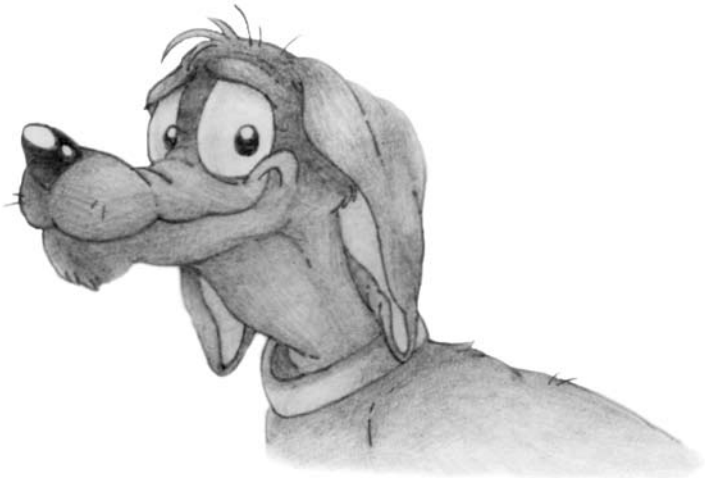


**Doggin'
The Poconos**

***The 33 Best Places
To Hike With Your Dog In
The Northeast Pennsylvania
Mountains***

DOUG GELBERT

illustrations by



Cruden Bay Books



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

**DOGGIN' THE POCONOS: THE 33 BEST PLACES TO HIKE
WITH YOUR DOG IN THE NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA
MOUNTAINS**

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Cruden Bay Books
PO Box 467
Montchanin, DE 19710
www.hikewithyourdog.com

International Standard Book Number 0-9785622-6-7

Manufactured in the United States of America

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

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Introduction

The Pocono Mountains 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 green glens that will set tails to wagging or circling lakes for miles where swim-loving dogs never sight of the water.

I have selected what I consider to be the 33 best places to take your dog for an outing 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.

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. Our guides focus on the parks that are good choices to take your dog. For dog-friendly parks we describe the trail options for your dog, evaluate park traffic from other users, tell you whether you will need a guide dog to find your way around and, of course, tell you how to get to the park.

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 Pocono Mountains 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

Rattlesnakes and their close cousins, copperheads, are not particularly aggressive animals but you should treat any venomous snake with respect and keep your distance. A rattler's colors may vary but they are recognized by the namesake rattle on the tail and a diamond-shaped head. Unless cornered or teased by humans or dogs, a rattlesnake will crawl away and avoid striking. Avoid placing your hand in unexamined rocky areas and crevasses and try and keep your dog from doing so as well. 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 Pocono Mountains is trail maintenance - your dog can pack out trash left by inconsiderate visitors before you.



🐾 *Are dog booties a good idea?*

Dog booties can be an asset, especially for the occasional canine hiker whose paw pads have not become toughened. Many trails in the Poconos involve rocky terrain (the old complaint about Pennsylvania trails is that it is the place “boots go to die”). 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 blackflies
- ▶ 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:

Lackawanna County

Lake Scranton

Monroe County

Mountain View Park

Pike County

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area -

Childs Recreation Site

Dingmans Falls

Raymondskill Falls

Wayne County

The Dorflinger-Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary



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 Pocono Mountains...

*The 33 Best Places
To Hike With Your Dog
In The Poconos...*

I

Ricketts Glen State Park

The Park

One of the most uniquely scenic areas in the Northeast, Ricketts Glen was slated to become a national park in the 1930s but World War II shelved plans for this development. Instead, Ricketts Glen opened as a state park in 1944. Gradually the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania continued purchasing blocks of land from the descendants of Robert Bruce Ricketts until the park spread across more than 13,000 acres.

Ricketts enlisted as a private in the United States Army in 1861 and after commanding a battery during the Civil War was discharged with the rank of Colonel. When the war ended, Colonel Ricketts began acquiring inaccessible virgin timber and he would eventually control over 80,000 acres of land. His Central Penn Lumber Company began harvesting the old growth forest, felling trees that may have been 900 years old. By 1913 the timber was exhausted and the lumber town of Ricketts deserted.

The Walks

The spectacular attraction of Ricketts Glen is the magical *Falls Trail*, a Y-shaped exploration of 23-named waterfalls. Two branches of Kitchen Creek slice through the Ganoga Glen to the west and Glen Leigh to the east before uniting at Waters Meet. The stem of the trail flows through Ricketts Glen, among towering hemlocks and oaks, before tumbling over three cascades at Adams Falls at the trailhead.

The remoteness of the land in the 19th century kept the waterfalls, ranging as high as the 94-foot Ganoga Falls, undiscovered until 1865. Colonel Ricketts

Luzerne

Phone Number
- (570) 477-5675

Website
- www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-parks/parks/rickettsglen.aspx

Admission Fee
- None

Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Benton*; The main park entrance is off Route 487 between Red Rock and Dushore. A good way to reach the *Falls Trail* is to travel on Route 118, east of its intersection with Route 487, and park in the lot on the right for the *Evergreen Trail*.

Bonus

One of the most hydro-spectacular water displays at Ricketts Glen can easily be overlooked. The last big splash of Kitchen Creek takes place across the road from *Falls Trail* at Evergreen Falls. Don't miss it, or the languid one-mile loop through an old hemlock forest down the *Evergreen Trail*.

hired a crew to build a trail along and across the plunging water and the project took 28 years. Today the *Falls Trail* remains a maintenance challenge and its steep grades can be muddy and slippery and your dog's four-wheel traction will be most welcome. The two prongs of the trail connect at the top of the twin falls via the 1.2-mile *Highland Trail*. The complete falls experience encompasses almost seven miles.



There are two dozen named waterfalls in Ricketts Glen State Park.

More than 20 miles of trails meander through the deep woods and mountain lakes at Ricketts Glen. The rocky *Cherry Run Trail* takes you away from the crowded Glens Natural Area into the eastern section of the park and the *Grand View Trail* is a 1.9-mile loop that reaches a fire tower with an almost complete 360-degree vista. Other less demanding trails mosey along near 245-acre Lake Jean.

Trail Sense: There is a detailed park map and plenty of signs and information boards to keep you on the right path.

Dog Friendliness

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

Traffic

Foot traffic only on the *Falls Trail* with lots of company most days.

Canine Swimming

Pools below some of the falls in Kitchen Creek and Lake Jean will cool down a hot dog.

Trail Time

Allow three hours for the *Falls Trail*; a weekend for all of Ricketts Glen's splendors.

Delaware State Forest

The Park

The Delaware State Forest covers more than 80,000 acres in the heart of the Pocono Mountains. The park is named for the Delaware river that drains the entire area and is in turn named for the Delaware Indians, a tribe of the Algonquian Nation.

The Walks

Among the hundreds of miles of canine hiking opportunities in the state forest are special trail systems and designated natural areas.

Thunder Swamp Trail System. This collection of interconnecting paths includes 26 miles of the Pocono Plateau that can be cobbled into short loop trails for day use or longer loops for overnight treks. Highlights are the rocky Pennel Natural Area to where the trails reach an elevated part of the forest and the low-lying swamps of the Stillwater Natural Area, a hideout for army deserters during the Civil War.

Blooming Grove 4-H Hiking Trail. Two loop trails take in hardwood swamps and open meadows across seven miles of canine hiking. There are plenty of rocks and soft areas for your dog to negotiate but this is level going almost entirely.

Bruce Lake Natural Area. An eight-mile loop circles the man-made Egypt Meadow Lake and the spring-fed Bruce Lake that was birthed by glaciers. After the conifer forests around the lake were completely cut down fires swept the area to expose rock formations along the trails. This route combines wide, paw-pleasing logging roads and the usual rocky Pocono paths as it rolls along.

Buckhorn Natural Area. Near the Delaware River in Pond Eddy, the headwaters of Bushkill Creek are preserved in addition to a high mountain

Pike (mostly)

Phone Number
- (570) 895-4000

Website
- www.dcnr.state.pa.us/FORRESTRY/stateforests/delaware.aspx

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Swiftwater*; the district office is on Route 611, north of I-80 from Exit 298. Forest headquarters are on Snow Hill Road, east of PA 447 and west of PA 402.

Bonus

The Tarkill Forest Demonstration Area, located north of Pecks Pond along Route 402, was established in 1998 as an "Outdoor Textbook Area." Spread across 82 acres, the marked trails show highlights of forest management and provide interesting facts about trees to enhance your arboreal education.



Bruce Lake is one of six glacial lakes in Delaware State Forest.

swamp and gnarly rock ledges. The newest state forest natural area, *Stairway Wild Area*, surrounds Buckhorn. This is a good area to explore the area's blue-stone quarries - more than 1,000 such operations produce the decorative building stone in northeast Pennsylvania. Next door is a short woods road hike for your dog to the 70-foot high Buckhorn Fire Tower and expansive mountain views.

Trail Sense: Trail maps are available, the major routes are blazed and signed and signposts set things straight at important trail junctions.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are allowed on the trails and in the rustic campgrounds.

Traffic

Motorized vehicles have their own trails and in the winter the state maintains over 100 miles for snowmobile use.

Canine Swimming

Pick out one of the 13 lakes and ponds in the forest as a hiking destination for your water-loving dog.

Trail Time

Whatever your dog desires - short, spirited hikes or long, long romps.

3

Salt Springs State Park

The Park

Salt Spring on the south side of Fall Brook is one of the salt springs for which the park is named. The first people to extract salt from the spring water were American Indians who traveled through the area during hunting expeditions. They attempted to keep the location of the spring secret from the settlers, but eventually - and with a large enough sum of money - it was revealed. Numerous attempts were made by different entrepreneurs to develop the spring for commercial gain between 1795 and 1870. The brine obtained produced a high quality salt, but not enough could be coaxed out of the ground to yield a profit.

Salt seeps are often an indicator of oil and in 1902 the North Penn Oil and Gas Company sunk a test well but abandoned the project after several months without explanation. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania acquired the 405-acre homestead of the Wheaton family in 1973 and the park includes an additional 437 acres owned exclusively by the Friends of Salt Springs Park.

The Walks

The Flood of 2006 destroyed large chunks of the *Falls Brook Trail*, one of Pennsylvania's most spectacular footpaths, and damaged other park trails though but there is still plenty to recommend Salt Springs as a destination with your dog. With a little perserverance and careful walking in the Falls Brook streambed you can visit - or at least still see - the park's three signature waterfalls. The *Hemlock Trail* is your alternative conduit to these hydrospectaculars as it travels on paw-friendly dirt trails and an elevated boardwalk.

Susquehanna

Phone Number
- (570) 967-7275

Website
- www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-parks/parks/saltsprings.aspx

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Franklin Forks*; follow PA 29 north from Montrose for six miles to the town of Franklin Forks. Turn left onto Silver Creek Road and follow for one mile to the park entrance on left.

Bonus

At the northeast entrance of the park is the historic homestead of the Wheaton family. Four buildings of the original homestead remain, as well as the foundation of the mill and woolen manufactory. The original home, built in the early 1840s by Nathan Philip Wheaton, is now the Wheaton House. This post and-beam structure is timber framed with eastern hemlock. The hand-hewn beams are 40 feet long and the posts are two stories high. These timbers originated from trees similar to the impressive stand of old growth hemlock that line both sides of Fall Brook Gorge.



The hemlock-shrouded gorge is the highlight for your dog at Salt Springs State Park.

Salt Springs will satisfy any planned outing with your dog - long, ambling rambles through magnificent woods (some of the resident hemlocks may be 500 years old) and meadows ringed by stone walls. If time is limited the hilly trail system around the falls is short but demanding enough to deliver a hearty workout for your dog nonetheless.

Silver Creek is a less lively stream and the *Silver Creek Trail* climbs gently along its length for about a mile - use park roads to close this canine hiking loop. The mostly old logging roads of the Friends of Salt Springs tract are best reached from the Buckley Road parking lot. Highlights here are Frog Pond and sections of boulders and small cliffs. All told, there are over 8 miles of canine hiking trails here.

Trail Sense: A detailed map is available, routes are blazed and trail junctions are often marked by engraved stone pillars.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are allowed on these trails and in the rustic campground.

Traffic

Foot traffic only.

Canine Swimming

The pools below the waterfalls are superb canine swimming holes.

Trail Time

A half-day and more is possible.

4

Hickory Run State Park

The Park

In 1918, Allentown millionaire General Harry C. Trexler began buying land for one purpose: “I would like to see Hickory Run developed into a state park where families can come and enjoy wholesome recreation.” Trexler, who began his career as a farmer but soon branched into logging and other industries, opened his land to public hunting and fishing. He died before his grandiose plans could be completed but the National Park Service purchased Hickory Run in 1935 to create a national recreation demonstration area and a decade later was transferred to Pennsylvania and became the long dreamed-of Hickory Run State Park.

One thing your dog won’t find in the park’s more than 15,000 acres is many hickory trees; one theory of the park’s name origins is that it was based on one large, now-extinct hickory tree.

The Walks

More than 20 trails covering over 40 miles in three natural areas await your dog in Hickory Run State Park. The leading candidate for “prettiest trail” in the park is the intriguingly named *Shades of Death Trail* near the park office. It follows Sand Spring and meanders through unique rock formations and past dams and old logging-mill ruins that date to the 1800s. The thick rhododendron forest is a natural highlight.

In Mud Run Natural Area (on PA 534, east of the Pennsylvania Turnpike) a popular short canine hike is the trip to picturesque Hawk Falls. On hot days

Carbon

Phone Number
- (570) 443-0400

Website
- www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-parks/parks/hickoryrun.aspx

Admission Fee
- None

Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *White Haven*; from I-80, take Exit 274 at the Hickory Run State Park Exit, and drive east on PA 534 for six miles. From the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, take Exit 95 and drive west on PA 940 for three miles then turn east on PA 534 for six miles.

Bonus

The Boulder Field, covered with bowling ball-sized rocks, is a National Natural Landmark. Some 14 acres of jumbled stone deposited during the last Ice Age stretch across more than a quarter-mile.

The unique slope of the terrain here is responsible for the glacial debris piling up here. The Boulder Field is reached on a relatively easy hike with your dog of 3.5 miles (one way) on the *Boulder Field Trail*.



Your dog won't experience a boulder field like this one anywhere else.

days your dog will enjoy splashing in the several streams that come together in the area.

Trail Sense: Hiking-only trails have yellow blazes. Blue-blazed trails allow cross-country skiing and orange-blazed trails allow snowmobiling. Maps and trail descriptions are available.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are permitted on the trails throughout the park and allowed in designated sites in the campground.

Traffic

Mountain biking is prohibited on all trails in the park; you can find plenty of trails away from the crowds as well.

Canine Swimming

Hickory Run Lake and Sand Spring Lake and a pack of streams are ideal for canine aquatics.

Trail Time

Hours and days depending on your dog's tastes.

5

Pocono Environmental Education Center

The Park

This area was once home to a popular resort known as Honeymoon Haven. The property was acquired by the United States Army Corps of Engineers in anticipation of a projected damming of the Delaware River that would flood the Delaware Water Gap and create a 37-mile long, 12,500-acre reservoir. The project collapsed in 1972 and the skeleton of the resort was converted into the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC), given the mandate to provide education and cultural programs for the newly created national recreation area. Over the years half a million people have stayed and studied here, a unique private/public partnership of the PEEC and the National Park Service. It is the largest residential center for environment education in the Western Hemisphere.

Pike

Phone Number
- (570) 828-2319

Website
- www.peec.org/

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Dingmans Ferry*; from PA 209 in the Delaware Gap National Recreation Area, turn at the sign onto Briscoe Mountain Road and climb to the Center parking lot on the right.

The Walks

The PEEC offers five loops in three main areas from its corps camp that lead to a variety of ecologically diverse attractions. The *Tumbling Waters Trail* stretches for three miles past two scenic ponds, through a pine-and-hemlock forest, up the ominously named Killer Hill to reach a switchbacking path down to a series of powerful cataracts flowing down the mountain. The *Ridgeline Trail* is the longest in the park at 4.5 miles and visits sharply-cut ravines, rock ledges and wetlands. The third main route here is the 1.25-mile *Fossil Trail* that leads to a series of rock ledges containing the remains of organisms from a prehistoric sea.

Bonus

Each of the trails comes with a detailed descriptive brochure that is rare for an outing with your dog.

Among the attractions that might otherwise go overlooked is the "Ecology Cemetery" where headstones tell the tale of how long various materials take to decompose.



The pool below the tumbling waters is an inviting place for your dog to frolic.

The dirt paths are not as rocky as some of their Pennsylvania mountain cousins, even on the hill-climbs. Expect some steep spots but little strenuous canine hiking (some, like the trip down to the tumbling waters are eased by wooden staircases). The easiest trip for your dog at the PEEC is the white-blazed *Two Ponds Trail* that meanders for 1.5 miles through a Red Spruce and Scotch Pine plantation and around the man-made Pickerel

Pond.

Trail Sense: A trail map is available, the trails are blazed and color-coded and descriptive booklets are for sale.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are allowed on PEEC trails.

Traffic

Foot traffic only.

Canine Swimming

Pickerel Pond and Front Pond can be reached for a swim.

Trail Time

You can spend less than an hour on these paw-friendly trails or a half-day to complete them all.

6 World's End State Park

The Park

Early maps called this place Worlds End, possibly due to the staggering views and difficulties in reaching the area. The unusual name may also be a reference to the swirling S-curve in Loyalsock Creek that blocked lumbered logs from flowing downstream, called "Whirls End." In 1929, the former Department of Forests and Waters began purchasing the logged-out land to establish a state forest park. In 1932, \$50 was allotted to create the park facilities, which bought little more than four picnic tables. A few years later four Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) were established and hundreds of out-of-work campers built many of today's facilities, like the swimming area and dam, cabins, hiking trails and roads.

The Walks

The 20 miles of hiking trails of Worlds End State Park are mostly rocky with steep sections that climb the surrounding mountains. Some of the more awe-inspiring canine hiking is on the north side of the creek with dramatic views from routes such as the *High Rock Trail*. Across the way trips on the *Worlds End Trail* and *Double Run Trail* penetrate deep into the vast woods. These adventures follow the paths of treacherous old horse trails that early settlers used to cross the Endless Mountains.

For experienced canine hikers this is some of the best, toughest hiking around. You can also use the park as a jumping on point for the *Loyalsock Trail* that flows for 60 miles through the park on footpaths, old logging roads and abandoned railroad grades.

Sullivan

Phone Number
- (570) 924-3287

Website
- www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-parks/parks/worldsend.aspx

Admission Fee
- None

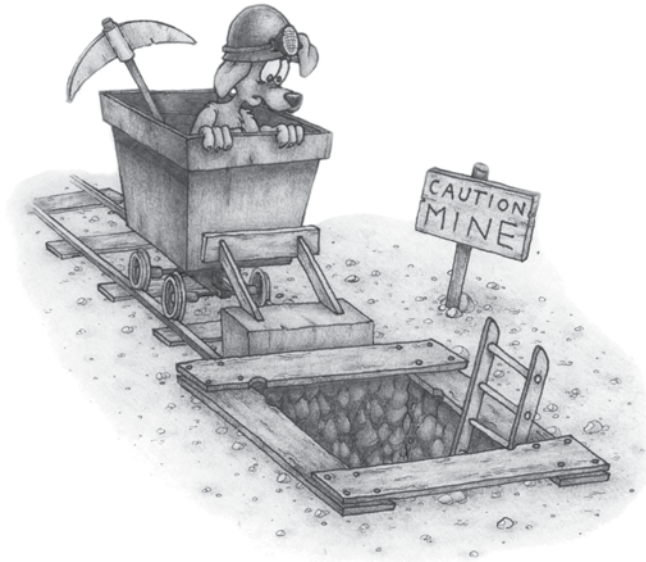
Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Forksville*; the park is along PA 154 and is easily reached from PA 42 from I-80 and south and PA 87 from Dushore and the north and east.

Bonus

In the eastern half of the park the *Canyon Vista Trail* is highlighted by a spectacular view of the Loyalsock Creek gorge at an elevation of 1750 feet.

Many wildflowers grow beneath the canopy of maturing ash, sugar maple and black cherry trees. Be sure to explore the blocky maze of the Rock Garden adjacent to the vista. A second rock labyrinth is found in the easternmost section of the trail where it runs parallel to Cold Run Road.



Trail Sense: The blazed trails are not difficult to follow; a park map is available.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs can trot the trails but cannot spend the night in the campground.

Traffic

Very little competition for these trails.

Canine Swimming

Splashing mostly in fast-moving streams.

Trail Time

A full day easily possible.

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Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center

The Park

On the northern edge of the Lehigh Valley, the rolling terrain of Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center is nestled in the foothills of the Pocono Plateau. The habitats range from fields in various stages of successional growth to mature hardwood forests dominated by oak trees. About 2.5 miles of the beautiful Bushkill Creek and its tributary, Sobers Run, wind through the center. The original land for the center was purchased by the Department of Forests and Waters from the City of Easton in 1959. In 1969, additional land was purchased using funds from Project 70. This brought the total land area of the center to its present size of 1,168 acres.

Northampton

Phone Number

- (610) 746-2801

Website

- www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-parks/parks/jacobsburg.aspx

Admission Fee

- None

Park Hours

- Sunrise to sunset

Directions

- *Wind Gap*; from PA 33 at the Belfast Exit. Follow signs to the meeting of Henry and Belfast roads. Turn left on Belfast Road and in less than a mile will be a parking lot on the left, just past Bushkill Creek.

The Walks

The star canine hike in the park is a 4-mile loop through Henrys Woods linked by the *Homestead Trail* and the *Henrys Woods Trail*. This route is particularly attractive where it surrounds the Bushkill Creek, traveling high above the stream through luxuriant hemlocks on the west bank and traversing the water's edge on the east side. The *Henry Woods Trail*, the only pedestrian-only trail in the park, suffered heavy damage during flooding in the summer of 2006.

Most of the more than 18 miles of hiking paths are equestrian trails. Your dog will get a pleasing dose of open air and wooded hiking on these wide, paw-friendly old roads.

Trail Sense: Trail maps, blazes and trail junction signs will keep you from relying on your dog's nose.

Bonus

William Henry built his first gun in Lancaster in 1750. His weapons soon became the arms of choice in the French and Indian War and later during the American Revolution. In 1792 William Henry II purchased land here from the heirs of Jacob Hubler, who in 1740 founded the community from which Jacobsburg draws its name, and built a gun manufactory. Three succeeding generations produced small arms and the Henry Rifle became the most prominent weapon of the western frontier due to its durability, accuracy and relatively low cost. The Jacobsburg National Historic District lies almost entirely within the boundaries of Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center. Only the foundations remain from the colonial village of Jacobsburg; the Boulton Historic Site features a self-guiding interpretive trail describing the Henry family and the Boulton Gun works.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are welcome on the park trails - hey, they have a picture of a wet dog on the cover of the park brochure.

Traffic

Horses and mountain bikes are permitted on the trails outside of Henry's Woods.

Canine Swimming

Bushkill Creek alternates between rapids and calm water but is mostly just a refreshing diversion.

Trail Time

Between an hour and 90 minutes for the trails through the historic district and up to a full day to explore all the trails on both sides of Belfast Road.



8 Frances Slocum State Park

The Park

On November 2, 1778, a small band of Delaware Indians entered the Slocum home and carried away Frances who was then just five years old. Frances was taken along as the American Indians were forced westward and spent the rest of her life with the tribe. Her brothers devoted their lives looking for Frances and found her 59 years later living on a reservation near Peru, Indiana. She had been married twice and had borne four children. Frances refused the pleas of her brothers to return to Pennsylvania and she died in Indiana in 1847, at the age of 74.

Frances Slocum Lake was created to control flooding. Picnicking areas and the dam were constructed and the only Pennsylvania state park named for a woman opened in the spring of 1968.

The Walks

There is a trail for any level of canine hiker available in the park. A good start is the red-blazed *Lakeshore Trail* that traipses around the boot-shaped peninsula that is surrounded on three sides by Frances Slocum Lake. After this easy warm-up you can test the trails on the wings on either side of the lake. The *Larch Trail* near the campground is a hilly loop that visits a vibrant stand of the coniferous trees known for shedding their needles. The *Deer Trail* is a series of interconnecting loops on the western shore of the lake that can cover any canine hike up to four miles. These sporty paths - open to hunting - traverse

Luzerne

Phone Number
- (570) 696-3525

Website
- www.dcnr.state.pa.us/STATE-PARKS/parks/franceslocum.aspx

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Wyoming*; five miles north of Dallas. From exit 170B of I-81, take PA 309 north for 7.2 miles. Turn right (east) on Carverton Road and go 4.2 miles. Turn left (north) on 8th Street Road and go 1.3 mile. Turn left (west) onto Mt. Olivet Road and go one mile. The park entrance is on the left.

Bonus

The first night after her abduction was spent in a crude shelter under a rock ledge along Abraham Creek, found on the *Frances Slocum Trail*.



These natural rock shelters were where the kidnappers spent the first night after taking Frances Slocum from her home nearby.

the entire spectrum of habitats found in the park - hardwoods, marshes, thickets and hemlock groves.

Trail Sense: The trails are blazed and a detailed map brochure can be picked up at the park office.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are welcome on the trails and designated sites in the campground.

Traffic

Mountain bikes are restricted to the trail system on the western shore of the horseshoe-shaped lake.

Canine Swimming

Plenty of lake access from the *Lakeshore Trail*, the *Deer Trail* and the boat ramps, including on Carverton Road across from the park.

Trail Time

More than half a day to fully explore the three areas of the park.

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Nescopeck State Park

The Park

Bordered on the south by the steeply rising Mount Yeager and on the north by Nescopeck Mountain, Nescopeck State Park, one of Pennsylvania's newest parks, encompasses 3,550 acres. Nescopeck Creek meanders through the valley providing water for wetlands and rich forests. Nescopeck State Park has traditionally been managed for the American woodcock, which is one of many game species found in the thickets and woods along the creek.

The Walks

A series of short loops emanate from parking lots along Honey Hole Road and lead to Nescopeck Creek through light woods and abandoned farmfields. Most of your dog's trotting will take place on old roads on gentle grades. This is easy canine hiking on soft - even squishy - dirt and grass paths.

For dogs looking for a workout cross the road and tackle the Mountain Loop up Nescopeck Mountain. All told, there are 19 miles of trails in this mostly undeveloped park.

Trail Sense: Make sure you grab a trail map to chart your hiking day on about a dozen short, marked, interconnecting trails.

Luzerne

Phone Number
- (570) 403-2006

Website
- www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-parks/parks/nescopeck.aspx

Admission Fee
- None

Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Drums*; traveling west on I-80 take Exit 273 (White Haven, Freeland). Turn right onto PA 940. At the stop sign, go straight onto PA 437 for about 4.5 miles. Directly after power lines go left onto Honey Hole Road. Travel about 2 miles to enter the Lake Frances Day Use Area. It will be on your left side opposite Lake Frances Road.