwalk and a roller coaster. The Friends of Brandywine Springs Park have erected stations housing turn-of-the-20th century photographs to help recreate its heyday as a pioneering amusement park in the United States.

## The Walks

The historic Brandywine Springs Park is an ideal spot for a quick walk of a half-hour or so. Many people walk dogs around the picnic areas in the ball-fields in the upper section of the park. The lower, wooded section - where the amusement park was located - features wide trails that fishhook along Hyde Run and Red Clay Creek. Both the upper and lower sections are flat walks; the connecting trails between the two areas require short hikes up and down the interceding steep grade. The gentlest of these is the trail at the Council Oak, the remains of a 330-year old tree that stands at the woods' edge opposite the park entrance. It is said that George Washington met with his war council beneath the oak on September 8, 1777 and made the decision to fall back to the Brandywine River and defend Philadelphia against the marching British Army instead of engaging the invaders behind the Red Clay Creek. Washington would ultimately be routed in Chadds Ford, in part because his knowledge of that countryside was vastly inferior to the British.

**Where The Paw Meets The Earth:** Dirt and grass trails

**Workout For Your Dog** - If she's looking for a steep hill she can find it

**Swimming** - The Red Clay Creek is deep enough for your dog to take a plunge and the fast-moving Hyde Run is fun to romp in.

**Restrictions On Dogs** - None

## Something Extra

When the historic Wilmington & Western tourist railroad is operating (the stretch of tracks in the park has been washed away by floods twice in recent years), you may chance to see the old-fashioned train rumble across the open wooden trestle spanning Red Clay Creek.

# Brecknock Park



**Phone** - None

**Website** - None

**Admission Fee** - None

**Directions** - *Camden; from Route 113 veer right onto Old Camden Road and the park is immediately on the right.*



## The Park

Alexander Humphreys received a warrant of 600 acres here in 1680 and is believed to have called it "Brecknock" after a shire in Wales. The first mill along the banks of the Isaac Branch of the St. Jones River was constructed in 1740, beginning almost two centuries of grain production. By 1812 a state-of-the-art, three-story Oliver Evans mill had replaced it. Evans, a Delawarean born in Newport, built the nation's first automatic mill on the Red Clay Creek. In 1928 a hurricane washed away the mill's dam and the mill itself was demolished during a World War II scrap metal drive. The land was acquired for a Kent County park in 1993 and the boardwalk for the Isaac Branch Nature Trail was a construction project of a team of Ameri-corps volunteers. The mansion on the property dates to the mid-1700s and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## The Walks

Your canine hiking day at Brecknock begins with an easy walk around an open field studded with plantings of Virginia Pine, River Birch, Scarlet Oak and Red Cedar. A completely different park awaits you as drop down to the *Isaac Branch Nature Trail* at the back of Brecknock. The remainder of your canine hike will be along and over the slow-moving wetlands. This is an out-and-back trail of about one mile, much of it on boardwalk. Back in the recreational section of the park there is an exhibit on the history of milling and plenty of greenspace for a lively game of fetch.

**Where The Paw Meets The Earth:** Boardwalks and natural surfaces

**Workout For Your Dog** - Mostly easy-going travel

**Swimming** - Isaac Branch is not a canine swimming hole.

**Restrictions On Dogs** - None

## Something Extra

Take time to visit the Native Butterfly Garden created at Brecknock Park. Different species of butterflies have different preferences of nectar, in both colors and tastes so a wide variety of food plants give the greatest diversity of visitors. In a butterfly garden you'll see groups of the same plants that are easier for butterflies to see than singly planted flowers. Wild and cultivated plants are staggered, as well as blooming times of the day and year.

# Bringhurst Woods/ Rockwood Mansion Park



**Phone** - (302) 761.4340 (museum)

**Website** - <http://www.rockwood.org/home/webpage1.asp>

**Admission Fee** - None, for the grounds

**Directions** - *Wilmington; use Exit 9 off I-95 for Carr Road. The parking lot for Bringhurst Woods is between Marsh Road and the Washington Street Extension.*



## The Park

Bringhurst Woods is part of the Northern Delaware Greenway that links northern New Castle County from Fox Point State Park on the Delaware River to the Maryland border in White Clay Creek State Park. The southern terminus of the short hike is the splendid mansion of Rockwood and trails through the 72-acre estate.

## The Walks

The main path of the Greenway is paved as it cuts through mature hardwoods along Shellpot Creek. You always seem to be walking up and down in Bringhurst Woods, but never laboriously. There are also natural trails on the opposite side of Shellpot Creek but these are neither maintained - a hodgepodge of sand, dirt, grass, rocks and discarded bricks - nor enjoyable. Once you reach Rockwood, you are free to explore the elegant gardens and sculpted grounds of the estate with your dog. The English-style garden is home to several Delaware state champion tress. The paths are lighted and open until 10:00 p.m. Rockwood is also worth a hike during a winter's night when the grounds are elaborately decorated. Be aware that this hike will force you to potentially walk your dog across two heavily-traveled roads.

**Where The Paw Meets The Earth:** - Macadam

**Workout For Your Dog** - Little humps and rolls

**Swimming** - Shellpot Creek boasts more rocks than water but there is an occasional pool to splash about in for dogs.

**Restrictions On Dogs** - None

## Something Extra

A canine hike through Rockwood affords a chance to study up-close a rare country home designed in the rural Gothic style. The Gardenesque landscaping, unique to Delaware estates, blends the Brandywine granite of the mansion to the boulders on the grounds. The mansion was built as a retirement home from 1851 to 1857 by the merchant banker Joseph Shipley, descendant of the founding family of Wilmington, with apologies to Thomas Willing.

# Cape Henlopen State Park



**Phone** - (302) 645.8983

**Website** - <http://www.destateparks.com/chsp/chsp.htm>

**Admission Fee** - Yes, May to October

**Directions** - Lewes; one mile east of town at the end of Route 9, off of Route 1.



## The Park

Cape Henlopen has the distinction of being one of the first parks in America: in 1682 William Penn decreed that Cape Henlopen would be for "the usage of the citizens of Lewes and Sussex County." The area had been Delaware's first permanent settlement 50 years earlier by ill-fated Dutch colonists who were massacred by local Indians. Cape Henlopen's strategic location at the mouth of the Delaware Bay led the United States Army to establish Fort Miles among the dunes in 1941. In 1964, the Department of Defense declared 543 acres on the cape as surplus property and the State of Delaware established Cape Henlopen State Park. Today the park boasts more than 5,000 acres, including four miles of pristine beaches where the Delaware Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean. It is Delaware's largest state park.

## The Walks

More than 10 miles of trails, including 6 miles along the Atlantic Ocean. The 3.1-mile paved *Dune Overlook Trail* is a must - and don't skip the spur to the 80-foot Great Dune.

**Where The Paw Meets The Earth:** Everything from sand to macadam

**Workout For Your Dog** - Good when trotting on soft sand; otherwise easy

**Swimming** - Yes! Atlantic Ocean and Delaware Bay.

**Restrictions On Dogs** - Dogs are not permitted around the Seaside Nature Center or on the Pinelands Nature Trail. Dogs are prohibited from all swimming and sunbathing beaches from May 1 to September 30. Dogs are allowed in the campground.

## Something Extra

Remnants of Cape Henlopen's military past remain nestled among the massive sand dunes. Bunkers and gun emplacements were camouflaged deep in the sand and concrete observation towers were built along the shoreline to bolster America's coastal defenses during World War II. Lookouts scanned the Atlantic Ocean for German U-boats during World War II and although the fort's huge guns were never fired in battle, a German submarine did surrender here after the war. These silent sentinels remain scattered along Delaware's beaches and one has been restored to provide visitors with a panoramic view of the park and the ocean.

# Carousel Park

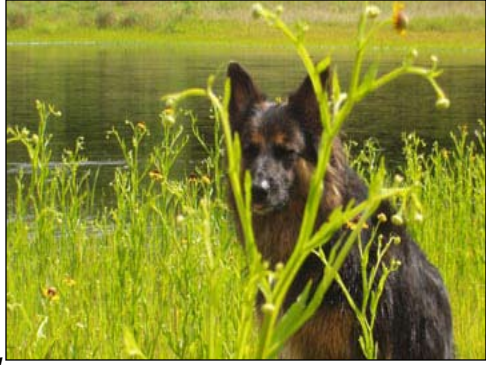


**Phone** - None

**Website** - None

**Admission Fee** - None

**Directions** - *Mill Creek; halfway between Newark and Wilmington, is on Limestone Road (Route 7) between Milltown Road and New Linden Hill Road. Smaller parking lots are at the end of Old Linden Hill Road, off Limestone Road, and on Sky-line Drive, off New Linden Hill Road.*



## The Park

Carousel Park is another legacy to recreation in Delaware from the du Pont family, being a former family estate. Long the home of public riding stables, New Castle County has worked to make the park a mecca for hiking as well.

## The Walks

Carousel is a suburban park given over to walking - no playgrounds or ballfields here. The main trail (*The Carousel Loop*) is a three-mile walk around the circumference of the park. Many short connecting trails dissect the park as well. All told there are 14 trails in the park winding through open fields, horse pastures, ponds, hardwoods (*Land of the Giants*) and pine trees (*Sherwood Forest*). Carousel Park is set in rolling hills; a healthy climb is required to reach *Strawberry Field* in the back of the park. The Carousel Loop is covered with paw-pleasing wood chips the entire way.

**Where The Paw Meets The Earth:** Some gravel roads but mostly dirt and wood chips

**Workout For Your Dog** - Rolling terrain

**Swimming** - Enchanted Lake is an ideal spot for canine aquatics

**Restrictions On Dogs** - None

## Something Extra

An off-leash Bark Park at Carousel Park has been established in an open field above Enchanted Lake. With the easy access to the lake this is the best dog park in the Mid-Atlantic. Yes, it is.

# Chapel's Branch Nature Area

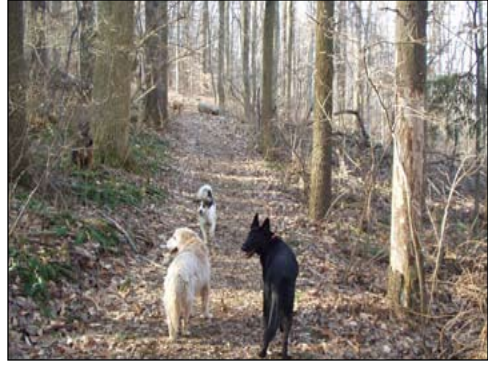


**Phone** - None

**Website** - None

**Admission Fee** - None

**Directions** - *West Seaford; from Route 20, make a left onto Sussex Avenue and continue until the end at a stop light in front of the DuPont nylon plant. Make a right on Harrington Street and look for the parking lot 1/2 mile on your right.*



## The Park

In the 1930s a DuPont Company research team led by Dr. Wallace Carothers developed nylon - the world's first true synthetic fiber. In 1939 the company began commercial production in Seaford, selecting the 609-acre site on the Nanticoke River for its proximity to raw material supplies and major markets. The town greeted the company with an impromptu parade. The six-story plant was soon operating 24 hours a day, producing enough yarn in its first year of operation to weave 64 million pairs of nylon stockings. The first nylon yarn produced at the Seaford plant is now on display in the Smithsonian Institution. The DuPont Company conveyed 190 acres across the street from its plant and the Seaford Golf and Country Club for the Chapel Branch Nature Area, named for a small frame church built in the 1700s.

## The Walks

The primary loop in Chapel Hill is about 2.5 miles with a short cut, some spur trails and an access road for prolonged canine hiking in this delightful mixed upland forest. Sunlight filters to the ground throughout this completely shaded ramble. The track starts out wide as it drops gently to the wetlands around Chapel Branch, providing a bit of elevation change. The path narrows in the later stages but remains comfortably roomy with a dog in tow.

**Where The Paw Meets The Earth:** Uniformly paw-friendly soft dirt and pine straw

**Workout For Your Dog** - Mostly easy trotting

**Swimming** - Minimal access and minimal depth in Chapel Branch

**Restrictions On Dogs** - None

## Something Extra

On the other side of the nylon plant, in the downtown area, you can take your dog to the Seaford River Walk at the foot of Pine Street off High Street. The concrete path is two blocks long but there is a grass area to the right with access to the Nanticoke River.

# Chesapeake & Delaware Canal Wildlife Area



**Phone** - None

**Website** - None

**Admission Fee** - None

**Directions** - *St. Georges; accessible from many spots: the town of St. Georges, the Grass Dale Center of Fort DuPont State Park and Summit Road on the north side; the C&D Canal Museum in Chesapeake City, Ratledge Road, and Dutch Neck Road on the south, among others.*



## The Park

The land between the Delaware River and the Chesapeake Bay was first surveyed for a canal as early as the 1760s but construction on a great ditch did not begin until 1822. With 2,600 men digging and hauling dirt, the waterway finally opened for business in 1829, slicing 300 miles and eliminating the ocean route between Philadelphia and Baltimore. The federal government took complete control over the canal in 1919 and deepened and widened the channel to eliminate the need for locks. Today the 14-mile long, 450-foot wide Chesapeake and Delaware Canal is one of only two vitally commercial sea-level canals in the United States. Dredged to a depth of 35 feet, the "C&D" is deep enough to handle ocean-going ships. Over 20,000 vessels of all shapes and sizes float down the waterway, making it one of the busiest canals in the world. The lands on either side are managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and their mandate is to keep the maritime traffic flowing, not to create a recreational paradise for you and your dog.

## The Walks

Old, unpaved service roads on either side of the canal provide wide, flat, easy-walking paths. There are also informal trails along the length of the canal. A canine hike is best designed with a two-car shuttle to eliminate the need for back-tracking but otherwise you will just amble along until you decide to turn back. The scenery doesn't change mile after mile and there is no shade for your dog on a hot day so make sure you pack drinking water on any hike in the C&D Canal area.

**Where The Paw Meets The Earth:** Dirt roads and paths

**Workout For Your Dog** - Easy going

**Swimming** - There is no access to the boulder-lined canal

**Restrictions On Dogs** - None

## Something Extra

The dredging of the canal in the 1800s unearthed pockets of fossils from the Cretaceous Period (144 to 65 million years ago). Today, the C&D Canal is still the best place in Delaware to hunt fossils, mostly "steinkerns."