

A Bark In The Park -

**The 45 Best
Places To Hike
With Your Dog In
The Portland, Oregon
Region**

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illustrations by

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Cruden Bay Books

About The Author

Lisa Johnson lives in the Portland, Oregon area with her husband Neal, their two Goffins Cockatoos, their Karelian Bear Dog, Socks, and their cat. She and her husband enjoy hiking the beautiful Pacific Northwest with Socks, who served as the research assistant for this project.

A BARK IN THE PARK: THE 45 BEST PLACES TO HIKE WITH
YOUR DOG IN THE PORTLAND, OREGON REGION

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

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Introduction

In Oregon, we are fortunate to have many natural areas and parks suitable to spending long weekends hiking with a canine friend in tow. This book does not attempt to identify every enjoyable trail or natural space in the area. It only seeks to draw attention to those areas that are extremely well-suited to hiking with your dog in the Portland metropolitan area. Without a doubt, some readers' favorite spots are not mentioned in this book, and for that, I apologize. I do, however, hope to introduce hiking opportunities to people that may not be familiar with all of the major hiking haunts in this area.

The hikes detailed in this book vary significantly from challenging day hikes, to easy strolls through city nature havens. I have only included parks within Portland and its immediately surrounding areas.

Other fantastic Oregon hikes exist along the coast, in the Cascades, and in many other non-Portland metropolitan hiking areas that are not listed in this book. This is not an erroneous omission. Many books already exist detailing those hikes. This book strives to fill the gap for dog loving Portland urban and suburban dwellers, who want to go somewhere really great with their dog, and remain relatively close to their home. Each hike listed is within one hour's drive of downtown Portland, and many of the hikes are only minutes away.

So grab that leash and hit the trail. And have as much fun as your dog.

Before You Go...

Hiking With Your Dog

Hiking with your dog can be a fascinating way to explore the Portland 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. Hiking with your dog strengthens the overall owner/dog bond.

Breed of Dog

All dogs enjoy the new scents and sights of a trail. But some dogs are better suited to hiking than others. If you don't as yet have a hiking companion, select a breed that matches your interests. Do you look forward to an entire afternoon's hiking? You'll need a dog bred to keep up with such a pace, such as a retriever or a spaniel. Is a half-hour enough walking for you? It may not be for an energetic dog like a border collie. If you already have a hiking friend, tailor your plans to his abilities.

Conditioning

Just like humans, dogs need to be acclimated to the task at hand. An inactive dog cannot be expected to bounce from the easy chair in the den to complete a 3-hour hike. You must also be physically able to restrain your dog if confronted with distractions on the trail (like a scampering squirrel or a pack of joggers). Have your dog checked by a veterinarian before significantly increasing your dog's activity level.

🐾 Weather

Hot humid summers do not do dogs any favors. With no sweat glands and only panting available to disperse body heat, dogs are much more susceptible to heat stroke than we are. Unusually rapid panting and/or a bright red tongue are signs of heat exhaustion in your pet. Always carry enough water for your hike. Even days that don't seem too warm can cause discomfort in dark-coated dogs if the sun is shining brightly. In cooler 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

Lyme disease, transmitted through the bite of an infected tick, occurs in Oregon. 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. If your walk includes fields, consider long sleeves and long pants tucked into high socks. Wear a hat - ticks like hair. By checking your dog - and yourself - thoroughly after each walk, you can help avoid lyme disease. Ticks tend to congregate on your dog's ears, between the toes, and around the neck and head.

Water

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

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

Outfitting Your Dog For A Hike

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

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

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

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

🐾 *Will my dog wear a pack?*

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

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

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

🐾 *How does a dog wear a pack?*

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

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

Low density items such as food and 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 Portland is trail maintenance - your dog can pack out trash left by inconsiderate visitors before you.

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

-Maurice Maeterlinck

🐾 *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. Hiking boots for dogs are designed to prevent pads from cracking while trotting across rough surfaces. Used in winter, dog booties provide warmth and keep ice balls from forming between toe pads when hiking through snow.

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

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

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



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.

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

-Christopher Morley

***The 45 Best Places
To Hike With
Your Dog In
The Portland, Oregon
Region...***

1

Warrior Rock

The Park

This spit of land became Warrior Rock in 1792 when 23 canoes of armed Multnomah tribesmen surrounded an exploratory expedition led by British Royal Navy captain William Broughton. The Brits quickly diffused the situation peaceably and named the place Warrior Rock. Today, most of the public land here is managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Walks

When hiking with your dog on Sauvie Island, a logical goal is to reach the Warrior Rock lighthouse at land's end. The hike to Warrior Rock stretches 3 1/2 miles on a former service road. The level, sandy path along the beach becomes grass and dirt and can become muddy. This old road cuts through forest and meadow choked with dense blackberry brambles.

Another option instead of following the path is to traipse along the beach all the way to the lighthouse when the river level is low. You can glimpse your destination from the trailhead.

Sauvie Island

Distance from I-405

- 25 miles from Exit 3

Phone Number

- (503) 947-6000

Website

- www.dfw.state.or.us/

Admission Fee

- A parking permit is required and can be obtained at Sam's Cracker Barrel, located on Sauvie Island just after crossing the Sauvie Island Bridge. A daily parking permit is \$3.50. Parking permits can also be obtained at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, or at any GI Joe's store.

Directions

- Take state Highway 30 to the Sauvie Island Bridge. Follow Sauvie Island Road to Reeder Road, then turn right onto Reeder Road. Follow Reeder Road to the end, where a parking lot can be found after approximately 13 miles of increasingly rough terrain.

Bonus

There are 9 public lighthouses in Oregon, eight of them are on the coast. The ninth was built on Warrior Rock in 1882. Originally a small wooden, 2-story structure, the light was replaced by a 28-foot concrete tower in the 1930s, which came in handy when the structure was rammed by a runaway barge in 1969.

The lighthouse's bell, the oldest fog bell in the Pacific Northwest, tumbled into the water and was cracked when the Coast Guard attempted to retrieve it.

The bell, cast in Philadelphia in 1855 and first used at Cape Disappointment at the mouth of the Columbia River can now be seen in Columbia View Park next to the Columbia County Historical Courthouse in St. Helens. A half-size replica of the first Warrior Rock Light is there as well.

Trail Sense: Just after crossing the Sauvie Island Bridge pull into a gravel parking area to study large information boards with maps of the entire island. There are no specific maps or trail markers for this hike.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are allowed all along the Warrior Rock hike.

Traffic

You will find this a solitary trek for you and your dog most of the way.

Canine Swimming

The Columbia River calls to water-loving dogs many times during this hike.

Trail Time

The round trip will take more than an hour for you and your dog.

2

Powell Butte Nature Park

The Park

Powell Butte is one of many extinct cinder volcanoes around Portland. In 1925 it was purchased by the City of Portland Water Bureau with visions of future reservoirs and millions of gallons of water are stored beneath the fields. The butte is named for a descendent of Joab Powell, a circuit-riding Baptist preacher from the mid-19th century. His homemade jeans were said to measure four feet across at the seat.

The Walks

Over nine miles of trails roll through the Powell Butte nature area, home to many wildlife species that thrive in its open spaces, wetlands and forests. The *Goldfinch Trail*, the *Orchard Loop Trail* and the *Mountain View Trail* lead through meadowland. The *Blacktailed Deer Trail* and the *Old Holgate Trail* lead through forest. Several trails dissect both, including the *Wild Hawthorne*, *Elderberry*, *Meadowland*, and *Mt. Hood* trails.

Trail Sense: A detailed map of Powell Butte trails is available.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are welcome throughout Powell Butte Nature Park.

southeast Portland

Distance from I-205

- 3.5 miles from Exit 19

Phone Number

- (503) 823-PLAY

Website

- [www.parks.ci.portland.or.us/
Parks/PowellButteNature.htm](http://www.parks.ci.portland.or.us/Parks/PowellButteNature.htm)

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- From I-205 head east on
SE Powell Boulevard.

The entrance road to the
parking area is located at
SE Powell Boulevard and
SE 162nd Avenue.

Bonus

On the Orchard Loop Trail a pioneer orchard can be found at the butte's grassy top. In the northeast corner of a walnut orchard you can find the Survey Monument that indicates the direction, height and distances of numerous mountains and buttes.

Traffic

Mountain bikers, horseback riders, hikers, birders, dogs and runners all share this park.

Canine Swimming

Water-loving dogs won't come here for the great swimming but there is a seasonal pond along the Pioneer Orchard Trail and a small creek in the forest below.

Trail Time

There is more than one hour of trail time at Powell Butte Nature Park.

"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

3

Tryon Creek State Park

The Park

Socrates Hotchkiss Tryon was born in Vermont in 1815. After earning a medical degree he set sail for Hawaii to set up practice before coming to Oregon in 1849 to settle a 645-acre donation land claim. After his family joined him in 1851, Tryon stayed in the area, farming land near present-day Stampher Road near the mouth of the creek that bears his name. He died after a battle with sciatic rheumatism a few years later at the age of 39 and the property remained in the family for only 20 more years before being sold to the Oregon

Iron Company for \$10.85 an acre. The thick stands of maple and fir and western red cedar were logged extensively through the years until community activists in the late 1960s spurred development of the 645-acre park.

The Walks

A well-developed trail system penetrates Tryon Creek State Park which is representative of the moist ecosystem of the Willamette Valley. More than a dozen short trails, each less than a mile, can be enjoyed with your dog in this quiet, forested haven. Three half-mile loops surround the Nature Center and are maintained for year-round hiking. There is a 125-foot drop in

southwest Portland

Distance from I-5

- 2.2 miles from Exit 297

Phone Number

- (503) 636-9886

Website

- www.oregonstateparks.org

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- From I-5 head south on SW Terwilliger Boulevard to the well signed park entrance. For access from the west side, veer right on to SW Boones Ferry Road and find a small parking area on the left in one mile. Consult the park map for other access points.

Bonus

One of the easiest trails at Tryon Creek is the paved, .3-mile Ruth Pennington Trillium Trail, named for the protected wildflower, Western Trillium. The delicate plant favors wet woods and produces its white blooms in April and May. In earlier times trillium was used as eye medicine. The changing colors of some of the blooms are thought to have inspired William Shakespeare in A Midsummers Night Dream.

elevation to the creek and more challenging canine hikes can be found on the horse trails at the ridge line. Altogether there are more than 8 miles of hiking trails and another 3 miles of equestrian trails through the shallow canyon around one of the last free-flowing streams within the metropolitan area.

Trail Sense: Trail markers lead the way throughout Tryon Creek and a trail map is available.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are welcome on all trails.

Traffic

Runners, hikers, bicyclists, bird-watchers and equestrians all use Tryon Creek State Park enthusiastically. Equestrian trails are designated from hiker-only trails.

Canine Swimming

Dogs are not allowed in Tryon Creek, which supports a run of steelhead trout.

Trail Time

More than an hour.

*"Children are for people who can't have dogs."
-Anonymous*

4

Forest Park

The Park

William Clark was the first to describe this area, noting in his journal after an 1806 side trip up the Willamette River that the Douglas Fir dominated the landscape with trunks five to eight feet in diameter. The resilient land survived homesteading, logging and oil wild-cattling before 3,000 acres were dedicated as parkland in 1948. Several other distinct parks are located within the park's natural areas and its total of 4,800 acres make Forest Park the largest city wilderness park in the United States.

The Walks

Any type of canine hike is available on Forest Park's 74 miles of trail. The 11-plus miles of *Leif Erikson Drive* make an easy walk with your dog amid stunning beauty, with small grades on gravel and pulverized rock surfaces that are easy on the tender paw. Leif Erikson Drive is actually the product of a failed real estate development and was named in 1933 by city ordinance. Some thought city council to be courting the local Scandinavian vote - only two Leif Eriksons lived in Portland in 1933, one a lumber salesman and the other a dance hall manager. Neither was believed to have inspired the road's moniker.

northwest Portland

Distance from I-405

- 7 miles from Exit 3

Phone Number

- (503) 823-PLAY

Website

- www.parks.ci.portland.or.us/Parks/ForestPark.htm

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- From NW Saint Helens Road, near the St. Johns Bridge, turn west on Germantown Road.

Follow Germantown Road partially uphill to the unmarked gravel parking area located on the south side of the street.

You can also find street parking along NW Thurman Street.

Bonus

Exotic and invasive plant species threaten many Portland Parks. Non-welcome invaders like can crowd out native plants and alter the vibrant balance of a greenspace.

A plant like English Ivy, while good for topiaries, is not a food source for any animal and is a relentless woodland competitor - it thrives in light as little as 1% and spreads by seed, root or vine.

The Ivy Removal Project is a partnership between Portland Parks & Recreation and the Friends of Forest Park. Volunteers meet every Saturday morning, rain or shine, from 9 until noon at Lower Macleay Park, to help rid the park of this botanical pest. All are welcome.

For a sharper cardiac workout, consider *Firelane 9* that cuts a short, tunnel-like swath through the forest across from the Germantown Road parking area to the St. Helens Road area. The fireland runs through 17 acres that comprise the Clark and Wilson Natural Area. The dirt-and-grass lane is quite broad.

Trail Sense: A trailmap is located at the northwest Thurman Street trailhead of Leif Erikson Drive but none exists at the Germantown Road access.

Dog Friendliness

All trails are open to dogs in Forest Park.

Traffic

While dogs can trot freely on park trails, bicyclists and equestrians are limited to certain trails so you will be able to restrict your explorations to footpaths.

Canine Swimming

There are no canine swimming holes in Forest Park.

Trail Time

You can fill a day's canine hiking here.

5

Eagle Creek Recreation Area

The Park

In 1915 the United States Forest Service built its first campground here at Eagle Creek. This was the first national recreation site in America that was not a forest. Later, the first flush toilets in a USFS campground were installed. In 1986 the Columbia River Gorge was designated as the first National Scenic Area in the country. That historic camp area is now a park picnic site.

The Walks

The *Eagle Creek Trail* is the most popular canine hike in the Columbia River Gorge. The trail gains 1200 feet gradually as it picks its way above sheer dropoffs, including a stretch at Tunnel Falls where builders dynamited the basalt canyon walls to route the path behind the waterfall. Some of the cable handrails along the trail date back to 1916.

The Eagle Creek Trail stretches 13 miles to Wahtum Lake giving explorers a wide choice of out-and-back canine hikes. Punch Bowl Falls is the closest destination, two miles down the trail. A spur trail leads to the base of the 30-foot waterspout. High Bridge comes in another mile, the 4 1/2 Mile Bridge at four miles and Tunnel Falls at six.

northwest Portland

Distance from downtown Portland

- 41 miles

Phone Number

- (541) 386-2333

Website

- www.fs.fed.us/r6/columbia/trails/trail_440.htm

Admission Fee

- Northwest Forest Pass, \$5 for a day pass, available at a self-service pay station in the lower parking area.

Directions

- From Portland, head east on I-84 to Exit 41. To return to Portland you will first need to head east to Cascade Locks, Exit 44, before returning westbound. If you are coming from the east, take Exit 40 and reenter I-84 eastbound for a mile to Exit 41.

Bonus

Two of the most historic buildings in the United States Forest Service are located in the Eagle Creek Recreation Area. The Community Kitchen, a 20-foot by 40-foot open-sided structure and the 5x6-foot Hiker's Register Building are constructed of logs on basalt stone bases with shake roofs. They were restored in the early 1990s with the help of the University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts.

Access is also available to *Gorge Trail 400* from the parking lot. Tanner Creek is three miles down this trail.

Trail Sense: The trail is well-signed. Wooden signs that indicate turnoffs to viewpoints can be difficult to spot.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are permitted on Eagle Creek Trail.

Traffic

Horses, bicyclists, and motorized vehicles are not allowed on the Eagle Creek Trail. During peak summer usage, hiker traffic can get congested where the trail narrows along the basalt cliffs. Because of the steep drop-offs, the trail is not suitable for small children.

Canine Swimming

The best place for your dog to share the lively waters with the salmon is below Punch Bowl Falls. To observe the chinook and coho salmon fight their way upstream to spawn - and die - there is a pedestrian observatory on the Eagle Creek Bridge.

Trail Time

Plan to spend more than one hour on the Eagle Creek Trail.

6

Hoyt Arboretum

The Park

Private enthusiasts, the city of Portland, the timber industry and the United States Forest Service melded efforts to develop this “municipal arboretum for conifers.” They started with 80 acres of steep hillside where once sat the County Poor Farm. Today the park, named for Ralph Hoyt, a former county commissioner, embraces 175 acres along a ridgetop just west of downtown Portland.

The Walks

The paths at Hoyt Arboretum wind among more than 1,000 species of plants grouped by their scientific family, as was the trend when the gardens were planted in 1928. Over 8,000 trees and plants from around the world live here, each carrying a descriptive label. The exceedingly pleasant canine hikes here travel along 12 miles of wood-chipped, wide trails that are easy on the paw and good for the spirit. The trails frequently spill onto inviting meadows and grassy enclaves that beckon a picnic.

Return at different times of the year and enjoy customized canine hikes such as the Fall Color Tour.

Trail Sense: The trails are well-marked and a detailed brochure and map are available.

southwest Portland

Distance from downtown Portland

- 2 miles west

Phone Number

- (503) 228-TREE

Website

- www.hoytarboretum.org

Admission Fee

- None

Directions

- Hoyt Arboretum is easily accessible from downtown Portland. From downtown, go west on Highway 26 and take the zoo exit. Go up the hill and follow the signs to Hoyt Arboretum.

Bonus

The re-emergence of the Dawn Redwood is one of the great arboreal mystery stories of recent times.

In 1941 a forester from China's National Central University reported finding a strange new tree in a remote village in western China.

Due to the war, his notes were ignored until 1946 when a botanical expedition was mounted to collect specimen samples. The tree was subsequently identified as a Dawn Redwood, an ancient tree thought to be extinct for five million years and known only through fossils. A second expedition in 1947 collected seeds that were disseminated to botanical gardens around the globe. Today, only a scattered few Dawn Redwoods remain growing in the wild and it is a critically endangered species.

The Dawn Redwood in Hoyt Arboretum is easy to find growing along its ridgetop trail. It was the first to produce cones in the western hemisphere since the Ice Age.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are welcome on all trails in Hoyt Arboretum and can even enjoy a cool drink from the water bowl kept outside the Visitor Center.

Traffic

Hoyt Arboretum is a well-known and attractive destination for people and dogs. No bicycles are allowed on the trails.

Canine Swimming

There are no canine swimming opportunities at Hoyt Arboretum.

Trail Time

Expect to spend more than one hour hiking with your dog in Hoyt Arboretum.

7

Historic Columbia River Highway Trail

The Park

A non-water passage from the coast to eastern Oregon had long been a dream of Portland visionaries. When construction on the Columbia River Highway began in 1913 engineer Samuel Lancaster not only set out to defy doubters that the project could even be completed, he went out of his way to route his road to hit all the "beauty spots." When he was done with the first major paved highway in the Pacific Northwest, Lancaster had created a 74-mile highway with nothing more than a 5% grade that indeed took in every scenic nook and cranny in the Gorge. Where tunnels were needed he drew upon tunnels he had seen on the famous Auenstrasse Road in Switzerland, even installing arched windows so motorists could keep on enjoying the scenery.

Interstate 84 would eventually take many portions of the road and demolished others. Fortunately a Roads-To-Trails project saved sections of the magnificent road and converted them to trails for the enjoyment of bicyclists and walkers.

southwest Portland

Distance from downtown Portland

- 44 miles

Phone Number

- (541) 386-2333

Website

- www.odot.state.or.us/hcrh/trail/trail.htm

Admission Fee

- None, unless you access the trail from the Eagle Creek parking area, which requires a Northwest Forest Pass - \$5.

Directions

- From Portland, take I-84 east. To start at Tanner Creek, take Exit 40 and select one of two parking options. Either turn right and find parking at the Wahclella Falls Trail or turn left onto a graveled road and find parking in 0.4 miles at the Toothrock Trailhead.

To start at Eagle Creek, take Exit 41. To start at Cascade Locks, take Exit 44 and find parking directly beneath the Bridge of the Gods.

Bonus

While you are high above the water in the gorge don't forget to notice the rustic stonework of the protective railings and the wooden white guardrails. These restored relics of the original roadway harken back to when the Columbia River Highway was completed in 1922 and it was hailed as an engineering achievement on par with the digging of the Panama Canal.

The Walks

Eleven miles, in two disconnected stretches, of the original roadway have been converted into paved hike-and-bike trails. One segment of the trail runs 5.3 miles from Cascade Locks to Moffet Creek and can be accessed either at Cascade Locks, Eagle Creek, or Tanner Creek. The twelve-foot wide, paw-friendly, trail provides easy passage.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are permitted on both segments of the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail.

Traffic

Usage is usually light.

Canine Swimming

No swimming opportunities exist along the trail.

Trail Time

Expect to spend more than one hour hiking this trail..

*"What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog
in the fight but the size of the fight in the dog."
-Dwight D. Eisenhower*

8

Horsetail Falls Trail Loop

The Park

Boasting over seventy waterfalls, the Columbia Gorge has the greatest concentration of waterfalls in North America. The abundance of water comes from streams plunging over rock cliffs carved by the Columbia River scouring the lava flows of the Columbia Plateau. One of the most accessible falls in the Gorge is the Horsetail Falls, a fine example of a "horsetail variety" of waterfalls. Others include tiered, plunge, block, cascade, segmented, fan and punchbowl.

southwest Portland

Distance from downtown Portland
- 37 miles
Phone Number
- (541) 386-2333
Website
- www.fs.fed.us/r6/columbia/trails/crgnsa_trail_menu.htm
Admission Fee
- None
Directions
- Take I-84 Exit 35.
Head 1.3 miles west on the Historic Columbia River Highway. Parking is across the highway from Horsetail Falls.

The Walks

The *Horsetail Trail*, Trail #438, is an easy hike and well-signed. You can purchase close-up views of 176-foot Horsetail Falls and Ponytail Falls for a modest 500-foot elevation gain on this route. To reach the latter plunge, follow the *Gorge Trail*, #400, for half a mile. The path travels behind the falls, under a moss-covered overhang. You can create a canine hiking loop by joining the *Oneonta Trail* back to the Columbia River Highway. There are no waterfalls on this narrow trail but you won't be wanting for natural splendors here. Be aware that this loop will require a return along the highway of about one-half mile.

Trail Sense: Trail maps are available and trail junctions well-marked. Side spurs to viewpoints are often indicated by easily overlooked wooden signs nailed to trees so stay alert.