

# Doggin' The Berkshires

***The 33 Best Places  
To Hike With Your Dog In  
Western Massachusetts***

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Cruden Bay Books



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

**DOGGIN' THE BERKSHIRES: THE 33 BEST PLACES TO  
HIKE WITH YOUR DOG IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS**

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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*

## *Ahead On The Trail*

No Dogs!	14
Ten Cool Things To See On The Trail With Your Dog	15
The 33 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog	19
Camping With Your Dog	88
Index To Parks And Open Space	91

### *Also...*

Hiking With Your Dog	5
Outfitting Your Dog For A Hike	9
Low Impact Hiking With Your Dog	12

## Introduction

The Berkshire Hills 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](http://www.hikewithyourdog.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. In the past few years Bartholomew's Cobble in Sheffield has closed to dogs and more may follow if dog owners aren't vigilant to good manners. *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 Berkshire Hills 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. 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.



## 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 Berkshire Hills 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 Berkshires 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 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:

*Bartholomew's Cobble - Sheffield*

*Canoe Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary - Pittsfield*

*Goose Pond Reservation - Lee*

*Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary - Lenox*



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 Berkshire Hills...

# 10 Cool Things To See On Berkshire Trails With Your Dog

“If your dog is fat,” the old saying goes, “you aren’t getting enough exercise.” But walking the dog need not be just about a little exercise. Here are 10 cool things you can see in the Berkshire Hills while out walking the dog.

## CCC BUILDINGS

During the Great Depression of the 1930s President Franklin Roosevelt put thousands of unemployed men to work in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Work camps were set up across the country with the mandate to build roads, reforest denuded lands, and construct recreational facilities for public use. Some of the greatest legacies of this “Tree Army” are in the Berkshires, including Bascom Lodge on the summit of Mount Greylock. Designed by Pittsfield architect Joseph McArthur Vance, the rustic shelter was designed to blend in with the landscape using native materials of stone (Greystone schist) and lumber (red spruce and oak).

## GLACIAL ERRATICS

The great ice rivers of the last Ice Age melted from Massachusetts about 15,000 years ago, scraping and shaping the landscape and leaving behind a fair share of debris. Strange rock formations from retreating glaciers are known as erratics. The greatest oddity in Pittsfield State Forest is a glacial erratic known as Balance Rock. The massive 165-ton limestone boulder teeters precariously upon a small, 3-foot piece of bedrock.

## GRAZING CATTLE

Does your dog have any herding instincts? At Tyringham Cobble the canine hike begins in an open field where you may find yourself hiking with your dog through a free-ranging herd of Hereford cattle - as they have done for 200 years.



## MASSQUATCH

A canine hike in **October Mountain State Forest** may be your best chance to spot Massquatch, New England's version of Bigfoot. There have been occasional sightings of a hairy, oversized, human-like creature in Massachusetts across the years from the Atlantic beaches to the Berkshire Mountains. The Berkshire Eagle twice reported encounters at October Mountain in the 1980s, including an up-close-and-personal at a former Boy Scout camp near Felton Lake.



## MODERN ART

After World War II interrupted his career as a Williams College librarian, Lawrence Bloedel purchased the former Nathan Field farm with his wife Eleanor. In 1948 the couple retained Edwin Goodell to build a house to accommodate their expanding collection of contemporary American art. He responded with a modern, window-dominated design adorned with simple lines. In 1966, Ulrich Franzen delivered a Victorian Shingle-style house for the Bloedels' grandchildren, known as **The Folly**. The Bloedels donated their blend of architecture and nature to the Trustees of Reservations in 1984 and when you hike with your dog at **Field Farm** today you can walk among 13 modern sculptures, including works by Richard M. Miller, Jack Zajac, Bernard Reder and Herbert Ferber.







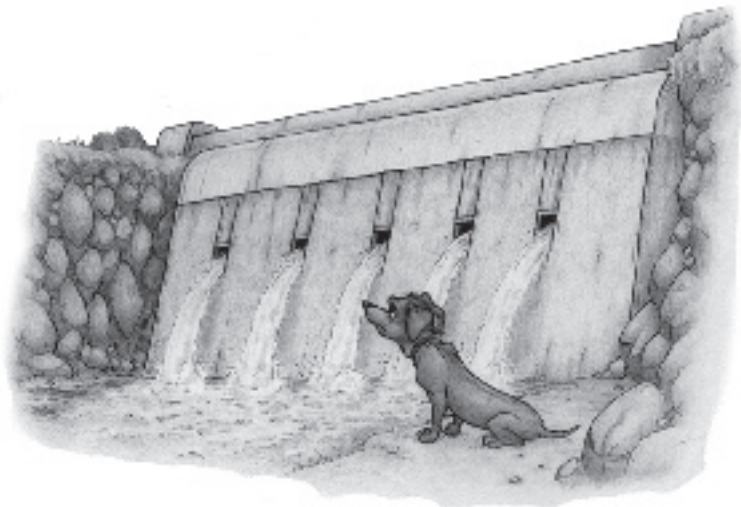
## MYSTERIOUS GLENS

Nathaniel Hawthorne called the Ice Glen, a cleft in the rocks between Bear and Little mountains behind the town of Stockbridge, “the most curious fissure in all Berkshire.” It is a ravine without a stream - all the water around Ice Glen flows on a south-north axis while the gorge is aligned east to west. In fact, the glen, stuffed with stacked boulders and draped with hemlocks, was once a glacial lake. Tucked away from the sun’s rays, the season’s last snow melts here, hence its name. Further west, beyond West Stockbridge, Stevens Glen was once one of the busiest tourist destinations in the the county. In the late 1800s Romanza Stevens built bridges and staircases to the Glen and its waterfall and charged 25 cents for tourists to view the magic of Lenox Mountain Brook.



## RARE DAMS

In Natural Bridge State Park, the site of a marble quarry until 1947, is a dam built totally of marble blocks, etched in black on the edges. As Ed Elder, who operated the property as a roadside tourist attraction, would describe it, “This is the only marble dam outside Athens, Greece.”



## 🐾 SACRED RELIGIOUS SITES

Shaker communities were required to clear the summit of a nearby hill for worship. Near Hancock around 1842, this site was atop Mt. Sinai, now known as Shaker Mountain. The trail today leads to two Shaker sacred sites that have been levelled out on the top of Mt. Sinai and Holy Mount. When the Shakers worshipped here non-believers were not allowed on these grounds.

## 🐾 SLUICES, SPOUTS AND CASCADES

All over the Berkshires your dog can view and swim under hydro-spectaculars. Some are reached with hardly a hike (Campbell Falls, Windsor Jams, Wahconah Falls), others with a little effort (The Notch Brook Cascades, Bash Bish Falls, Tannery Falls) and other waterfalls are rewards for a spirited canine hike such as Sages Ravine in Mount Everett State Reservation.

## 🐾 STONE WALLS BUILT FOR THE AGES

The stone walls found throughout Massachusetts are some of the most beautiful walls ever built. The fact that so many can be found in Berkshire woods attests to the skill used in construction. You could not just pile up rocks found around your property and call it a wall. When a stone wall was finished it needed to be inspected by a fence viewer. If a wall was deemed sound the owner could not be liable for damage done to his crops by other farmer's animals.



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

# I

# Mount Greylock Reservation

## The Park

Mount Greylock, at 3,491 feet, is the highest point in southern New England. Known geologically as a monadnock, or isolated hill, it has long attracted attention. Jeremiah Wilbur gouged the first trail to the summit around 1800 and in 1831 students from Williams College constructed the first observatory tower that poked above the trees on the top.

Throughout the 1800s trees were removed from the slopes to power local industry and as landslides and forest fires became more frequent public conservation efforts began to stir. A cadre of 42 concerned citizens formed the Greylock Park Association in 1885 to purchase 400 acres around the summit and on June 20, 1898 the Massachusetts Legislature passed a law creating the Greylock State Reservation, the first state park in the Commonwealth.

## The Walks

At Mount Greylock you can hike longer with your dog (more than 70 miles of trails), higher with your dog (some canine hikes will gain over 2,000 feet in elevation) and see some of New England's oldest trees (200+ years old). Nascent canine hikers can drive to the summit when the auto road is open and loop around on the *Overlook Trail* and *Appalachian Trail*. This sampler covers over two miles and still delivers plenty of ups and downs to complement the famous multi-state views.

## Adams

Phone Number  
- (413) 499-4262

Website  
- [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/mgry.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/mgry.htm)

Admission Fee  
- Parking fee at summit only

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to dusk

Directions  
- The auto road across the summit is accessed from the north just west of North Adams on Notch Road and from the south in Lanesborough from Route 7 on North Main Street. Look for brown signs.

*Bonus*

The 107th Company of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) lived and worked on the mountain during 1933-41. Their camp was located at the site of the present-day campground on Sperry Road.

One of their first projects was the construction on the summit of Bascom Lodge. Designed by Pittsfield architect Joseph McArthur Vance, it embodies the rustic style then in vogue, designed to blend in with the landscape using native materials of stone (Greylock schist) and lumber (red spruce and oak).

The lodge is named for John Bascom, an early commissioner of Mount Greylock who dedicated the mountain in 1906 thusly: "Greylock, our daily pleasure, our constant symbol, our ever renewed inspiration, for all who have fellowship with Nature."



For serious canine hikers there are several long-distance options to tag the summit. One of the wildest but most scenic trails on the mountain is the *Thunderbolt* that picks up 2,175 feet in less than two miles. The steep, twisting route was constructed by the CCC in 1934 as a championship ski trail and named after a famous roller coaster at Revere Beach near Boston because both

gave such an unforgettable ride. Today your dog can hike where many a past major downhill race was contested, including the 1938 and 1940 United States Eastern Ski Association Championships.

In 1844 Ralph Waldo Emerson urged his friend Henry David Thoreau to climb Mount Greylock, a place he described as “a serious mountain.” Thoreau took the route that today is the *Bellows Pipe Trail*, so-called for the wind gusts that are forced through the notch. Thoreau wrote about his experiences on Greylock in *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*.

If there is one must-do major canine hike in the Berkshires it is probably The Hopper. Surrounded on three sides by steep slopes, this unique valley studded with old-growth red spruce has been designated a National Natural Landmark. An 11-mile loop includes the *Hopper Trail*, the *Mt. Prospect Trail* and the *Money Brook Trail* and tags the summits of Mt. Prospect, Mt. Williams and Greylock.

*Trail Sense:* There is a detailed trail map and the trails are signed and blazed.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the trails and in the campground.

### **Traffic**

This is the trademark park in Western Massachusetts and is visited accordingly; all-terrain vehicles are prohibited.

### **Canine Swimming**

There are plenty of streams coursing down the slopes of Mount Greylock but swimming is not a strong feature of these canine hikes.

### **Trail Time**

A full day to a full weekend.

*“If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die  
I want to go where they went.”  
-anonymous*

*As a young lawyer, 19th century Senator George Graham Vest of Missouri, addressed the jury on behalf of his client, suing a neighbor who had killed his dog. Vest's speech has come to be known as "Tribute to the Dog."*

The best friend a man has in the world may turn against him and become his enemy. His son or daughter that he has reared with loving care may prove ungrateful. Those who are nearest and dearest to us, those whom we trust with our happiness and our good name may become traitors to their faith. The money that a man has, he may lose. It flies away from him, perhaps when he needs it most. A man's reputation may be sacrificed in a moment of ill-considered action. The people who are prone to fall on their knees to do us honor when success is with us may be the first to throw the stone of malice when failure settles its cloud upon our heads. The one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous is his dog. A man's dog stands by him in prosperity and in poverty, in health and in sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground, where the wintry winds blow and the snow drives fiercely, if only he may be near his master's side. He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer; he will lick the wounds and sores that come in an encounter with the roughness of the world. He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince. When all other friends desert, he remains. When riches take wings, and reputation falls to pieces, he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens. If fortune drives the master forth an outcast in the world, friendless and homeless, the faithful dog asks no higher privilege than that of accompanying him, to guard him against danger, to fight against his enemies. And when the last scene of all comes, and death takes his master in its embrace and his body is laid away in the cold ground, no matter if all other friends pursue their way, there by the graveside will the noble dog be found, his head between his paws, his eyes sad, but open in alert watchfulness, faithful and true even in death.

## 2

# Notchview

### The Park

The earliest inhabitants of this land were the Mohican Indians who were run off their land in Albany, New York and relocated to Stockbridge in 1664. It would be another century before English settlers filtering out of eastern Massachusetts would force the Mohicans off this land as well. Remnants of the tribe today can be found in Wisconsin.

By the end of the 19th century the 3,000 acres that would become Notchview supported 20 homesteads. In 1920, Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Budd, who earned The Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in France in World War I, met the widowed Helen Bly in London. Mrs. Bly lived in a 250-acre estate on Route

9 she called Helenscourt. The two married and returned to the Berkshires where they set about consolidating the local farms and building the 3,000-acre estate Notchview.

After considering leaving the property to the Commonwealth or the Episcopal Church, Colonel Budd decided to bequeath his farm to The Trustees of Reservations. He died in 1965 and the park opened to the public in 1969.

### The Walks

Whatever you have in mind for hiking with your dog is on the menu at Notchview. There are more than 15 miles of paw-friendly hiking trails available. First time visitors can sample Notchview on the *Circuit Trail* that loops back through the middle of the property, ducks out of the trees for a quick view and finishes back at the Visitor Center. The 1.8-mile trail travels just

### Windsor

Phone Number  
- (413) 684-0148

Website  
- [www.thetrustees.org/pages/345\\_notchview.cfm](http://www.thetrustees.org/pages/345_notchview.cfm)

Admission Fee  
- Yes, parking fee for non-Trustees members

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- From the intersection of Route 8A and Route 9 in Windsor center, take Route 9 East. After one mile turn into the entrance on the left.



### Bonus

Notchview is one of Massachusetts' premier nordic cross-country ski destinations in the winter.

When the snow is on the ground you can ski on one trail with your dog - the loop south of Route 9.



**There are good views from this trail shelter for your dog to enjoy.**

about the entire way on a pebbly farm road that is kind to the paw. Although the land has long supported farming most of the open land has been reforested in red spruce and northern hardwoods.

After this easy ramble you can decide how much of the large park to chew off with your dog. The highest point at Notchview is the 2,297-foot Judges Hill but the reserve averages more than 2,000 feet

so your dog can keep his four-wheel drive in reserve for most of the day.

Across Route 9 is an excellent leg stretcher - the *Hume Brook Forest Interpretive Trail*. This route was created in the 1970s to educate the public about multiple use management and demonstrate the basic principles of modern forestry.

*Trail Sense:* There are detailed information boards, a visitor center, maps, trail blazes and signs at trailheads and junctions. You shouldn't need to call the St. Bernards here.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Colonel Budd was seldom seen on the farm without his beloved dogs - they are welcome at Notchview still.

### **Traffic**

No bikes are allowed and there is plenty of room to spread out.

### **Canine Swimming**

There is a beaver pond here and there but dog paddling is not a highlight of your dog's outing here.

### **Trail Time**

A full day is possible.

# 3

## Tyringham Cobble

### The Park

A cobble, the term is thought to derive from the German word *kobel* meaning rocks - is a rounded, rocky hill formed of bedrock, not glacial debris. In the case of Tyringham Cobble, geologist Daniel Clark discovered in 1895 that the rocks on the top of the knoll were older than those strewn around the bottom. He concluded that the cobble had broken off a nearby mountain and flipped over during a great geological cataclysm 500 million years ago.

Pioneer farmers cleared most of the Cobble by the 1760s. Members of the Shakers owned an extensive 2,000-acre farm in Tyringham by 1840 where they pastured cattle and sheep. The last of the frustrated Shakers, tired of trying to grind money out of the rocky soil, had sold out and moved to other communities by the end of the century.

In the 1930s a conservation group calling themselves “The Cobblers” purchased much of this land to thwart a proposed ski run. In 1961, their leader Olivia Cutting James died and left her part of the Cobble to the Trustees of Reservations with an expressed wish that the surviving tenants do the same. And so they did in 1963.

### The Walks

Hiking the two-mile loop trail, with its blend of open-fields and mixed hardwoods, on Tyringham Cobble is one of the best hours you can spend with your dog in the Berkshires. Your exploration begins in an open field where cattle graze as they have for 200 years. Then comes a fairly rigorous climb to

### Tyringham

Phone Number  
- (413) 298-3239

Website  
- [www.thetrustees.org/pages/370\\_tyringham\\_cobble.cfm](http://www.thetrustees.org/pages/370_tyringham_cobble.cfm)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- From Route 20 turn onto Route 102 West (towards Stockbridge) and then immediately turn left onto Tyringham Road. Follow into Tyringham and turn right onto Jerusalem Road. Entrance and parking are on the right.

*Bonus*

Does your dog have any herding instincts? You'll find out at Tyringham Cobble where you may find yourself hiking with a free-ranging herd of Hereford cattle.



**Your dogs may find themselves sharing the trail at Tyringham Cobble with herds of grazing cattle.**

summit where you'll enjoy sweeping views of a quintessential New England valleyscape.

Rather than race back down the slopes the trail juts back into the hill to join the *Appalachian Trail* for a spell and views in the opposite direction. As you drop down the Cobble along a fenced pasture don't let the distracting views take all your attention off of the slippery cowpies that mine the path.

*Trail Sense:* There is a basic map and information board at the trailhead; the trail is marked on the Cobble.

**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to hike at Tyringham Cobble.

**Traffic**

No bikes are allowed.

**Canine Swimming**

None.

**Trail Time**

About one hour.

# 4

## Stevens Glen

### The Park

It can be hard to picture but this remote spot, as wild as any place in the Berkshires, was once one of the busiest tourist destinations in the the county. The Stevens family owned the Glen since 1760 and in 1884 Romanza Stevens built bridges and staircases to the Glen and waterfall. He charged 25 cents for tourists to view the magic of Lenox Mountain Brook.

Later a dance pavilion was added and hundreds of people would come to Stevens Glen to party. In 1919 heavy snows collapsed the roof of the dance hall and after that the property reverted to obscurity for 70 years as trolley lines bypassed the Glen.

In 1995, brothers Millard and Frederic Pryor donated the Glen and 128 surrounding acres to the Berkshire Natural Resources Council. BNRC built footbridges and a new trail that was dedicated in 1998.

### The Walks

A short flight of steps leads to this delightful canine hike, a loop of some 1.2 miles with a spur leading to the Glen itself. The trail is a topsy-turvy affair with sweeping ups and downs across energetic streams and through an airy hemlock and mixed hardwood forest. There is enough elevation change as the route twists through the trees to provide any dog with a worthy workout.

### West Stockbridge

Phone Number  
- (413) 499-0596

Website  
- [www.bnrc.net/TrailMaps/StevensGlenGuide.pdf](http://www.bnrc.net/TrailMaps/StevensGlenGuide.pdf)

Admission Fee  
- None

Hours  
- Sunrise to sundown

Directions  
- From the center of Lenox, take Route 183 South for 1.5 miles. When Route 183 bears left, go right on Richmond-Lenox Road. After 1.6 miles turn left onto Lenox Branch Road. After about 1/2 mile start looking for a small sign for the Glen and a pull-off on the side of the road. Overflow parking is available further down the road.

### *Bonus*

Without question, the greatest tree in America prior to 1900 was the chestnut. Rot resistant with fine-grained wood, the chestnut tree supported both vibrant wildlife populations and entire rural economies.

It was estimated that one in every four trees in the eastern forests was a chestnut tree - some as old as 600 years. But in 1904 an Asian fungus was discovered in the Bronx Zoo and the blight soon decimated the chestnut population. Here in Stevens Glen every chestnut tree was cut down in 1924 in an attempt to stem the blight, dramatically transforming the landscape. The chestnut blight remains 100% fatal - you may find a chestnut sapling and young chestnuts may reach 20 or 30 feet but all are doomed to succumb to the disease.

The spur trail drops down and climbs back up, building a sense of mystery as it climbs to the dark, hidden Glen. A platform hanging over the 100-foot sluice of water crashing through a narrow gorge is reached by a set of metal steps that may cause your dog to think twice before descending.

*Trail Sense:* The trail is reliably blazed with red markers.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs can hike to the secluded Glen.

### **Traffic**

Foot traffic only and very little of it.

### **Canine Swimming**

The streams are deep enough only for a refreshing splash.

### **Trail Time**

About one hour.

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

*-Christopher Morley*

# 5 Pittsfield State Forest

## The Park

George Washington made a land grant here in 1777 to William Berry in exchange for his service at the Battle of Bennington in the Revolutionary War. Over the years, like most mountains in the Berkshires the trees began to fall - first for grazing fields and cropland, then for iron blast furnaces and, eventually by 1900, for the Estes Stave Factory to manufacture wooden caskets.

Much of what you find in Pittsfield State forest today is complements of the Civilian Conservation Corps during its stay in the 1930s. They built roads, dams and many of the present-day buildings. Most noticeably hundreds of acres of spruce and red pine were planted that give the park its leafy appearance today.

## The Walks

There are over 30 miles of mostly multi-use trails criss-crossing Pittsfield State Forest - and at times it can feel like there are twice that many. The focal point for most day visitors will be around the Berry Pond Circuit Road. Berry Pond, on the shoulders of the ridgeline of the Taconic range, is Massachusetts' highest natural body of water at 2,150 feet in elevation. Of the several routes to its shores, the yellow-blazed *Honwee Loop Trail* segment nearest the paved road is probably the easiest for your dog to scale Berry Mountain. Vehicles are barred from the trails around the Circuit Road - the further you branch out the more you bring your dog into contact with the four-wheelers.

## Pittsfield

### Phone Number

- (413) 442-8992

### Website

- [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/pitt.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/pitt.htm)

### Admission Fee

- Parking fee in season

### Park Hours

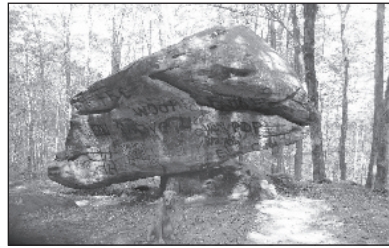
- Sunrise until 8:00 p.m.

### Directions

- Take Route 7 to Route 20 West. Turn right on to Hungerford Avenue, continue for 0.2 mile, then bear left onto Fort Hill Avenue, and continue for 1 mile. Turn left onto West Street. Continue for 0.2 mile, and turn right onto Churchill Street, and continue for 1.7 miles to Cascade Street. Turn left and follow the brown lead-in signs to the park.

### *Bonus*

The greatest oddity in Pittsfield State Forest is a glacial erratic known as Balance Rock. The huge 165-ton limestone boulder teeters precariously upon a small, three-foot piece of bedrock.



**A postcard from 1913 shows how open the land in Pittsfield State Forest was before a spirited flurry of reforestation.**

At Berry Pond you can access the *Taconic Crest Trail* that travels for 35 miles through the undeveloped mountains. Both New York and Massachusetts in 1993 recognized the Taconics, a nearly unbroken wilderness, as a significant biological, scenic and timber-producing resource.

*Trail Sense:* The trails are blazed and a two-side map, for summer and winter use, is available.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the trails and in the campground.

### **Traffic**

These are well-frequented trails, including use by four-wheelers. In late spring, when the woods are aflame with wild azaleas, Pittsfield State Forest is a busy place.

### **Canine Swimming**

The ponds are few and far-between; refreshing energetic streams are a prime feature of canine hiking in the day-use area.

### **Trail Time**

Many, many hours available.

# 6 Stockbridge Trails

## The Park

Nathaniel Hawthorne called the Ice Glen, a cleft in the rocks between Bear and Little mountains, “the most curious fissure in all Berkshire.” It is a ravine without a stream - all the water around Ice Glen flows on a south-north axis while the gorge is aligned east to west. In fact, the dry Glen, stuffed with stacked boulders and draped with hemlocks, was once a glacial lake. Tucked away from the sun’s rays, the season’s last snow clings here, hence its name.

The Laurel Hill Association, America’s first village improvement society, was started by Mary G. Hopkins in Stockbridge in 1853. The organization maintains the trails, including the 1936 stone suspension bridge over the Housatonic River that replaced the original 1895 span.

## The Walks

The canine hiking begins across that bridge with a set of three completely different trails. An easy warm-up for your dog is the *Mary Flynn Trail*, a wide, flat packed-gravel path along the Housatonic River built mostly on the bed of the old Berkshire Street Railway trolley line - America’s first trolley car was built in Stockbridge in 1880. The trail was constructed in 2003 as part of the Laurel Hill Association’s 150th Anniversary celebration.

Across the railroad tracks the trail chugs uphill into the woods, heading for a split. To the left will be a short, swithbacking climb of 600 feet steep enough to get your dog panting. The destination, a bit less than one mile away, is Laura’s Rest, where a 35-step tower in a clearing provides views of three

## Stockbridge

Phone Number  
- None

Website  
- None

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- From the center of Stockbridge at Routes 102 and 7, turn left onto Route 7 and go two blocks. Before the bridge, turn left onto Park Road and follow two blocks to the end.



### Bonus

The Laurel Hill Association has been conducting a Halloween procession through Ice Glen for more than a century. With its primordial feel there is no more appropriate location for a spooky, candlelit parade.



**The chokestones in the Ice Glen ravine make for one of the most unusual canine hikes your dog will ever find.**

states. Laura was the daughter-in-law of David Field, the donor of the land back in 1891. After losing her husband and children the young woman often came up here for solace. The trail does continue over the mountain for three miles to Beartown State Forest if you so choose.

The marquee trail in Stockbridge bears right from that junction, into the Ice Glen. The elevation gain is minimal but the boulders that litter the floor of the ravine may inhibit some dogs from going through the narrow fissure - only one-quarter-mile long. If your dog can't complete the entire trail she can still enjoy some of New England's largest pine and hemlock trees.

*Trail Sense:* There is a basic map and information board at the trailhead; the trails are not enthusiastically blazed but that's not a problem.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on these trails behind the village of Stockbridge.

### **Traffic**

The park is open to foot traffic only - no vehicles.

### **Canine Swimming**

The Housatonic River can serve a doggie swimming pool for a determined dog-paddler.

### **Trail Time**

Several hours to complete the trio of canine hikes here.

# 7

## Monument Mountain Reservation

### The Park

The “monument” of Monument Mountain was a distinctive pile of stones at the base of its southern slope that inspired myriad Mohican Indian legends and tickled the muse of artists as early as 1815. William Cullen Bryant composed “Monument Mountain,” an episodic poem that recounted one Mohican tale of doomed forbidden love.

Others were not so romantic. Treasure hunters had scattered the rock pile by the middle of the 19th century and Monument Mountain supported farming and iron smelting activities that devastated the woods until stands of red pine were planted in the 1930s to reforest the landscape.

In 1877, after most of the farms were abandoned, David Dudley Field Jr. built a scenic drive on the mountain for public use. In 1899, Helen Butler, daughter of a prominent New York attorney acquired many of the old farm- lands and donated them to the Trustees of Reservations.

### The Walks

Thanks to a loop trail that approaches the summit from two directions, there are several options for hiking with your dog at Monument Mountain. If you are after a spirited workout take off on the *Hickey Trail* from the north end of the parking lot. After a short circle around the base of the mountain you will begin pulling straight up beside a splendid seasonal waterfall. For a longer, but less intensive climb, use the *Indian Monument Trail*, the remnants of the 1877 carriage road that gradually works up the western slopes.

The two trails merge just below the summit at Inscription Rock, memo-

### Great Barrington

Phone Number  
- (413) 298-3239

Website  
- [www.thetrustees.org/pages/325\\_monument\\_mountain.cfm](http://www.thetrustees.org/pages/325_monument_mountain.cfm)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- Parking for the recognizable landmark is on the west side of Route 7, north of Great Barrington and south of Stockbridge.

### *Bonus*

The most famous story about Monument Mountain took place on August 5, 1850 when Nathaniel Hawthorne, having just finished *The Scarlet Letter* and the leading American literary figure of the day, met a young novelist named Herman Melville on a hike here. The two men were part of a party, along with Oliver Wendell Holmes and several others, who hauled a wagon loaded with picnic food and wine up the mountain. Rain started pelting the slopes and the men took refuge in a cave to begin a friendship that led Melville to call at Hawthorne's Lenox cabin a few days later. He eventually moved to Pittsfield where he completed the novel the two men had been discussing - *Moby Dick*. Melville dedicated the book, published in 1851, to Hawthorne. Their friendship, however, was fleeting. Hawthorne moved his family back to the Boston area a year later and the two writers only met once more.



### **Take care in bringing your dog up to Squaw Peak.**

rializing the gift of the property. The 1642-foot trail high-point and the celebrated views from Squaw Peak are reached on a rocky scramble along the *Squaw Peak Trail*. Unless your dog is perfectly behaved and in no way skitterish do not bring her to the summit - there are rock climbs and unguarded, precipitous drop-offs. It is certainly doable, but the exposed cliffs of Monument Mountain are not the place to test an inexperienced dog.

*Trail Sense:* Everything is in place to prevent you from getting lost on the mountain.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed to climb historic Monument Mountain.

### **Traffic**

This can be quite a communal hike during prime times of the year. No bikes are allowed but hunting is permitted.

### **Canine Swimming**

None.

### **Trail Time**

The complete loop to the top of Monument Mountain covers three miles and will take between 90 minutes and two hours.

# 8

## Savoy Mountain State Forest

### The Park

Savoy Mountain State Forest is located atop the Hoosac Mountain Range, an extension of the Green Mountains of Vermont, and is the first mountain barrier encountered rising west of the Connecticut River Valley. “Hoosac” is an Algonquin word meaning, place of stones.

Settlement of the remote towns of Florida and Savoy by farmers began in the early 19th century. The construction of the Hoosac Tunnel (1851-75) for railroad transportation created a momentary population boom. But after its completion the tunnel workers left. Many moved down in the valley to Adams or North Adams to work in the woolen mills, or headed west to join in the great land rush for better farmland. Savoy Mountain State Forest was created in 1918 with the purchase of 1,000 acres of abandoned farmland following this exodus.

### The Walks

There is plenty to set tails to wagging in Savoy Mountain State Forest. For dogs who like to tag mountain summits the high point is Spruce Hill at 2,566 feet, purchased with a relatively benign climb of 600 feet along the Busby Trail. Views are to the south across the Hoosac plateau and to Mount Greylock. Borden Mountain tops out at 2,500 feet - your dog won't get much of a view here but if the tower is open you can get above the treetops.

### Florida

#### Phone Number

- (413) 663-8469

#### Website

- [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/svym.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/svym.htm)

#### Admission Fee

- Yes, parking fee in season

#### Park Hours

- 8:00 a.m. to dusk

#### Directions

- From downtown North Adams follow Route 2 East for five miles. Turn right onto Central Shaft Road, 0.4 miles from the Florida town line. Keep right at the next two forks, continuing to stay on Central Shaft Road. From Route 2 the park headquarters is 2.8 miles, North Pond day-use area is 3.3 miles, and the campground is 3.7 miles.

### *Bonus*

The stone walls found throughout Massachusetts are some of the most beautiful walls ever built. The fact that so many can be found in Berkshire woods like Savoy Mountain attests to the skill used in construction. You could not just pile up rocks found around your property and call it a wall.

When a stone wall was finished it needed to be inspected by a fence viewer. If a wall was deemed sound the owner could not be liable for damage done to his crops by other farmer's animals.

For water-loving dogs the plunges, cascades and slides that adorn Ross Brook and Parker Brook are highlights in the central area of the forest. The star of these drops is Tannery Falls, a 75-foot series of large plunges and major cascades where the upper 35-feet is a constant whirl of whitewater, even in times of low flow.

Savoy Mountain State is liberally latticed with old fire roads - you can park and hike with your dog for distance or drive up close to the major attractions.

*Trail Sense:* Trail maps are available that come in handy when stumbling across an unblazed trail.



### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed throughout Savoy Mountain Forest and in the campground (but not the cabins).

### **Traffic**

Off-road vehicles are not allowed; most of the trails are multi-use.

### **Canine Swimming**

In addition to the lively streams there are several major ponds in the forest for the swimming dog in your family to enjoy.

### **Trail Time**

Completely up to you - depending on how long your dog wants to trot.

# 9

## Mountain Meadow Preserve

### The Park

Although less than 200 acres, Mountain Meadow Preserve packs plenty of diversity into your canine hike. Former farm fields have transitioned into wildflower meadows and grasslands - you can still spot abandoned farm machinery on the property.

The surrounding hills you visit next are spiked with pits and cleared roads, souvenirs from a mid-20th century gravel operation. With the tilling and digging over, Pamela Weatherbee, a local botanist and author of *Flora of Berkshire County*, donated the land to preserve the ecological diversity of Meadow Mountain.

### The Walks

The canine hiking in the preserve is divided into two loops, each an adventure unto itself. The first you reach with your dog is a circuit ringing an upland wildflower meadow. It is an easy ramble around the field but expect to stop plenty of times to admire the open views of the Taconic Range.

The second trail enters the hardwood forest to begin a jaw-shaped loop that will eventually find a ridgeline and top out at 1120 feet. Your elevation gain will be 600 feet and staying straight on the trail will give you the less rigorous ascent.

Additional hiking with your dog is available by dropping onto a connector trail and climbing back around Mason Hill. Another connector leads into Vermont and the decaying homestead of Grace Greylock Niles, a 19th century naturalist noted for her popular book dealing with the swamp flora of the

### Williamstown

Phone Number  
- (413) 458-3144

Website  
- [www.thetrustees.org/pages/333\\_mountain\\_meadow\\_preserve.cfm](http://www.thetrustees.org/pages/333_mountain_meadow_preserve.cfm)

Admission Fee  
- None

Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- From the intersection of Routes 2 and 7 in Williamstown take Route 7 North. After crossing the Hoosic River start looking for Mason Street on the right. Turn onto Mason and continue to parking area at the end of the short residential street.

### *Bonus*

Across Mason Hill your destination are the ruins of an old camp that burned in the 1970s. Imposing stone chimneys are all that remains, framing a view to the south of Mount Greylock.

Hoosac valley, *Bog-trotting for Orchids*. Look for foundation and wall ruins and cellar holes. All told, there are more than four miles of paw-friendly trails in the Mountain Meadow Preserve.

*Trail Sense:* There is a map posted at the trailhead and printed brochures are available. The mustard-colored blazes will take you confidently around.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are permitted on the trails in the preserve.

### **Traffic**

Foot traffic only; the trails are also open for skiing. No hunting is allowed at Mountain Meadow.

### **Canine Swimming**

None.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.



**These dogs are oblivious to the long, open views of the Taconic Range.**

# 10

## Mount Washington State Forest

### The Park

In the late 1600s Robert Livingston married into the wealthy Van Rensselaer family of New York and soon parsed together an empire of 175,000 acres from the Hudson River eastward. In 1705 he swallowed large chunks of the Berkshires under the Patent of Westenhook. By this time a handful of Dutch families were already living in this area.

English settlers began arriving to live on land granted as free towns by the Massachusetts Colonial Legislature. Livingston charged rent to these newcomers and tempers flared, culminating in the killing of William Race by a group of Livingston's agents in 1755.

When forty proprietors purchased a plantation on Taghconic Mountain (Mount Washington) in 1757, Livingston's agents burned six farms.

It took 17 years to resettle the area and the Town of Mount Washington was finally incorporated in 1779.

### The Walks

The marquee canine hike in Mount Washington State Forest is the 2.8-mile trek to Alander Mountain and its expansive 270-degree views. You'll be going down as much as up for most of the early going but after a double stream crossing it is straight up to the 2240-foot peak. Until the campground about halfway to the summit the going is on a wide jeep road and there will be plenty of unbridged stream crossings that your dog will happily bound through. You'll

### Mt. Washington

Phone Number  
- (413) 528-0330

Website  
- [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/wnds.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/wnds.htm)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- From Route 7 south of Great Barrington take Route 23/41 West for 4.9 miles to South Egremont. Turn left onto Route 41 South, then take the immediate right onto Mount Washington Road. Continue as it becomes East Street. The parking area is at Forest Headquarters on the right.



### *Bonus*

Charcoal, which burns hotter than plain wood, fueled the Colonial iron forges of the Berkshire-Taconic region. Ore discovered in Salisbury, Connecticut was hailed as the purest anywhere by its supporters.

To keep these hungry blast furnaces aflame required the cutting of 600 acres of trees every year.

The demand for charcoal eventually led to the complete destruction of all 120,000 acres of virgin forest in southwest Massachusetts. Charcoal is made by stacking, covering, and smoldering wood in outdoor kilns. Birch trees, which don't mind the depleted soils, can often be found growing on an old charcoal site.

Look for them along the *Charcoal Pit Trail*.



**This bridge will get your dog across Ashley Hill Brook.**

finish on a traditional, rock-studded, often wet footpath.

When your dog gets his fill of mountaintop views of the Hudson Valley and the Catskills you can return by the same route or continue across to the *South Taconic Trail*. Heading south, you'll reach the tops of Mt. Brace and Mt. Frissell and close your full-day loop in the state forest on the *Ashley Hill Trail*.

If you just want to walk your dog in the woods it is also possible to wander the trails without climbing the mountains on shorter loops.

*Trail Sense:* An information board with maps is at the trailhead. The trails are blazed and a distance/direction sign pops up every now and then.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed throughout the park.

### **Traffic**

Alander Mountain is a popular destination and all trails below the campground are multi-use.

### **Canine Swimming**

The streams are mostly for splashing only.

### **Trail Time**

At least three hours to reach Alander Mountain and return; up to a full day to include other peaks.

# II

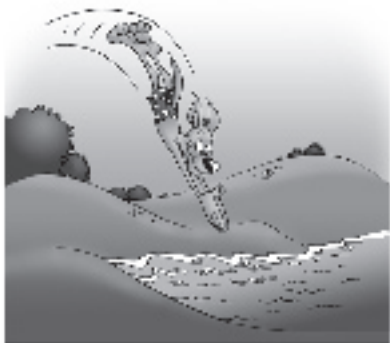
## Windsor State Forest

### The Park

Windsor State Forest protects woodlands along the Westfield River that rushes energetically from the Berkshires to the Connecticut River. The upper Westfield River is one of the few successful spawning areas in the state for the Atlantic salmon.

Much of the river has been designated Wild and Scenic waters by the federal government. The watershed hosts the oldest continuously run white water canoe race in the United States, the Westfield River Whitewater Race, which is held every spring.

The park is most popular for its swimming area that sports a 100-foot sandy beach.



### Windsor

Phone Number  
- (413) 684-0948

Website  
- [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/wnds.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/wnds.htm)

Admission Fee  
- Parking fee in season

Park Hours  
- Dawn to dusk; closes after Thanksgiving for the winter

Directions  
- The forest day-use area is on River Road between Route 9 and Route 116. From Route 8 in Dalton take Route 9 east for 11.3 miles to West Cummington. Turn left onto West Main Street; continue for 0.1 mile then take an immediate left onto River Road and follow for 2.9 miles to the day-use area entrance on the left. From the village of Savoy on Route 116 turn south onto River Road (unmarked). Follow River Road for 2.9 miles to the day-use area entrance on the right, or campground on the left.

### *Bonus*

The forest floor around the Jambs is carpeted in mosses and liverworts. Liverworts can be distinguished from the apparently similar mosses by their single-celled rhizoids. Other differences are not universal for all mosses and all liverworts, but the occurrence of leaves arranged in three ranks, the presence of deep lobes or segmented leaves, or a lack of clearly differentiated stem and leaves all point to the plant being a liverwort. In ancient times, it was believed that liverworts cured diseases of the liver, hence the name. In Old English, the word liverwort literally means "liver plant."

## **The Walks**

The stand-out canine hike in the Windsor State Forest is the *Jambs Trail* to a narrow gorge where the Windsor Jambs Brook plunges through 80-foot high granite walls. Although less than one mile the trail, that begins behind the campground, picks its way deliberately along unfathomly green mosses and hemlocks to the Upper and Lower Jambs. The water spouts can only be viewed from above, with your dog safely behind a chain fence. You can use hard-packed dirt roads to complete a circuit back to the campground.

Windsor offers more short hiking-only trails than the other state forests in the Berkshires. Three are available in the parking lot of the day use area, the sportiest being the *Steep Bank Brook Trail* that climbs back and forth across the tumbling stream. A hiking trail leads to the high point of 1900 feet in the park; again use the network of dirt roads to close the loop.

*Trail Sense:* Park maps are available and the trails are blazed. The map is more reliable to unlock the maze of dirt roads than the road signs.

## **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on all Windsor trails but not allowed on the beach or swimming area in season.

## **Traffic**

Most people come to Windsor for the swimming, not the trails. If you get tired of sharing the dirt roads with vehicles you can confine your explorations to the foot trails.

## **Canine Swimming**

In the off-season your dog can enjoy the Westfield River.

## **Trail Time**

Anywhere from an hour if you only want to see the Windsor Jambs or many hours using the other trails.

# Bash Bish Falls State Park

## The Park

Indian lore tells us of a young woman called Bash Bish, who lived in a village near these falls. Accused by a jealous friend of adultery she was sentenced to die. Bash Bish was strapped to a canoe and turned loose upstream from the deadly cataract. The canoe plunged into the falls and Bash Bish's body was never found.

When Bash Bish's young daughter, White Swan, grew up she often lingered sadly in the gorge and one day leapt to her death just before her lover Whirling Wind could reach her. She too was never found but it is said the images of Bash Bish and White Swan sometimes appear in the waters of Massachusetts' highest waterfall, almost 200 feet tall.

John Frederick Kensett, a leading member of the Hudson Valley School of artists, painted the falls in the 1850s. In 1860 the area was purchased by Jean Roemer, who built an elaborate

Swiss-style chalet mansion that was to burn to the ground years later. The Massachusetts Department Environmental Management acquired 400 acres surrounding Bash Bish Falls in 1924.

## The Walks

Bish Bash Falls lies on the New York-Massachusetts border and can be reached from parking lots in either state. Adventurous dogs will want to pick their way down a serpentine trail from the Massachusetts side that will take

## Mt. Washington

Phone Number  
- (413) 528-0330

Website  
- [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/bash.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/bash.htm)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- From Route 7 south of Great Barrington take Route 23/41 west for 4.9 miles to South Egremont. Turn left onto Route 41 South, then take the immediate right, Mount Washington Road, and continue as it becomes East Street. Turn right onto Cross Road then right onto West Street and continue for 1 mile. Turn left onto Falls Road and follow for 1.5 miles to the parking lot and trailhead on the left.

### *Bonus*

When Jean Roemer owned Bash Bish he invited celebrated French acrobat Charles Blondin to walk across the falls on a tightrope. Blondin had gained fame by becoming the first person to walk across Niagara Falls and he is said to have found Bash Bish more frightening than Niagara because of the black boulder-lined chasm beneath him.



**The final 80 feet of Bash Bish Falls are split by a diamond-shaped rock.**

about twenty minutes. The New York route is longer - about one mile - but level the entire way. For extended time on the trail in the woods around Bash Bish that are peppered with hemlock trees. You can hook your dog up on the *South Taconic Trail* that passes around the park.

*Trail Sense:* There are mapboards and the trails are blazed. If you are unsure of your location, head for the roar of falling water.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to visit Bash Bish Falls.

#### **Traffic**

Vehicles prohibited but expect plenty of folks joining you and your dog on the hike to the falls.

#### **Canine Swimming**

Not around these falls.

#### **Trail Time**

About an hour to hike to the falls and back.

# 13

## Field Farm

### The Park

Parts of this property have been under cultivation since 1750. Two centuries later, after returning from service in World War II with the North Africa Tank Corps, Lawrence Bloedel purchased the former Nathan Field farm and abandoned his pre-war life as Williams College librarian.

In 1948 Lawrence and his wife Eleanor set about building a house to accommodate their expanding collection of contemporary American art. Frank Lloyd Wright was contacted for the commission but he demanded to design the furniture as well and Bloedel wanted to do that himself. Instead the couple retained Edwin Goodell who built a modern window-dominated home with simple lines. In 1966, Ulrich Franzen designed a Victorian Shingle-style house for the Bloedels' grandchildren, known as The Folly.

The Bloedels donated their blend of architecture and nature to the Trustees of Reservations in 1984 who manage the 316-acre property today.

### The Walks

The four-mile trail system at Field Farm is bisected by Sloan Road. All canine hiking here is easy-going with negligible elevation changes and mostly soft, paw-friendly paths. The star trails at Field Farm are the open field paths with views of the Taconic Range to the west and Mount Greylock to the east. Compared with the airy pastures and hayfields the oak and birch woodland trails are decidedly ordinary.

The *Oak Loop*, part of the stacked-loop trails on the north side of the

### Williamstown

Phone Number  
- (413) 458-3135

Website  
- [www.thetrustees.org/pages/303\\_field\\_farm.cfm](http://www.thetrustees.org/pages/303_field_farm.cfm)

Admission Fee  
- None

Hours  
- Sunrise to sundown

Directions  
- At the intersection of Route 7 and Route 43, take Route 43 West and turn immediately onto Sloan Road on the right. Proceed one mile to the entrance on the right.

### *Bonus*

The grounds at Field Farm are accented by thirteen modern sculptures, including works by Richard M. Miller, Jack Zajac, Bernard Reder and Herbert Ferber. If this just whets your appetite for contemporary art, the Folly house is open for guided tours in the summer.



**Counterpoint, a welded steel masterpiece designed by Arline Shulman in 1971, uses the Taconic Range as a backdrop.**

property, is narrow and so non-descript you'll likely need your dog's nose to follow it. The attached *Caves Trail* gains its distinction from a gaggle of small streams that disappear into a series of underground channels and limestone caves. The *South Trail*, across the road, pushes out through pastureland past the Field Farm's wetlands before looping on a small forest route.

*Trail Sense:* The trails are blazed but the park map is more reliable.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs can hike across these quiet trails.

#### **Traffic**

Foot traffic only.

#### **Canine Swimming**

A small pond is at the center of Field Farm.

#### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.



# 14

## Stone Hill

### The Park

Sterling Clark, an heir to the Singer sewing machine fortune, was an Army engineer decorated for his service in China suppressing the Boxer Rebellion in 1905. Later, he returned to the remote expanses of northern China, leading a zoological expedition.

He began collecting art in 1912 and amassed a formidable private collection with his wife Francine, a former French actress. In 1950 the couple purchased property in Williamstown to house their art. The museum opened in 1955, bringing the impressive collection to the public for the first time. To celebrate its 30th anniversary the trails were cut around the 140-acre grounds in 1985.

### Williamstown

Phone Number

- None

Website

- None

Admission Fee

- None

Park Hours

- Sunrise to sunset

Directions

- At the intersection of Routes 7 and 2 in town proceed all the way around a small rotary past the Williams Inn and the public library. Turn right onto South Street and proceed to the Clark Art Institute on the right. Go through the underpass and park at the back of the visitor lot behind the museum.



**This stone seat was a tribute from to a Williams College professor wrongly thought to be a World War I German spy.**



### Bonus

At the trailhead are two small gravestones for the dogs that belonged to the one-time owner of the property, Dr. Vanderpool Adriance.



## **The Walks**

The foot paths around the Clark Institute offer a pleasing mix of forest and open fields for your dog to enjoy. Heading up from the parking lot the route climbs steadily - but not arduously - until you reach the wide Stone Hill road that was once the main north-south passage through Berkshire County before Route 7 came to pass. The trail reaches its apex at an intersection marked by a carved stone seat.

Your return to the right brings your dog down through a hillside pasture with panoramic views of the town and mountains as you descend. This is some of the best open-field canine hiking in the Berkshires. You can slice your 1.5-mile excursion in half by just taking this *Pasture Loop*.

*Trail Sense:* There is no trail map but the paths are well-blazed. You will notice additional unmarked routes here and there so feel free to go off the grid and explore.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome on the Clark Institute grounds.

### **Traffic**

Stone Hill is a popular walking destination for town residents.

### **Canine Swimming**

This is a completely dry canine hike.

### **Trail Time**

About one hour.

# 15

## Clarksburg State Forest

### The Park

For the past 200 years Williams College students have had a tradition of hiking into the nearby mountains. A school holiday in the spring known as “Chip Day” was devoted to tagging nearby peaks. In the 1830s this study break would become known as “Mountain Day.”

In 1915 the Williams Outing Club was formally organized, dedicated to blazing new trails around Williamstown, maintaining existing paths and promoting member outings. One of the club’s most popular outing destinations is Pine Cobble, located in Clarksburg State Forest. Today the trail to the summit is maintained by a consortium of private owners, the Williams Outing Club and the Williamstown Rual Lands Foundation.

### The Walks

The canine hike to the Pine Cobble, long cherished for its expansive views from the top of 600-million year-old gray Cheshire quartzite cliffs, covers about two miles. You first tag the summit of East Mountain and then continue another half-mile to the 2,100 foot Pine Cobble. This is an energetic outing for your dog with a steady climb until the final few hundred yards where it becomes quite steep. If you choose to pause on the way up at this point, look around and enjoy a unique oak forest speckled with white pines. The route is rocky under paw but not as bad as some.

### Williamstown

Phone Number  
- None

Website  
- [www.wrlf.org/pinecobble.html](http://www.wrlf.org/pinecobble.html)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to one half-hour after-sunset

Directions (*to Pine Cobble Trail*)  
- Take Route 2 East from its junction with Route 7. After 0.6 mile, turn left on Cole Avenue at the first stoplight. Cross the Hoosic River and make a right on North Hoosac Road. Follow for 1.8 miles and turn left on Pine Cobble Road to the parking area on the left, .2 of a mile up the hill. The trailhead is across the road.

### Bonus

In the middle of the trail, just before the final push for the summit, is an unusual triplet oak tree.

After the original tree was cut down, three shoots sprouted around the edges of the old stump while the center rotted away. The water-filled basin of the tree makes for a perfect drinking bowl for your dog.



### **All dogs are happy to reach the open summit of Pine Cobble.**

After your dog gets her fill of relaxing on the exposed cliffs with views on three sides you can penetrate into the lightly visited 3,000-acre state forest on the *Appalachian Trail*. There is about a four-mile stretch to the Vermont border - not that you're not allowed to leave the state and hike further with your dog.

*Trail Sense:* The way to the top is blazed liberally in light blue, with an occasional sign to help reinforce confidence.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to make the climb to tag the Pine Cobble summit.

### **Traffic**

Foot traffic only; the Pine Cobble Trail is within easy walking distance of the Williams College campus and gets plenty of use.

### **Canine Swimming**

None.

### **Trail Time**

About two hours; more if you take your dog down the *Appalachian Trail*.

# John Drummond Kennedy Park

## The Park

On this property at 1460 feet above sea level in 1902 General Thomas Hubbard built the resplendent Aspinwall Hotel. The colonnaded, Spanish-style hostelry hosted high society in 400 elegant rooms - each with its own fireplace. The Aspinwall even boasted a resident orchestra so guests could enjoy music as they lounged on the veranda enjoying views of the Catskills and the Green Mountains. The resort flourished until a fire burned it to the ground in 1931.

The Aspinwall was never rebuilt and the property sat idle until the town of Lenox purchased 450 acres here in 1957. For many years it was known as Aspinwall Park but the name was changed to John Drummond Kennedy Park in 1973 to recognize the efforts of the man most responsible for its existence as a public space.

## Lenox

Phone Number  
- None

Website  
- [www.townoflenox.com/public\\_documents/lenoxma\\_parkland/Kennedy\\_Park2.pdf](http://www.townoflenox.com/public_documents/lenoxma_parkland/Kennedy_Park2.pdf)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- In Lenox on Route 7A, just south of the intersection with Route 7/20. Parking is available at the Lenox House or atop the hill at the Church on the Hill.

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

*- Samuel Butler*

### *Bonus*

Kennedy Park has some of the best resting/picnic spots in the Berkshires. The site of the Aspinwall Hotel is now a grassy picnic spot; the ruins are gone but the views remain. In the center of the park is a wooden gazebo with tranquil mountain views. The *Overlook Trail* will take you there.

## **The Walks**

Your dog will take immediately to these wide, well-groomed trails - 31 in all. If you have trouble making up your mind, head out on the #1 (*Main Trail*), that dissects the park for its entire length, or the #11 (*Overlook Trail*) from the West Dugway entrance. As you wander along you can check out the landscape and decide on how to spend the remainder of your canine hiking day in Kennedy Park.

There is plenty to set your dog to panting here as you are almost always moving up or down through these attractive woods. Unlike many parks with reforested farmlands in much of the Berkshires, you will find some of the county's largest trees here.

*Trail Sense:* Study the map posted on the information board or better yet, stop by a town office and maybe obtain a printed map. The map lists not only all 31 trails but indicates their level of difficulty. Out in the park there are numbered signs at trail junctions.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome in this invigorating community park.

### **Traffic**

This is a popular destination for equestrians and mountain bikes.

### **Canine Swimming**

None.

### **Trail Time**

More than one hour.



# 17

## Questing

### The Park

The gifts of land that became the 438-acre Questing reservation, named for a mythical beast from King Arthur's Court, took place in the early 1990s. The flanks around Leffingwell Hill were settled back in the 1700s and the first non-Native American children were born here. After a century of struggling with the rocky soils all the farmers had migrated away and the settlement was abandoned.

### The Walks

Your dog's exploration of Questing begins with a long, gradual climb up a wide, old farm road. At the end you'll begin a loop that mixes a wide open field and a gorgeous woods walk through a hemlock forest. The 17-acre upland field of native meadow wildflowers attracts a variety of dragonflies and butterflies, including giant green darners and monarchs. The entire canine hike covers some two miles on Leffingwell Hill.

### New Marlborough

Phone Number  
- (413) 298-3239

Website  
- [www.thetrustees.org/pages/355\\_questing.cfm](http://www.thetrustees.org/pages/355_questing.cfm)

Admission Fee  
- None

Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- From the intersection of Routes 23 and 57 in Monterey, travel five miles and turn right onto New Marlborough Hill Road. The parking area for the park is a half-mile on the left.



*Bonus*

Look for cellar holes and extensive lines of carefully crafted stone walls that snake around the property, a final testament to the Leffingwell settlement.

**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on this loop trail.

**Traffic**

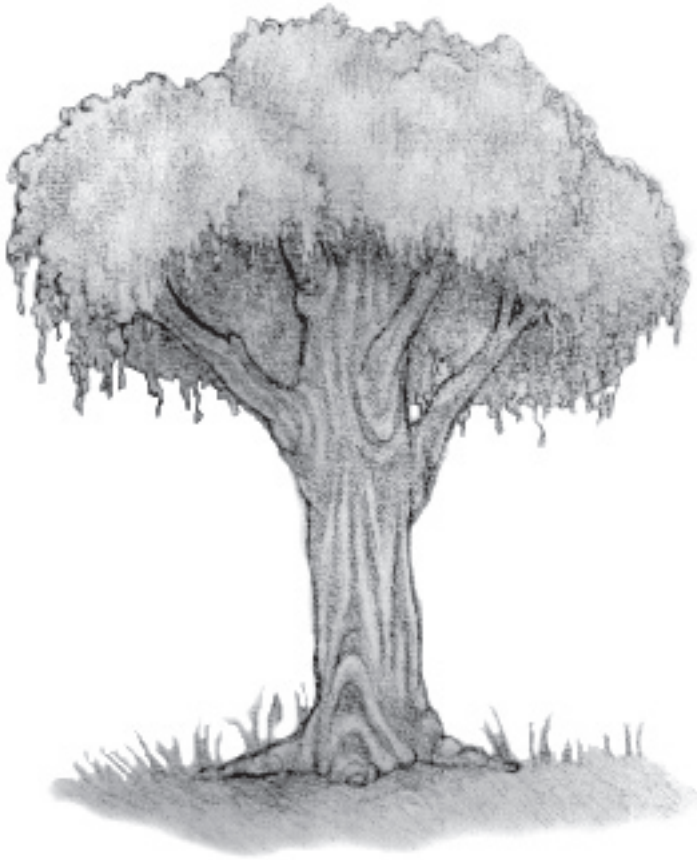
Bikes are not allowed and there is little competition for this trail.

**Canine Swimming**

The stream that runs alongside the farm road is suited only for splashing.

**Trail Time**

About one mile.



# 18 McLennan Reservation

## The Park

Robb de Peyster Tytus, a noted Egyptologist and politician, assembled a 1,000-acre estate from farms in Tyringham and Otis that he called Ash-intully, from Gaelic meaning “on the brow of the hill.” Between 1910 and 1912, Tytus built a 35-room Georgian-style mansion that would come to be known as the Marble Palace.

Tytus enjoyed his home for scarcely a year before dying in 1913. His widow Grace married John S. McLennan, a Canadian senator and newspaper publisher, a year later. The couple had one child, John Jr., who acquired the property in 1937.

The Marble Palace burned to the ground in 1952, long after McLennan had established his residence in a farmhouse below. McLennan converted a nearby barn into a music studio, becoming an accomplished composer of piano and organ orchestral music and winning an American Academy of Arts and Letters music award. John McLennan donated 491 acres of his estate beginning in 1977 for this reservation.

## The Walks

This canine hike on the slopes of Round Mountain and Long Mountain is completely in the trees, about two miles including the walk up to the trailhead. You start out moving straight up but just as it appears you are in for a strenuous day the trail jogs left and levels out among Christmas ferns. When you reach old homestead stone walls the trail widens and becomes increasingly paw-friendly under towering hemlocks. Soon you’ll hear the sound of rushing

## Tyringham

Phone Number  
- (413) 298-3239

Website  
- [www.thetrustees.org/pages/319\\_mclennan\\_reservation.cfm](http://www.thetrustees.org/pages/319_mclennan_reservation.cfm)

Admission Fee  
- None

Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- From Route 102, just west of the intersection with Route 20, go south on Tyringham Road. Pass through Tyringham center and continue two miles to a sign for Fenn Road on the left. Pull off and park near the barn. Walk .2 mile up the dirt road to the trailhead on the left.



Bonus

McLennan Reservation is a great place to observe the toothwork of beavers. Hale Pond can be Hale Meadow when the beavers are less active.



**The energy of the local beaver colony determines the water level of Hale Pond.**

water below and you begin to move beside an attractive, energetic stream. Now the remainder of the loop travels around the mountain. This remains a sporty outing for your dog but not the back-breaker it appeared when you took off on the trail.

*Trail Sense:* There is no map but the loop trail is blazed; the blazes break near the stream but the two branches will rejoin.

**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome throughout the reservation.

**Traffic**

This is a lightly visited place. The trails are for foot traffic only; bikes are not allowed.

**Canine Swimming**

When Hale Pond is full it is one of the best doggie swimming pools in the Berkshires.

**Trail Time**

About one hour.

# 19

## Beartown State Forest

### The Park

Beartown was a hilltop farming community abandoned in the latter 19th century. The slopes not cleared for cropland were stripped of trees for charcoal-making to fire the furnaces of the Richmond iron industry. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts began purchasing these barren hillsides in Great Barrington, Monterey, Lee and Tyringham to assemble the Beartown State Forest.

An additional gift of 1,000 acres in Monterey came from Susan Ridley Sedgwick in memory of her husband Arthur Warton Swann that became the adjoining Swann State Forest. It is considered to have been the first scientifically managed state forest in Massachusetts.

One legend holds that the park received its name from an early Lee pioneer who killed a bear here with a knotted rope.

### The Walks

With more than 12,000 acres in Beartown State Forest there are plenty of multi-use to take off on with your dog - more than 30 miles worth. The unpaved roads and wide ski trails scoot around the forested hillsides and up mountains for a full day of canine hiking in the woods.

The star trail for dog owners will likely be the *Benedict Pond Loop*, a 1.5-mile jaunt around the 35-acre lake. The calming waters are in sight almost the entire trip. This is mostly level going, although it can get rocky under paw. The best

### Monterey

Phone Number  
- (413) 528-0904

Website  
- [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/bear.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/bear.htm)

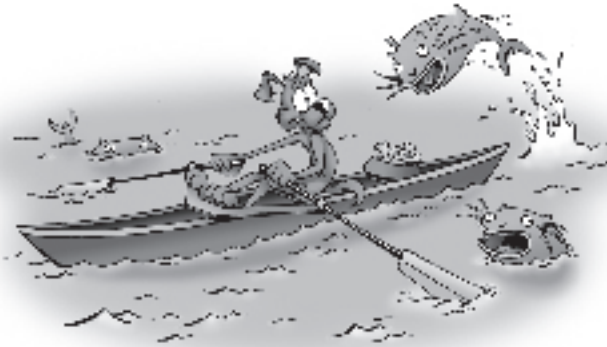
Admission Fee  
- Yes, parking fee May through October

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- From Route 7 in Great Barrington, take Route 23 East for 5.3 miles to Monterey. Turn left onto Blue Hill Road; park headquarters is one-half mile on the left and the park entrance, Benedict Pond Road, is 2.2 miles on the right.

### *Bonus*

Benedict Pond is one of the best places in the Berkshires to take your dog out in a canoe. Set at an elevation of almost 1,600 feet the hills ringing the water are another 400 feet high.



stretch is on the opposite side of the water from the day-use areas where the trail slips along a ridge of hemlocks and rock formations.

The *Appalachian Trail* joins Benedict Pond at its eastern end and a short trip north leads to a jumble of rocks known as The Ledges. Further on, the trail explores the Swann State Forest and can be used for a canine hiking loop of several hours' duration.

*Trail Sense:* There is a trail map, the familiar triangular blazes and an occasional sign.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are permitted on the forest trails but not on the beach or in the beach area in season.

### **Traffic**

Most of the trails in Beartown State Forest are open to horses, bikes and off-road vehicles.

### **Canine Swimming**

It is not always easy but there are several spots along the Benedict Pond Trail where your dog can slip in for a dip.

### **Trail Time**

An hour to a full day.

# 20 Sheep Hill

## The Park

This property, historically used as a dairy farm, was purchased by the Bullock family of Cincinnati in the 1850s and called Sunnybrook Farm. In the 1930s Williams College operated its first ski area here. Sheep Hill was considered one of the best ski slopes in the Berkshires with a mechanized tow length of 1200 feet and a jump of over 100 feet. The school stopped using the hill in the 1950s.

The Rosenburg family purchased the farm in the 1930s and continued raising cows. The Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation purchased the 50-acre property in 2000 and the organization, that has preserved over 3,000 acres, now makes its headquarters here.

## The Walks

The larger of the two paw-friendly grass trails at Sheep Hill is the *Rosenburg Ramble*, a trip around the perimeter of the open meadows. This canine hike is capped by viewing areas that have been cleared at the top of the hill, serving up views of the Greylock range to the east. The complete tour of Sheep Hill covers about 1.5 miles.

Your dog will likely not object to taking off on the Meadow Walk that loops around the lower slopes of the hillside. Both canine hikes leave from the collection of farm buildings that still stand from the beginning of Sunnybrook Farm. Sheep Hill is also a popular location for full moon hikes.

*Trail Sense:* An information kiosk has everything you need to stay oriented.

## Windsor

Phone Number  
- (413) 458-2494

Website  
- [www.wrlf.org/sheephilltrail.html](http://www.wrlf.org/sheephilltrail.html)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Dawn to dusk

Directions  
- Sheep Hill is located on Cold Spring Road (Routes 7 & 2), just one mile south of the Williamstown Rotary. The entrance to Sheep Hill is on the west side of the road. A small parking lot is at the bottom of the hill, another is up the drive behind the large, red garage.

*Bonus*

Sheep Hill is one of only two places in Massachusetts to find the rare and endangered Hairy Honeysuckle, a twining and high climbing shrub.

The leaf blades, that are rounded, are usually hairy on both sides. The shrub flowers with attractive yellow or orange blooms in June and July. Look for the Hairy Honeysuckle on the dry, open outcrops of Bullock's Ledge. The Berkshires are the easternmost range for the shrub that is found as far west as Saskatchewan.



**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed at Sheep Hill.

**Traffic**

Foot traffic only and not much competition for the trails.

**Canine Swimming**

None.

**Trail Time**

About one hour.

# Clarksburg State Park

## The Park

The founding fathers of Clarksburg were Captain Matthew Ketchum, Colonel William Bullock and Nicholas Clark, with the town taking the name of the last in 1769. The day-use park is centered on 368 acres surrounding the 49-acre Mauserts Pond. Much of the area around the pond is groomed and features a swimming beach, picnicking, fishing, and a pavilion area.

## The Walks

Not much of a workout for your dog on the trails around this pretty, landscaped lake. There are almost ten miles of foot trails in Clarksburg State Park with the star canine hike being the 3-mile *Pond Loop Trail* that actually doesn't spend much time near the water. You will need to navigate through the developed day-use area to return to your starting point on this journey. You will get those scenic water views for your dog by closing the circuit on the *Shoreline Trail*.

Another short trail to enjoy is the *Blueberry Trail* that loops near the beach area. Additional trails radiate away from the Pond Loop for more hiking with your dog but these will dead-end at the park boundaries.

*Trail Sense:* A park map is available and the trails are blazed.

## Clarksburg

Phone Number  
- (413) 664-8345

Website  
- [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/clsp.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/clsp.htm)

Admission Fee  
- Yes, parking fee in season

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to one half-hour after sunset

Directions  
- From Route 2 turn north at the intersection with Route 8 in North Adams. Follow Route 8 North for 3 miles to Middle Road and turn left. Continue for 0.1 mile to the park entrance on the right.

*Bonus*

Maybe you will meet some border collies on the job during your visit to Clarksburg State Park.

To control geese who like to nest in Mauserts Pond and tend to pollute the entire area, the Massachusetts state government has in the past hired border collies to scare geese away from the pond  
- at a cost of \$125-a-day.



**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed to enjoy this park and stay in the 50-site campground; mutt mitts are provided.

**Traffic**

This is a popular location for families on day trips and picnics.

**Canine Swimming**

There is public access to Mauserts Pond completely around its shoreline; with an average depth of only five feet and a maximum of eight feet the waters won't intimidate any size dog.

**Trail Time**

You can use Clarksburg State Park for a leisurely walk with your dog or spend a couple of hours exploring the trails away from the day-use area.

# Jug End State Reservation

## The Park

The name “Jug End” doesn’t describe any physical features of this slice of 1,158 acres between the *Appalachian Trail* and the *Taconic Crest Trail* but rather derives from the German word “jugend” meaning “youth.” During the Depression the valley was developed as a ski resort with hike-up and ski-down trails on Mt. Sterling to the west. The centerpiece of the resort, run by the Guilder Hollow Club, was an elaborate cattle barn that was constructed in 1928 and converted into a hotel.

In 1947 local residents came together to purchase the ski area and its popularity - as the closest Massachusetts slope to New York City - quickly led to the installation of two rope tows and, later, a 1500-foot Mueller T-bar. In its heyday in the 1960s Jug End featured six trails with a vertical drop of 350 feet.

The ski area closed in the early 1980s with the barn/hotel being abandoned and eventually torn down. The property has rapidly reverted to its natural state under the stewardship of the DCR and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

## Egremont

Phone Number  
- (413) 528-0330

Website  
- [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/juge.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/juge.htm)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- From Route 7 south of Great Barrington take Route 23/41 west for 4.9 miles to South Egremont. Turn left onto Route 41 South, then take the immediate right, Mount Washington Road, and continue for 1.7 miles. Turn left onto Jug End Road and continue for 0.6 mile. Parking is available in a lot on the right.



### *Bonus*

Take a look around the parking lot for evidence of the Jug End Barn/Hotel. This leveled-out area was the location for the hub of the resort.  
Also use a detective's eye to identify old ski runs.

## **The Walks**

The prime trail for canine hikers here is the *Jug End Loop Trail* that travels for two miles around the lowlands of Fenton Brook. There is just a minor elevation change as the path alternates between open fields and stands of northern hardwoods and open fields and Eastern Hemlock woodlands. Keep an eye out for your dog through the brushy fields where the path is studded with chopped stalks. Much of the time, however, all eyes will be on the surrounding hills.



**The seemingly paw-friendly grass trails at Jug End Reservation may contain the remnants of stalks cut from the open fields.**

The *Appalachian Trail* also passes through Jug End Reservation. You can access it by passing by the parking lot on Jug End Road to the unpaved section and a parking lot. About four miles to the south is Mount Everett.

*Trail Sense:* There are no maps on site; the two ends of the loop trail are marked behind the parking lot with signposts. The trail is blazed in blue.

## **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the reservation trails.

## **Traffic**

Foot traffic only.

## **Canine Swimming**

None.

## **Trail Time**

Allow about an hour if you only want to complete the *Jug End Loop Trail*.

# October Mountain State Forest

## The Park

October Mountain - the name may have come from Herman Melville - is the Goliath of Massachusetts state forests at 16,500 acres. The impetus for its formation came in 1915 when a group of Berkshire men pledged \$25,000.00 to enable the Commonwealth to buy the 11,000 acre William C. Whitney estate for \$60,000. The Schermerhorn family, of Lenox and New York, then donated the 1,000-acre scenic Schermerhorn Gorge to the project. The state forest opened to the public that same year.

Whitney served as Secretary of the Navy under Grover Cleveland and used some 1000 acres of his private wilderness as a hunting range where buffalo, elk, Virginia deer, angora sheep and moose grazed. Frederic Law Olmsted's firm designed the landscaping and cowboys led hunting parties. After Whitney's wife died, he sold the animals to zoos and abandoned the estate.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, Franklin Roosevelt's "Tree Army," the Civilian Conservation Corps, planted over 960 acres in conifers. Today there is hardly any place for a buffalo to turn around for all the trees.

## The Walks

October Mountain is not the place to come for a casual canine hike. Without a four-wheel drive vehicle you won't be able to penetrate much more than the perimeter of the forest. The primary foot trail here is the *Appalachian Trail* that rambles over Becket (2,200 feet) and Walling (2,220 feet) mountains

## Lee

Phone Number  
- (413) 243-1778

Website  
- [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/octm.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/octm.htm)

Admission Fee  
- None

Hours  
- Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset

Directions  
- From Exit 2 of the Massachusetts Turnpike go 1 mile on US 20 West. Turn left onto Maple Street and bear right at upcoming intersections to Woodland Road, that reaches to the campground.

### *Bonus*

A canine hike in October Mountain State Forest may be your best chance to spot Massquatch, New England's version of Bigfoot.

There have been occasional sightings of a hairy, oversized, human-like creature in Massachusetts across the years from the Atlantic beaches to the Berkshire Mountains. The *Berkshire Eagle* twice reported encounters at October Mountain in the 1980s, including an up-close-and-personal at a former Boy Scout camp near Felton Lake.

in its 10-mile course through the park. You can sample this trail with your dog by taking Becket Road off of Route 20. After Becket becomes Tyne Road pull to the left on a dirt road and park. Hike on a gradual ascent on this road for less than two miles where it joins the Appalachian Trail and then drops down to the shore of Finerty Pond. You can return south on the Appalachian Trail and use Tyne Road to close your loop.



If you are staying in the campground, a good option is to head north on the *Eagle Ledge Trail* to explore the Schermerhorn Gorge on the *Gorge Trail* as it heads into Felton Lake. You can also park at Woods Pond for this canine hike.

*Trail Sense:* A trail map is available - and a must.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are permitted to hike in the state forest and campground.

### **Traffic**

Save for the Appalachian Trail, most forest trails are multi-use; ATVers can ride down designated trails.

### **Canine Swimming**

The ponds in October Mountain are a prime attraction for canine hikers.

### **Trail Time**

A full day and more are possible.

# The Notch Brook Cascades

## The Park

Less than a mile from the bustling center of downtown North Adams you be a world away where Notch Brook squeezes down 40 feet with an appropriate roar. The Berkshire Natural Resources Council helped the city secure federal funding to acquire the Cascades in the 1970s.

## The Walks

If your dog has never been out beyond your neighborhood, this is an ideal trail to take that first hike. The *Cascades Trail* trips along and across the brook for an easy half-mile through a cool hemlock forest. There are just enough twists and rolls to provide the feel of a real woods trek with a satisfying payoff as you hear the plunging water well before you glimpse the Cascades dropping through the folds in the basaltic rocks.

For more adventurous canine hikers the trail continues up the rocks to the top of the Cascades and continues down an old woods road that is actually an ancient extension of Marion Avenue. Come ready for bushwhacking if you plan an extended outing with your dog in these attractive woods.

*Trail Sense:* The trail is blazed to the falls.

## North Adams

Phone Number  
- None

Website  
- None

Admission Fee  
- None

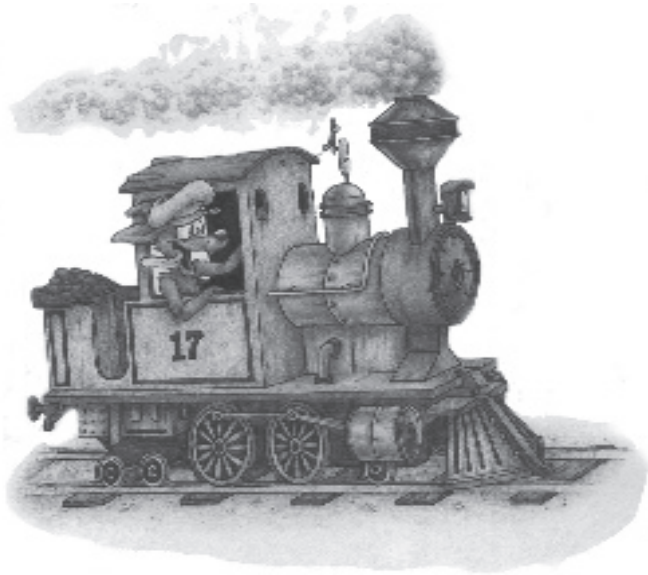
Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- From the center of North Adams head west on Route 2. About one mile past Historic Hillside Cemetery on your left, turn left onto Marion Avenue. This is a residential street that deadends at the trailhead. Parking is along the street.



### *Bonus*

A short walk away in North Adams is the Western Gateway Heritage State Park, a former freight yard, where you can walk your dog around several restored railroad buildings. The park chronicles the history of the Hoosac Tunnel, one of the seminal engineering feats of the 19th century. The 4.75-mile tunnel was bult over the lives of 195 men who lost their lives to create this controversial shortcut to Albany, New York.



#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed to reach the Cascades.

#### **Traffic**

A determined dirt biker might make it to the falls but mostly foot traffic only.

#### **Canine Swimming**

The pools below the falls are splendid venues for canine aquatics.

#### **Trail Time**

Less than one hour to the falls and back.

# 25 Shaker Mountain

## The Park

The Shakers, so named for their frenzied religious dancing, trace their beginnings to Manchester, England, in 1747. As Millennialists, they believed that Christ's second coming was realized in their leader, Mother Ann. Misunderstood and persecuted, Mother Ann Lee sailed to America in 1774 with eight Shaker converts to lead a life of simplicity and pacifism. She came to preach to farm families in this area in 1783 and in 1790 Hancock Shaker Village was established.

The Shaker population reached its peak in the mid-19th century, with an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 Shakers. Shaker communities were required to clear the summit of a nearby hill for worship. The site chosen was atop Mt. Sinai, now known as Shaker Mountain, around 1842.

By the 1960s the sites of Shaker rituals had been long forgotten when John Manners, a local hiker, stumbled across some overgrown foundations. Over the next 25 years Manners and the Boy Scouts of America cleared trails and identified historic remains.

## The Walks

The exploration of Shaker Mountain and its fellow peak, Holy Mount, takes place in the southern end of Pittsfield State Forest. The *Hancock Shaker Trail* covers about six miles and is rich in religious and industrial significance. Along the way you'll take your dog past house and mill foundations, dams and marvelous remains of stone walls.

## Hancock

Phone Number  
- (413) 443-0188

Website  
- None

Admission Fee  
- None, but stop in at the Village Visitor Center to pick up trail information and hiking pass

Park Hours  
- 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Directions  
- On Route 20 about 5.5 miles west of Pittsfield. The trailhead is on the north side of the road across from Shaker Village.

*Bonus*

The trail leads to two Shaker sacred sites that have been levelled out on the top of Mt. Sinai and Holy Mount. When the Shakers worshipped here non-believers were not allowed on these grounds.



**The lower dam is one of many remnants of the Shaker's industrial heritage.**

The trail first winds to the top of 1,845-foot Mt. Sinai (Shaker Mountain) using a combination of narrow footpaths and rocky cart roads. You can cut your canine hiking day in half by heading back after descending through a hemlock forest at this point or continue on to loop over Holy Mount. The cart roads here can fill with water when wet and stream crossings aren't always bridged.

*Trail Sense:* The routes are blazed and an interpretive sheaf of papers available.

**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed on the former Shaker property.

**Traffic**

All-terrain vehicles can use parts of this route.

**Canine Swimming**

A reservoir is ideally situated for a refreshing doggie dip at the end of this adventure.

**Trail Time**

Allow about three hours to visit both historic summits.

# Wahconah Falls State Park

## The Park

According to legend, Wahconah was a young maiden promised by her father to a Mohawk warrior. Before her wedding Wahconah was attacked by a bear and saved by an Algonquian brave who suffered grave wounds. He was nursed back to health by Wahconah and he too fell in love with her. The village was in a quandary: one man claimed Wahconah on a promise, the other by virtue of saving her life.

It was decided that she would be placed in a canoe beneath the falls and set adrift - if the canoe floated to the north she would become a Mohawk squaw, if it went to the south shore she would go with her Algonquian suitor.

The canoe was cut loose and raced away in the rushing water, heading to the north side. But just before the canoe reached land it grounded briefly, then twisted free and shot to the south shore. Later, when the canoe was retrieved it was discovered to have a hole in the bottom covered by a pile of soggy furs concealing a sturdy stick used as a rudder. Wahconah had not left her fate to chance after all.

## The Walks

Most folks are likely to skip the loop trail through Wahconah Falls State Park and just take the wide access road to the base of the falls. Nothing wrong with that - and a water-loving dog won't want to wait to try out those inviting pools either. But don't skip the uphill trail that leads into an attractive ever-

## Dalton

Phone Number  
- (413) 442-8992

Website  
- [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/wahf.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/wahf.htm)

Admission Fee  
- None

Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- From Route 9 in Dalton travel east to the intersection with Route 8A. Turn left and stay with Route 9/Route 8A North/North Street for 2.6 miles to North Street/Wahconah Falls Road. Look for brown lead-in signs. Turn right and follow for 0.5 mile (becomes unpaved) to the park entrance on the right.



*Bonus*

Your dog doesn't have to be the only one to enjoy the waters of Wahconah Falls Brook - the stream is stocked with trout each year for anglers.



**There are four drops in Wahconah Falls, with the largest being 30 feet as the water fans out across the bedrock.**

green and hardwood forest. You will pick your way along to both sides of the brook, on top and below the cascades.

*Trail Sense:* There are no maps for the small park and the loop trail is marked - once you find the trailhead.

**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed throughout the park.

**Traffic**

The falls are a popular gathering spot - the trails less so.

**Canine Swimming**

Plenty of superb swimming for your dog; in the plunge pool beneath the falls and further downstream.

**Trail Time**

Less than one hour.

# 27

## Berlin Road Trail System

### The Park

Most of the property on Berlin Mountain, whose summit actually rests just across the state line in New York, was in the hands of many small landowners. This mitigated against development on the steep slopes.

In 1933 members of the Williams Outing Club laid out a trail to the 2,798-foot summit and in 1960 Ralph Townsend, the Williams College ski coach for 22 years, purchased a bit of Berlin Mountain and developed it into a new ski area for the college, complete with 30- and 40- meter natural jumps and a giant slalom run. In the early 1980s, a paucity of snow and a lack of snowmaking capabilities made it difficult for the ski team to continue to practice at Berlin and the site was abandoned.

In 1998, under the stewardship of the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation (WRLF), new loop trails were built at the end of Berlin Road, including educational signs.

### The Walks

You can come to Berlin for an easy, relaxed outing with your dog or a tail-dragging workout. The WRLF trail is on paw-friendly terrain as it rolls mildly to a scenic overlook and joins a logging road, crosses the brook and then climbs to an old ski area at the top of Berlin Road. The gravel road closes your loop to the trailhead. The *Waterfall Trail* is a short spur off the first part of the trail, leading to a narrow ribbon of cascading water.

### Clarksburg

Phone Number  
- (413) 458-2494

Website  
- [www.wrlf.org/berlin.html](http://www.wrlf.org/berlin.html)

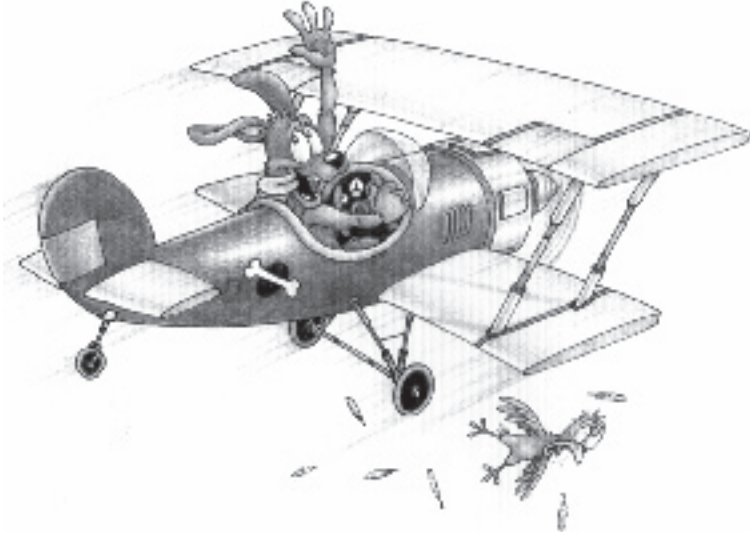
Admission Fee  
- No

Park Hours  
- Dusk to dawn

Directions  
- Follow Route 2 West after Routes 2 and 7 diverge south of Williamstown. After a half-mile, turn left onto Torrey Woods Road. Continue straight as the road turns to gravel at Berlin Road. Parking is along the road.

### Bonus

Interpretive signs tell the story of logging and recovery on Berlin Mountain - a tale that can be applied to many hillsides in the Berkshires.



The entrance to the *Class of '33 Trail* is 100 yards to the east of the parking area. This path to the summit can be rough going and maintenance spotty at times. In addition, logging activities have muddled the route. Of the several alternate routes up Berlin Mountain, where your reward is 360-degree views into New York and back to Massachusetts, the approach from Petersburg Pass, where the *Taconic Crest Trail* crosses Rt 2, offers the least elevation change - less than 600 feet. The trail skirts the side of Mount Raimer, then descends to Berlin Pass before climbing up to Berlin Mountain. Distance one way is 2.7 miles.

*Trail Sense:* Trails are blazed but no maps are available.

#### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed to climb Berlin Mountain.

#### **Traffic**

Bikes and all-terrain vehicles frequent the mountain trails.

#### **Canine Swimming**

The streams that percolate off the mountain are better suited for trout than dogs.

#### **Trail Time**

About an hour to complete the WRLF trails below the mountain and several more to scale the summit with your dog.

# Mt. Everett State Reservation

## The Park

At 2,624 feet, Mount Everett is the dominant peak of the southwest Berkshire-Taconic range and the second tallest peak in Massachusetts. It is one of the oldest pieces of preserved land in the area. Along with Mount Greylock, Mount Everett was a piece of the first state park system in Massachusetts.

Mount Everett was named after Edward Everett, the famous 19th century Massachusetts orator best remembered for a speech no one remembers. In the ceremony to consecrate the national cemetery at Gettysburg in 1863 Everett delivered the main speech that stretched for two hours and more than 13,000 words. After he sat down, Abraham Lincoln spoke for less than three minutes, delivering the immortal Gettysburg Address.

## The Walks

There are two options for your dog to tag the summit of Mount Everett.

From Guilder Pond the canine hike to the top is less than a mile - but 800 feet straight up - on a winding fire road. You'll join the *Appalachian Trail* for a narrow march to the summit on rocks that can be a challenge for your dog. If your dog doesn't mind the rocky going you can take the AT rather than the roomy dirt road. The *Guilder Pond Loop* works as a scenic leg-stretcher before your climb and the mountain lake is a perfect refresher for your dog after a spirited hike on Mount Everett.

The *Race Brook Trail* from Route 41 works past numerous water shoots

## Mt. Washington

Phone Number  
- (413) 528-0330

Website  
- [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/meve.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/meve.htm)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- From Route 7 south of Great Barrington take Route 23/41 West for 4.9 miles to South Egremont. Turn left onto Route 41 South, then take the immediate right, Mount Washington Road and continue as it becomes East Street. Turn left at the sign for Mt. Everett and follow access road (open seasonally) past Guilder Pond to parking lot. To reach the Race Brook trailhead, continue on Route 41 South.

### *Bonus*

At the extreme southern end of the reservation, reachable only after several hours on the Appalachian Trail, is the hydrospectacular Sages Ravine. Here, protected in a deep hemlock ravine, an energetic stream has sliced the limestone into a series of waterfalls and deep pools.



**Bare spots on the rocks give your dog views of New York and Connecticut over the pitch pine and scrub oak.**

and cascades before it reaches the AT in about two *tough* miles with the peak another mile to the north. Once on top you will be hiking through an unusual pitch pine-scrub oak ridgetop. Every now and then you will pop out onto a bare rock with the 360-degree views that visitors to Mount Everett have cherished for more than 100 years. The only thing remaining of the tower that once stood at the summit is a foundation, however.

*Trail Sense:* There are no maps on site so you will need to rely on blazes.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to enjoy the Mount Everett views.

### **Traffic**

Hikers only but expect plenty of company on splendid fall weekends.

### **Canine Swimming**

Guilder Pond is an ideal canine swimming hole.

### **Trail Time**

If your goal is just to reach the summit and get your dog back to your vehicle you can accomplish that in about an hour or you can hike with your dog all day.

# 29 Dry Hill

## The Park

In 1735 a lottery was held for four towns open for settlement along the road to Westfield and Sheffield. New Marlborough was laid out as township #2 in June 1737. Benjamin Wheeler, who had drawn lot No. 25 of seventy two, was the first settler.

The center of New Marlborough Village was established early as an agriculturally-based community south of Dry Hill, the most prominent physical landmark in the area. The round, wooded mound is immediately recognized from area roads but the white rock cliffs were seldom visited until Sydney and Jeanne Weinstein donated this land to the public in 2000.

## The Walks

If you are looking for a solitary outing with your dog, Dry Hill is your destination of choice. The single loop trail covers two miles as it gently ascends a ridge of white marble and quartzite. Most of the route is a wide avenue through the oak forest growing on the water deprived, acidic ridge that gives the rise its name.

The trail leaves the woods road to climb the ridge and the path becomes narrow and studded with paw-twisting marble. Your reward is longish southern views to Connecticut and New York. If your dog is not looking for this sort of challenge you can skip the ridge by staying on the old woods road.

*Trail Sense:* There is an information board and the trail completely under the canopy of trees is blazed.

## New Marlborough

Phone Number  
- (413) 298-3239

Website  
- [www.thetrustees.org/pages/301\\_dry\\_hill.cfm](http://www.thetrustees.org/pages/301_dry_hill.cfm)

Admission Fee  
- None

Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- From the intersection of Routes 23 and 57 in Monterey, travel 5.5 miles to New Marlborough Center. Turn left onto the dirt road in front of the Inn (unmarked). Follow the road for .6 mile to a fork and bear left onto Harmon Road (again unmarked). The small parking lot for the reservation is ahead on the left.

*Bonus*

The best time to visit Dry Hill is late June when thick stands of mountain laurel are in bloom in the understory. The evergreen shrub produces showy clusters of star-shaped flowers. Amateur botanists first recorded the plant in America in 1624, where local Indians used it to make spoons. Mountain laurel was soon brought to Europe for cultivation as an ornamental. The state flower of Connecticut and Pennsylvania, mountain laurel is just for admiring - all parts of the plant are poisonous.



**Dry Hill is alive with the blooms of mountain laurel in late June.**

**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to explore Dry Hill.

**Traffic**

Almost none; bikes are not allowed.

**Canine Swimming**

None.

**Trail Time**

Allow one hour.



# 30

## Dorothy Frances Rice Sanctuary

### The Park

In the late 1920s, Oran and Mary Rice established the 300-acre Sanctuary in the memory of their daughter' who died of tuberculosis shortly after graduation from Smith College. This property had been the family's summer home and a particular favorite of Dorothy Rice. Care of the Rice Sanctuary was entrusted to the New England Forestry Foundation in 1974.

### The Walks

There are some four miles of interlocking loop trails around the Rice Sanctuary. All trails are maintained by volunteers and that will affect how easily your dog makes it around. There are plenty of blowdowns around the preserve, so much so that it resembles a hemlock graveyard in places.

Even when the trails are clogged or swampy (there isn't much elevation change on these paths near Massachusetts' highest town) there are stretches to enjoy with your dog. Large blankets of running pine show up from time to time and there are few rocks to rough up any paws.

*Trail Sense:* A mapboard is outside the Visitor's Center and printed maps are available. Out on the trail big splashes of paint show the way on the color-coded trails.

### Peru

Phone Number  
- (413) 655-2681

Website  
- [www.newenglandforestry.org/forestry/forestdetail.asp?id=24](http://www.newenglandforestry.org/forestry/forestdetail.asp?id=24)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- From the center of Peru take Route 143 West, towards Pittsfield. Take a left on South Road and after the road bends to the left in one mile the Sanctuary is directly ahead. If the gate is closed park by the road and walk down Rice Road to the small Visitor's Center.



*Bonus*

Across the road from the Rice Sanctuary is the rectangular 40-acre Katz Memorial Forest. The Katz family have managed the land primarily for its wild blueberries.

**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome to trot these trails.

**Traffic**

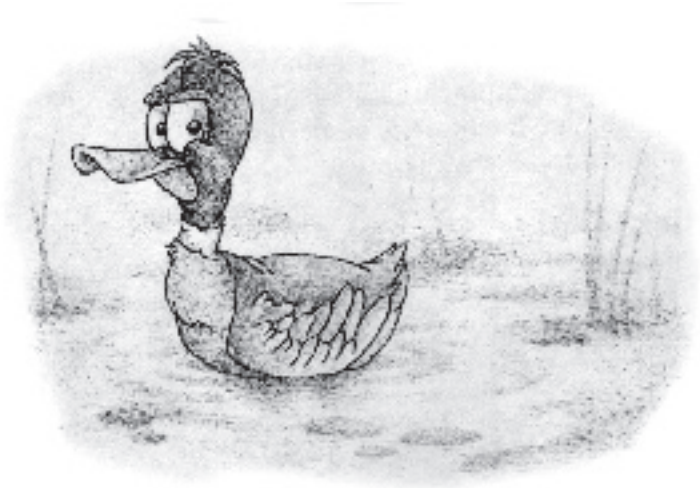
Foot traffic only and little of it.

**Canine Swimming**

Three field ponds are on the property, providing habitat more for birds than swimming dogs.

**Trail Time**

More than one hour.



*“Dogs’ lives are too short. Their only fault, really.”  
-Agnes Sligh Turnbull*

# 31

## Natural Bridge State Park

### The Park

The 30-foot thick Natural Bridge began to form 550 million years ago when seas shells from a warm, shallow ocean dissolved into chalky white calcium carbonate sediment. When the last ice sheet retreated 13,000 years ago the churning meltwaters sculpted today's 60-foot deep chasm.

The first European description of the Natural Bridge came from a Fort Massachusetts hunter around 1745, Seth Hudson - whose name became attached to the brook flowing through the limestone formation.

Quarrying of the area marble was underway by 1810, supplying much of the building material for North Adams. Commercial operations began in 1837

and ten years later a block of pure white marble weighing 329 tons was raised from the quarry. More than 200 tons of stone were still being pulled from the quarry each day in 1947 when a fire destroyed all the company buildings.

The marble mine was never re-opened and was purchased by Ed Elder, an amateur geologist. Elder cleared out rubble and overgrown shrubs and built a series of walkways and catapults. He ran the park as a roadside tourist attraction, leading curious visitors around the quarry for \$1, until he died in 1983. The land was sold to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and opened as a state park in 1985.

### The Walks

What the park trails lack in length, they make up for in wonder. A quarter-mile trail leads across the Natural Bridge and up and down the chasm. Nathaniel Hawthorne often visited this spot and worried that the marble mills would

### North Adams

Phone Number  
- (413) 663-6392

Website  
- [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/nbdg.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/nbdg.htm)

Admission Fee  
- Yes, parking fee

Hours  
- 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Directions  
- East of North Adams, take Route 8 north from Route 2. Go .5 miles and turn left onto McCauley Road and follow the signs to the park entrance.

### *Bonus*

White marble is the theme here, an amalgam of human and geological history. The Natural Bridge is the only naturally formed marble bridge in the country - so is the dam across Hudson Brook.



### **Resting by the only marble dam in America.**

destroy the site but your dog can still see the same prehistoric sculptures as Hawthorne's dogs did. You can continue down, over the 50-foot lip of the marble quarry that is slowly being reclaimed by nature. Also available is a half-mile wooded walking trail.

*Trail Sense:* There are maps and interpretive signs to lead you around the park.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are welcome throughout the park.

### **Traffic**

Foot traffic only.

### **Canine Swimming**

There is no swimming for your dog around the Natural Bridge.

### **Trail Time**

Less than one hour.

# 32

## Campbell Falls State Park

### The Park

The White Memorial Foundation, established in 1913 in Litchfield, Connecticut by philanthropists Alain White and his sister May, contributed thousands of acres for Connecticut state parks at Kent Falls, Macedonia Brook, Mohawk Mountain, and Campbell Falls. The falls are actually in Massachusetts, where the Whiting River tumbles nearly 100 feet in a dramatic farewell to the state. The park was placed under protection of the two states in 1923 and special laws were passed in 1924 to authorize the cooperation in care and maintenance of the park.

### The Walks

There isn't a great deal of canine hiking at Campbell Falls - but what's here is some of the most serene and paw-friendly in the Berkshires. From the parking lot the trail snakes down to the falls in less than a quarter-mile. Your dog will be trotting on pine needles and green mosses and stepping around glacial debris left behind when the last ice rivers melted out of this area about 13,000 years ago.

Most of the park lies in Connecticut and to extend your outing in these tranquil woods simply take your dog

### New Marlborough

Phone Number  
- None

Website  
- [dep.state.ct.us/STATEPARKS/reserves/campbell.htm](http://dep.state.ct.us/STATEPARKS/reserves/campbell.htm)

Admission Fee  
- None

Park Hours  
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions  
- Heading out of New Marlborough on Southfield Road make a right onto Campbell Falls Road (unpaved), the last turn in Massachusetts before heading into Connecticut and Norfolk on Route 272. Park on the left where you see an opening in the trees - nothing is marked.



**The Massachusetts-  
Connecticut boundary is  
marked by stone pillars.**

*Bonus*

The rocks at Campbell Falls are granite that was once heated beneath the earth's crust.

Look around at the bottom of the falls and you will see rocks that appear to be rippled - the product of differential weathering where the softer minerals are being removed faster than the harder, more resistant granite.



**The two-tiered Campbell Falls plunges a total of 100 feet.**

down a yellow-blazed trail that leads to the parking lot in the Nutmeg State. The round trip will cover about 3/4 mile.

*Trail Sense:* There are no maps, no signs, no information. Come with a mind to explore this small, remote park.

**Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed in this natural reserve.

**Traffic**

Almost none.

**Canine Swimming**

The plunge pool offers some access for a brief canine swim but it is mostly splashing in the stream below the falls.

**Trail Time**

Less than one hour.

# 33

## Sandisfield State Forest

### The Park

For many, Sandisfield State Forest is York Lake and its popular day use area featuring a 300-foot beach for unguarded swimming, a picnic area and a boat launch ramp.

During the Depression of the 1930s the Civilian Conservation Corps worked here building stone picnic shelters and cutting trails.

### The Walks

There is a 1.5-mile *Pond Loop Trail* around York Lake that is open when the beavers co-operate. Your dog can trot along several unpaved roads through the hardwood forest but time in the lakes - there are six in the forest - are what your dog will be wanting in Sandisfield State Forest. When you do test the trails you will find easy, almost level going throughout, completely in the shade of the trees.

*Trail Sense:* The only vehicle access connects the forest from south to north and that will be your main point of orientation.

### Monterey

Phone Number  
- (413) 229-8212

Website  
- [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/sand.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/sand.htm)

Admission Fee  
- Yes, parking fee in season

Hours  
- Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset

Directions  
- From Route 23 East turn right onto Route 57 East and continue for 8.2 miles through New Marlborough village. Turn right onto Forest Road (unpaved) and continue for 2 miles to the day-use area.



### Bonus

In one of the great exploits of the American Revolution, Colonel Henry Knox shepherded 43 cannon and 16 mortars from captured Fort Ticonderoga in New York 300 miles to enable General George Washington to force the British Army out of Boston in the winter of 1775-1776.

Knox used 80 yoke of oxen to pull a train of 42 heavy sledges through the snow to accomplish the feat.

His route passed through this area. In 1926, to celebrate the sesquicentennial of Knox's journey, markers were placed along Knox's Trail.

You can find one at the north end of Sandisfield Road, east of Monterey town center. Look for it on the north side of Route 23 by a low stone wall.

### **Dog Friendliness**

Dogs are allowed in the state forest but not in the beach area in season.

### **Traffic**

The parking lot may be "sold out" - filled with swimming enthusiasts on summer weekends but almost deserted out of season. Horses and vehicles can be encountered on the trails.

### **Canine Swimming**

York Lake is why you bring your dog here.

### **Trail Time**

About one hour.





# Camping With Your Dog In The Berkshires

## Beartown State Forest

Monterey

*From Route 23 in Monterey turn left onto Blue Hill Road and follow the brown lead-in signs 2.2 miles to park entrance on right (Benedict Pond Road).*

open mid-May to mid-October (413) 528-0904

## Bissellville Campground

Hinsdale

*From Route 8 in Washington take East Washington Road north to the campground at 1109 East Washington.*

open May 15 to October 15 (413) 655-8396

## Bonnie Brae Campsites

Pittsfield

*Three miles north of town on Route 7; at 108 Broadway.*

open May 1 to October 15 (413) 442-3754

## Clarksburg State Park

Clarksburg

*On Middle Road off Route 8, three miles north of Route 2.*

open late-May to mid-October (413) 664-8345

## Fernwood Forest Campground

Hinsdale

*South of Hinsdale; take Route 8 and turn right on Michaels Road and left to campground at 108 Longview Road.*

open May 1 to October 15 (413) 442-3754

## Hidden Valley Campground

Lanesborough

*North Main Street off Route 7, north of town at the base of Mount Greylock. Go north to 15 Scott Road.*

open year-round (413) 447-9419



## Historic Valley Campground

North Adams

*One mile east of town on Route 2 and turn right on East Main Street and Kemp Avenue, following signs to 200 Windsor Lake Road.*

open May 15 to October 15

(413) 662-3198

## Maple Glade Campground

Lee

*Go south of Lee to Water Street and head east to Forest Road towards Goose Pond. The campground is at 334 Woodland Road.*

open first weekend in May to October 15

(413) 243-1548

## Mount Greylock State Reservation

Lanesborough

*Off Route 7 from the south in Lanesborough; from Notch Road in North Adams from the north.*

late-May to mid-October, winter camping also available

(413) 499-4262

## October Mountain State Forest

Lee

*Follow Route 20 West 1.1 miles through downtown Lee to Center Street. Turn right onto Center St. and follow (becomes Columbia St.) for 1 mile to Bradley Street. Turn right onto Bradley St. (becomes Woodland Rd.) and follow brown lead-in signs 1 mile to campground entrance.*

mid-May to mid-October

(413) 243-1778

## Pittsfield State Forest

Pittsfield

*Follow Route 20 West for 11 miles to downtown Pittsfield. Continue on Route 20 for 2.2 miles. Turn right onto Hungerford Avenue, continue for 0.2 mile, then bear left onto Fort Hill Avenue and continue for 1 mile. Turn left onto West Street. Continue for 0.2 mile, and turn right onto Churchill Street, and continue for 1.7 miles to Cascade Street. Turn left and follow the brown lead-in signs to the park. If you reach Dan Casey Memorial Drive (on your right) you have gone too far.*

open mid-May to mid-October

(413) 442-8992

## Privacy Campground - NO DOGS!

Hancock

## Prospect Lake Park

North Egremont

*From Route 23 go three miles west on Route 71 to Prospect Lake Road.*

open first weekend in May to October 15      (413) 528-4158

## Savoy Mountain State Forest

Florida

*From downtown North Adams follow Route 2 East for 5 miles. Turn right onto Central Shaft Road, 0.4 miles from the Florida town line. Keep right at the next 2 forks, continuing to stay on Central Shaft Road. From Route 2 the park headquarters campground is 3.7 miles.*

open mid-May to mid-October; no dogs in cabins

(413) 339-6104

## Shady Pines Campground

Savoy

*Southeast of Savoy, go 3.1 miles southeast on Route 8A/116 and turn left on Loop Road to 547 Loop.*

open all year      (413) 528-4158

## Summit Hill Campground

Washington

*Take Route 8 to town center and go 1.8 miles on Summit Hill Road to campground at 34 Old Middlefield Road.*

open May 1 to September 30      (413) 623-5761

## Windsor State Forest

Windsor

*In Dalton at intersection with Route 8, take Route 9 East for 11.3 miles to West Cummington. Turn left onto West Main Street; continue for 0.1 mile then take an immediate left onto River Road and follow for 2.9 miles to the campground on the right.*

open late-May to early-September      (413) 663-8469

# *Index To Parks and Open Spaces*

<i>Berkshire County</i>	page
Bash Bish Falls State Park	44
Beartown State Forest	58
Berlin Road Trail System	74
Campbell Falls State Park	84
Clarksburg State Forest	50
Clarksburg State Park	62
Dry Hill	78
Field Farm	46
Jug End State Reservation	64
Kennedy Park	52
McLennan Reservation	56
Monument Mountain Reservation	34
Mount Everett State Reservation	76
Mount Greylock Reservation	20
Mount Washington State Forest	40
Mountain Meadow Preserve	38
Natural Bridge State Park	82
Notch Brook Cascades	68
Notchview	24
October Mountain State Forest	66
Pittsfield State Forest	30
Questing	54
Rice Sanctuary	80
Sandisfield State Forest	86
Savoy Mountain State Forest	36
Shaker Mountain	70
Sheep Hill	60
Stevens Glen	28
Stockbridge Trails	32
Stone Hill	48
Tyringham Cobble	26
Wahconah Falls State Park	72
Windsor State Forest	42

*Other Books On Hiking With Your Dog  
from Cruden Bay Books  
www.hikewithyourdog.com*

- DOGGIN' AMERICA: 100 Ideas For Great Vacations To Take With Your Dog - \$19.95
- DOGGIN' THE MID-ATLANTIC: 400 Tail-Friendly Parks To Hike With Your Dog In New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Northern Virginia - \$18.95
- DOGGIN' CLEVELAND: The 50 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog In Northeast Ohio - \$12.95
- DOGGIN' PITTSBURGH: The 50 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog In Southeast Pennsylvania - \$12.95
- DOGGIN' ORLANDO: The 30 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog in Central Florida - \$9.95
- DOGGIN' NORTHWEST FLORIDA: The 50 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog In The Panhandle - \$12.95
- DOGGIN' ATLANTA: The 50 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog in North Georgia - \$12.95
- DOGGIN' THE POCONOS: The 33 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog In Pennsylvania's Northeast Mountains - \$9.95
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- DOGGIN' DELAWARE: The 40 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog In The First State - \$9.95
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- DOGGIN' MASSACHUSETTS: The 100 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog in the Bay State - \$12.95
- DOGGIN' CONNECTICUT: The 57 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog In The Nutmeg State - \$12.95
- DOGGIN' THE FINGER LAKES: The 50 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog - \$12.95
- DOGGIN' LONG ISLAND: The 30 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog In New York's Playground - \$9.95
- DOGGIN' THE TIDEWATER: The 33 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog from the Northern Neck to Virginia Beach - \$9.95
- DOGGIN' THE CAROLINA COASTS: The 50 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog Along The North Carolina And South Carolina Shores - \$11.95
- DOGGIN' AMERICA'S BEACHES: A Traveler's Guide To Dog-Friendly Beaches - \$12.95
- THE CANINE HIKER'S BIBLE - \$19.95
- DOGGIN' ASHEVILLE: The 50 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog In The Blue Ridge - \$12.95
- A Bark In The Park: The 50 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog In The Baltimore Region - \$12.95
- A Bark In The Park: The 37 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog In Pennsylvania Dutch Country - \$9.95