

Doggin' The Poconos

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

DOUG GELBERT

illustrations by



Cruden Bay Books



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

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

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*“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
The 33 Best Places To Hike With Your Dog	15
Camping With Your Dog	82
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 Pocono Mountains can be a great place to hike with your dog. Within a short drive you can be scaling mountains that leave your dog panting, exploring impossibly green glens that will set tails to wagging or circling lakes for miles where swim-loving dogs never sight of the water.

I have selected what I consider to be the 33 best places to take your dog for an outing and ranked them according to subjective criteria including the variety of hikes available, opportunities for canine swimming and pleasure of the walks. The rankings include a mix of parks that feature long walks and parks that contain short walks. Did I miss your favorite? Let us know at www.hikewithyourdog.com.

What makes a great place to take your dog hiking? Well, how about a paw-friendly surface to trot on? Grass and sandy dirt are alot more appealing than asphand and rocks. A variety of hikes is always good - long ones for athletic dogs and short ones for the less adventurous canine. Dogs always enjoy a refreshing place to swim as well. Our guides focus on the parks that are good choices to take your dog. For dog-friendly parks we describe the trail options for your dog, evaluate park traffic from other users, tell you whether you will need a guide dog to find your way around and, of course, tell you how to get to the park.

For dog owners it is important to realize that not all parks are open to our best trail companions (see page 14 for a list of parks that do not allow dogs). It is sometimes hard to believe but not everyone loves dogs. We are, in fact, in the minority when compared with our non-dog owning neighbors.

So when visiting a park always keep your dog under control and clean up any messes and we can all expect our great parks to remain open to our dogs. And maybe some others will see the light as well. *Remember, every time you go out with your dog you are an ambassador for all dog owners.*

Grab that leash and hit the trail!

DBG

Hiking With Your Dog

So you want to start hiking with your dog. Hiking with your dog can be a fascinating way to explore the Pocono Mountains from a canine perspective. Some things to consider:

Dog's Health

Hiking can be a wonderful preventative for any number of physical and behavioral disorders. One in every three dogs is overweight and running up trails and leaping through streams is great exercise to help keep pounds off. Hiking can also relieve boredom in a dog's routine and calm dogs prone to destructive habits. And hiking with your dog strengthens the overall owner/dog bond.

Breed of Dog

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

Conditioning

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

Weather

Hot humid summers do not do dogs any favors. With no sweat glands and only panting available to disperse body heat, dogs are much more susceptible to heat stroke than we are. Unusually rapid panting and/or a bright red tongue are signs of heat exhaustion in your pet.

Always carry enough water for your hike. Even days that don't seem too warm can cause discomfort in dark-coated dogs if the sun is shining brightly. In cold weather, short-coated breeds may require additional attention.

Trail Hazards

Dogs won't get poison ivy but they can transfer it to you. Stinging nettle is a nuisance plant that lurks on the side of many trails and the slightest brush will deliver troublesome needles into a dog's coat. Some trails are littered with small pieces of broken glass that can slice a dog's paws. Nasty thorns can also blanket trails that we in shoes may never notice.

Ticks

You won't be able to spend much time on the trail without encountering ticks. All are nasty but the deer tick - no bigger than a pin head - carries with it the spectre of Lyme disease. Lyme disease attacks a dog's joints and makes walking painful. The tick needs to be embedded in the skin to transmit Lyme disease. It takes 4-6 hours for a tick to become embedded and another 24-48 hours to transmit Lyme disease bacteria.

When hiking, walk in the middle of trails away from tall grass and bushes. And when the summer sun fades away don't stop thinking about ticks - they remain active any time the temperature is above 30 degrees. By checking your dog - and yourself - thoroughly after each walk you can help avoid Lyme disease. Ticks tend to congregate on your dog's ears, between the toes and around the neck and head.

Water

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

Rattlesnakes and Copperheads

Rattlesnakes and their close cousins, copperheads, are not particularly aggressive animals but you should treat any venomous snake with respect and keep your distance. A rattler's colors may vary but they are recognized by the namesake rattle on the tail and a diamond-shaped head. Unless cornered or teased by humans or dogs, a rattlesnake will crawl away and avoid striking. Avoid placing your hand in unexamined rocky areas and crevasses and try and keep your dog from doing so as well. If you hear a nearby rattle, stop immediately and hold your dog back. Identify where the snake is and slowly back away.

If you or your dog is bitten, do not panic but get to a hospital or veterinarian with as little physical movement as possible. Wrap between the bite and the heart. Rattlesnakes might give "dry bites" where no poison is injected, but you should always check with a doctor after a bite even if you feel fine.



Black Bears

Are you likely to see a bear while out hiking with your dog? No, it's not likely. It is, however, quite a thrill if you are fortunate enough to spot a black bear on the trail - from a distance.

Black bear attacks are incredibly rare. In the year 2000 a hiker was killed by a black bear in Great Smoky National Park and it was the first deadly bear attack in the 66-year history of America's most popular national park. It was the first EVER in the southeastern United States. In all of North America only 43 black bear mauling deaths have ever been recorded (through 1999).

Most problems with black bears occur near a campground (like the above incident) where bears have learned to forage for unprotected food. On the trail bears will typically see you and leave the area before you ever see her. What should you do if you encounter a black bear? Experts agree on three important things:

- 1) Never run. A bear will outrun you, outclimb you, outswim you. Don't look like prey.*
- 2) Never get between a female bear and a cub who may be nearby feeding.*
- 3) Leave a bear an obvious escape route.*

If the bear is at least 15 feet away and notices you make sure you keep your dog close and calm. If a bear stands on its hind legs or comes closer it may just be trying to get a better view or smell to evaluate the situation. Wave your arms and make noise to scare the bear away. Most bears will quickly leave the area.

If you encounter a black bear at close range, stand upright and make yourself appear as large a foe as possible. Avoid direct eye contact and speak in a calm, assertive and assuring voice as you back up slowly and out of danger.


Porcupines

Porcupines are easy for a curious dog to catch and that makes them among the most dangerous animals you may meet because an embedded quill is not only painful but can cause infection if not properly removed.

Outfitting Your Dog For A Hike

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

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

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

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

 *Will my dog wear a pack?*

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

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

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

🐾 *How does a dog wear a pack?*

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

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

Low density items such as food and poop bags are good choices. Ice cold bottles of water can cool your dog down on hot days. Don't put anything in a dog pack that can break. Dogs will bang the pack on rocks and trees as they wiggle through tight spots in the trail. Dogs also like to lie down in creeks and other wet spots so seal items in plastic bags. A good use for dog packs when on day hikes around the Pocono Mountains is trail maintenance - your dog can pack out trash left by inconsiderate visitors before you.



🐾 *Are dog booties a good idea?*

Dog booties can be an asset, especially for the occasional canine hiker whose paw pads have not become toughened. Many trails in the Poconos involve rocky terrain (the old complaint about Pennsylvania trails is that it is the place “boots go to die”). In some places, there may be broken glass. Hiking boots for dogs are designed to prevent pads from cracking while trotting across rough surfaces. Used in winter, dog booties provide warmth and keep ice balls from forming between toe pads when hiking through snow.

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

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









- ▶ 4” square gauze pads
- ▶ cling type bandaging tapes
- ▶ topical wound disinfectant cream
- ▶ tweezers
- ▶ insect repellent - no reason to leave your dog unprotected against mosquitoes and blackflies
- ▶ veterinarian’s phone number

“I can’t think of anything that brings me closer to tears than when my old dog - completely exhausted after a hard day in the field - limps away from her nice spot in front of the fire and comes over to where I’m sitting and puts her head in my lap, a paw over my knee, and closes her eyes, and goes back to sleep. I don’t know what I’ve done to deserve that kind of friend.”

-Gene Hill

Low Impact Hiking With Your Dog

Every time you hike with your dog on the trail you are an ambassador for all dog owners. Some people you meet won't believe in your right to take a dog on the trail. Be friendly to all and make the best impression you can by practicing low impact hiking with your dog:

-  Pack out everything you pack in.
-  Do not leave dog scat on the trail; if you haven't brought plastic bags for poop removal bury it away from the trail and topical water sources.
-  Hike only where dogs are allowed.
-  Stay on the trail.
-  Do not allow your dog to chase wildlife.
-  Step off the trail and wait with your dog while horses and other hikers pass.
-  Do not allow your dog to bark - people are enjoying the trail for serenity.
-  *Have as much fun on your hike as your dog does.*

The Other End Of The Leash

Leash laws are like speed limits - everyone seems to have a private interpretation of their validity. Some dog owners never go outside with an unleashed dog; others treat the laws as suggestions or disregard them completely. It is not the purpose of this book to tell dog owners where to go to evade the leash laws or reveal the parks where rangers will look the other way at an unleashed dog. Nor is it the business of this book to preach vigilant adherence to the leash laws. Nothing written in a book is going to change people's behavior with regard to leash laws. So this will be the last time leash laws are mentioned, save occasionally when we point out the parks where dogs are welcomed off leash.

How To Pet A Dog

Tickling tummies slowly and gently works wonders.

Never use a rubbing motion; this makes dogs bad-tempered.

A gentle tickle with the tips of the fingers is all that is necessary to induce calm in a dog. I hate strangers who go up to dogs with their hands held to the dog's nose, usually palm towards themselves.

How does the dog know that the hand doesn't hold something horrid?

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

Very often the dog raises its back leg in a scratching movement, it gets so much pleasure from this.

-Barbara Woodhouse

No Dogs

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

Lackawanna County
Lake Scranton

Monroe County
Mountain View Park

Pike County
*Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area -
Childs Recreation Site
Dingmans Falls
Raymondskill Falls*

Wayne County
The Dorflinger-Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary



O.K. that wasn't too bad. Let's forget about these and move on to some of the great places where we CAN take our dogs across the Pocono Mountains...

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

I

Ricketts Glen State Park

The Park

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

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

The Walks

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

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

Luzerne

Phone Number
- (570) 477-5675

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

Admission Fee
- None

Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

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

Bonus

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

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



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

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

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

Dog Friendliness

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

Traffic

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

Canine Swimming

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

Trail Time

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

2

Delaware State Forest

The Park

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

The Walks

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

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

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

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

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

Pike (mostly)

Phone Number
- (570) 895-4000

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

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

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

Bonus

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



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

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

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

Dog Friendliness

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

Traffic

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

Canine Swimming

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

Trail Time

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

3

Salt Springs State Park

The Park

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

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

The Walks

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

Susquehanna

Phone Number
- (570) 967-7275

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

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

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

Bonus

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



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

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

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

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

Dog Friendliness

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

Traffic

Foot traffic only.

Canine Swimming

The pools below the waterfalls are superb canine swimming holes.

Trail Time

A half-day and more is possible.

4

Hickory Run State Park

The Park

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

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

The Walks

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

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

Carbon

Phone Number
- (570) 443-0400

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

Admission Fee
- None

Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

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

Bonus

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

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



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

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

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

Dog Friendliness

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

Traffic

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

Canine Swimming

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

Trail Time

Hours and days depending on your dog's tastes.

5

Pocono Environmental Education Center

The Park

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

Pike

Phone Number
- (570) 828-2319

Website
- www.peec.org/

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

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

The Walks

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

Bonus

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

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



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

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

Pond.

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

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are allowed on PEEC trails.

Traffic

Foot traffic only.

Canine Swimming

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

Trail Time

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

6 World's End State Park

The Park

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

The Walks

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

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

Sullivan

Phone Number
- (570) 924-3287

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

Admission Fee
- None

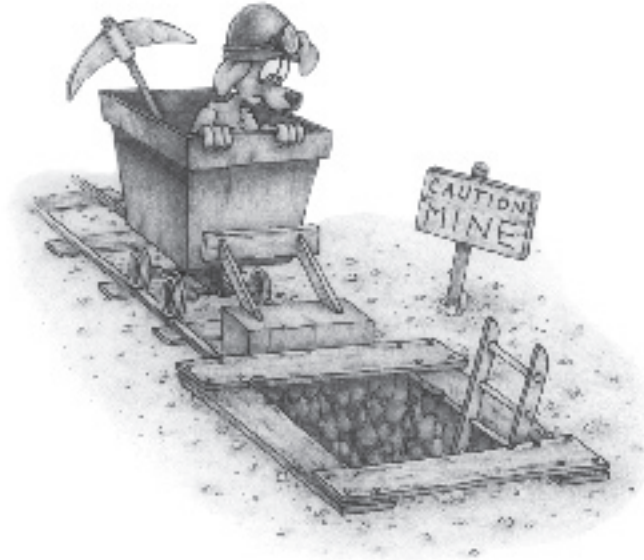
Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

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

Bonus

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

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



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

Dog Friendliness

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

Traffic

Very little competition for these trails.

Canine Swimming

Splashing mostly in fast-moving streams.

Trail Time

A full day easily possible.

7

Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center

The Park

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

Northampton

Phone Number

- (610) 746-2801

Website

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

Admission Fee

- None

Park Hours

- Sunrise to sunset

Directions

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

The Walks

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

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

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

Bonus

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

Dog Friendliness

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

Traffic

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

Canine Swimming

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

Trail Time

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



8 Frances Slocum State Park

The Park

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

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

The Walks

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

Luzerne

Phone Number
- (570) 696-3525

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

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

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

Bonus

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



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

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

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

Dog Friendliness

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

Traffic

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

Canine Swimming

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

Trail Time

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

9

Nescopeck State Park

The Park

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

The Walks

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

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

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

Luzerne

Phone Number
- (570) 403-2006

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

Admission Fee
- None

Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

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

Bonus

In January 1886, heavy rains flooded nearly every mine in the Hazleton area. A few years later John Markle developed a plan to salvage the flooded mine workings - dig a tunnel, nearly five miles long and up to 700 feet deep, to drain the flooded mines. The Jeddo Mine Drainage Tunnel was an engineering marvel of its time, draining four major coal basins covering over 30 square miles. An estimated 40 million gallons of highly acidic sulfur-laden water still pours from the tunnel every day, emptying into the Little Nescopeck Creek, then on to the Big Nescopeck and finally into the Susquehanna River.



The dog paddling is easy in Nescopeck State Park.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are allowed on these park trails.

Traffic

The lightly-used trails are open for cross-country skiing but closed for mountain biking.

Canine Swimming

Beaver ponds are splendid for your water-loving dog and so is Lake Frances; even Nescopeck Creek is deep enough for swims in spots.

Trail Time

Many short trails - up to a full day possible.

10

Delaware Water Gap NRA - Mount Minsi

The Park

It can be hard to imagine as you are sloggng up the side of 1,463-foot Mount Minsi but millions of years ago this area was a level plain. Since then the Delaware River, the largest undammed and free-flowing river east of the Mississippi, has ground out the Delaware Water Gap where the water twists in a tight “S” curve.

The famous view spawned one of the great resort destinations of 19th century America. The large hotels slowly disappeared over the years and in 1965 Congress created the National Recreation Area to preserve the natural and historic charms of the Water Gap. The sentinels of the Gap are Mount Tammany in New Jersey and Mount Minsi in Pennsylvania.

The Walks

The *Appalachian Trail* enters - or exits - Pennsylvania at this point. You can tag the summit of Mount Minsi with your dog on a loop that includes the AT and an old fire road. Most climbers head up on the steeper, twisting *Appalachian Trail* and come down on the wider, less severe fire road. There are plenty of rocks under paw on the mountain but nothing that your dog cannot negotiate. You will be stopping often to soak in the views across the Water Gap from exposed rocks on the cliffs (this is not a dangerous route for your dog, however).

Trail Sense: The *Appalachian Trail* is blazed and easy to follow, save for a spot where it climbs up to the right instead of continuing on the edge of the mountain; there is a maze of old unmarked logging roads at the top of the mountain that can be confusing.

Monroe

Phone Number

- (570) 588-2451

Website

- www.nps.gov/dewa

Admission Fee

- None

Hours

- Sunrise to sunset

Directions

- *East Stroudsburg*; exit from I-80 south on PA 611 and turn right on Mountain Road in .8 mile. Steer left onto Lake Road at the approaching fork and park on the right.

Bonus

The splendid views give out before you tag the actual summit. To get to the top of Mount Minsi continue another quarter-mile along the *Appalachian Trail* and take a little detour to the remains of an old fire tower. Look amidst the spruce trees for a marker in the rocks.



This canine hike to the top of Mount Minsi is a tough, rewarding climb.

Dog Friendliness

New Jersey is much more welcoming in the Delaware Water Gap NRA than Pennsylvania. Mount Minsi is open to dogs but they are not permitted at Smithfield Beach and Milford Beach, not allowed at Hidden Lake, can't visit Raymondskill Falls or Dingmans Falls and can't go to Childs Recreation Site (Childs Park). Dogs can use the *McDade Trail* from Labor Day to Memorial Day.

Traffic

There is usually a cadre of hikers on the trail.

Canine Swimming

Lake Lenape is ideally situated at the beginning of the hike making it a wonderful place for your dog to cool off after tagging the summit of Mount Minsi - very easy access to the water for your dog as well.

Trail Time

Allow three hours to go up and down Mount Minsi.

II

Woodbourne Forest & Wildlife Preserve

The Park

Henry Cope was a 19th century Philadelphia shipping merchant whose legacy is in fine summer homes that have survived as nature preserves. His summer retreat outside Philadelphia in East Germantown is today the Awbury Arboretum and in the late 1800s the family began to summer in Dimrock. Eventually some Copes family members, prominent Quakers, stayed on the farm year-round. Francis R. Cope, Jr. grew up at Woodbourne, as did his daughter, the nature writer Theodora Stanwell-Fletcher, later known familiarly as Teddy Gray. In 1956, Francis, an avid naturalist and early supporter of the conservation of wild lands, donated the 600 acres that is now Wood-

bourne Forest and Wildlife Preserve to The Nature Conservancy.

Susquehanna

Phone Number

- None

Website

- www.woodbourneforest.org/

Admission Fee

- None

Park Hours

- Sunrise to sunset; the park is closed during the two-week gun deer hunting season after Thanksgiving

Directions

- *Dimrock*; on Route 29, one mile north of the blinking light in town or five miles south of Montrose.

The Walks

Of the three hiking loops in the preserve the star is the shortest - the *Yellow "Swamp Loop" Trail*. From the Visitor Shelter the natural surface trail trips down a hill through open fields to the swamp's edge and an observation tower overlooking the ghost trees left standing in the water. After some squishy hiking along the swamp you will enter the dark old-growth forest. Your option is to finish the loop - your dog has less than a mile of trail time - or jump across a stream onto the orange-blazed *Woodruff Hill Trail*. From here you can stitch together a loop around the swamp with the blue-blazed *Copes Ramble Trail*. You will need the abundant blazes or to follow your dog's nose because these are not groomed trails - the routes are laid out as a path of least resistance through the woods that look just like the surrounding forest floor. But the trails

Bonus

Woodbourne Forest is noted for containing the largest remaining stand of virgin, unlogged forest in northeastern Pennsylvania. Some of the giants, mostly eastern hemlocks, around the 16-acre swamp are estimated to be between 200 and 400 years old.

Normally you'll find hemlocks - the state tree of Pennsylvania - in cool, damp ravines but here on the Allegheny Plateau at 1,600 feet it is cold enough for the trees to grow on level terrain.



Monster trees like this hemlock in the Woodbourne Forest may have been standing before the American Revolution.

are soft and paw-friendly to follow, the occasional rock or root notwithstanding. For a big day of canine hiking you can take the entire 4.5-mile *Cope's Ramble* but don't forget to detour onto the *Swamp Loop* as well. There is moderate hill-climbing as you make your way to the back of the property.

Trail Sense: A color copy of the park map is available at the trailhead and the routes are well-marked.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are allowed to enjoy these trails.

Traffic

Foot traffic only and not much of it.

Canine Swimming

None; this is a hiking-only outing for your dog.

Trail Time

More than one hour.

12

Lehigh Gorge State Park

The Park

In the early 1800s, the need to transport increasingly large quantities of coal to markets down the Lehigh River river led to construction of 20 dams and 29 locks over the 26 miles between Mauch Chunk (now Jim Thorpe) and White Haven. It was called the Upper Grand Section of the Lehigh Canal because the locks and dams were larger and far more impressive than the locks of other canals. At the turn of the 20th century, railroads popularized the southern end of the canal as a resort called Glen Onoko. Hotel Wahnetah boasted 47 rooms, a dance pavilion, tennis courts, fresh air and hikes to the scenic Glen Onoko Falls. A fire in 1911 closed the hotel and a fire in 1917 ended the resort era. The gorge lay forgotten. In the 1970s, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania began purchasing parklands and in 1980 the land was turned over to the Bureau of State Parks.

The Walks

The 26-mile *Lehigh Gorge Trail* is the prime attraction in the park but it is mostly for biking so canine hikers will want to cross under the railroad tracks and tackle the demanding *Glen Onoko Run Trail*. In about a mile the stream will tumble 900 feet over seven distinct waterfalls. Chamelon Falls, that drops 150 feet, is the highest and most colorful cataract. You will be moving almost straight up at times, hopping across the stream and picking your way to the top

Carbon

Phone Number
- (570) 443-0400

Website
- www.dcnr.state.pa.us/state-parks/parks/lehighgorge.aspx#history

Admission Fee
- None

Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Jim Thorpe*; Glen Onoko is the southern access area and may be reached by taking Exit 74 of the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Follow US 209 south to Jim Thorpe. Then take PA 903 north across the river to Coalport Road. Turn off of Coalport to Glen Onoko.

Bonus

When severe flooding in the mid-1800s destroyed the canal system, it was replaced with the new technology of railroads. Remains of locks, dams and towpath are still evident in the Lehigh River Gorge.

with your dog most likely in the lead. The return trip can be down a less arduous side route to complete a loop or back down the way you came.

Trail Sense: There is an information board but not many wayfinding aids - you will need to look hard for the trailhead and once you reach the top of the falls the blazes become ever scarcer.

Dog Friendliness

No one will begrudge your dog's willingness to make this climb.

Traffic

On nice days the parking lot near the trailhead fills quickly; the hike to the trailhead from the auxiliary lots is level and can be done on the grass beside the road.

Canine Swimming

Glen Onoko Run doesn't run very deep very often but the Lehigh River calms down enough at this point to offer some excellent canine swimming.

Trail Time

A trip to the top of the falls and back down will take 90 minutes to two hours, but allow a few minutes more for wrong turns.



There are seven waterfalls for your dog to admire on the Glen Onoko Run Trail.

13

Lackawanna State Forest

The Park

The Lackawanna State Forest, noted for its diverse recreational opportunities, contains a total of 8,115 acres of land in two separate tracts: the larger and more developed Thornhurst Tract (6,711 acres) and the wilder West Nanticoke Tract where formal hiking trails have not yet been developed.

The Walks

The 23-mile *Pinchot Trail System* knits rocky dirt-and-grass roads and paths into a large loop. The route was laid out by Frank Gantz, a retired truck driver in the 1970s. It offers everything from a scenic overlook of unbroken forests to the 87-acre Spruce Swamp Natural Area, noted for its glacial bog where native spruce, balsam fir, and tamarack are found. Labrador Tea and Bog Rosemary, not commonly found in Pennsylvania, also grow here. Surrounding the bog and acting as a buffer is a typical hardwood forest interspersed with hemlock and assorted pines.

You can do the entire orange-blazed trail across the Pocono Plateau in a day with your dog but if you aren't that ambitious a good sampler is the *Choke Creek Trail* in the southern swing of the system. The trails may be long in the forest but your dog won't find the hiking arduous here.

Trail Sense: The major trails are marked and signed and a trail map is available from the forest headquarters.

Lackawanna

Phone Number
- (570) 963-4561

Website
- www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/lackawanna.aspx

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Pleasant View Summit*; from I-80 take Exit 284 and head north on PA 115. After 5.5 miles look for River Road (SR 2040) on the right and turn. Turn left on Bear Pond Road (SR 2016) to the forest headquarters.

Bonus

The Nordic sport of orienteering was introduced to America at French Creek State Park in Berks County. An orienteering area, labeled 'Compass Course' on the park map, was developed here by Jim Howley, a local authority on search and rescue techniques.

Practitioners of the art of map and compass can challenge their dog's nose in a wayfinding contest at one of three tests: a pace course that will assist in determining distances; a half mile basic compass course, designed for beginners; and a two-mile intermediate compass course, for more experienced participants.



Dog Friendliness

Dogs are allowed throughout the Lackawanna State Forest.

Traffic

These trails are generally lightly traveled.

Canine Swimming

Bear Lake and its tiny neighbor Grassy Pond are the best places to take your dog for a swim in the state forest.

Trail Time

A full day is possible.

14

Mauch Chunk Lake Park

The Park

Coal excavated from the mines on Summit Hill here departed on an ingenious journey to the markets in Philadelphia beginning in 1828. Gravity took unpowered wooden coal cars down a switchbacking rail into the town of Mauch Chunk (now Jim Thorpe). Barges in the Lehigh River then floated the coal through a series of brilliantly engineered locks and canals. Meanwhile, mules hauled the empty cars back up the mountain on a parallel track for the next load.

Steam power eventually replaced the mules but the gravity railroad lasted until 1933 - its final years spent as one of America's first rollercoasters and a popular tourist destination for thrill seekers.

The lake and 2,500-acre park were completed in 1972 to control floods and as a recreational facility and public drinking supply for Jim Thorpe.

The Walks

The marquee trail in the park is the *Switchback Trail* that has been developed as a corridor to the recreation facilities of the valley and the town of Jim Thorpe. The down track follows the gentle 2% grade while the back track is a heartier canine hike. The trail, that crosses itself to create an elongated figure-eight configuration, climbs to Mt. Pisgah and numerous views of the Lehigh River gorge. The full up-and-down canine hike will cover about 11 miles.

Carbon

Phone Number
- (570) 325-3669

Website
- www.carboncounty.com/park/index.htm

Admission Fee
- Yes, daily rate or seasonal

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Jim Thorpe*; from the Pennsylvania Turnpike take the Lehigh Valley exit and go south on PA 209 thru Lehighinton into Jim Thorpe. Make a left at first stoplight in Jim Thorpe and head uphill through town for 4 miles. The park entrance is on left.

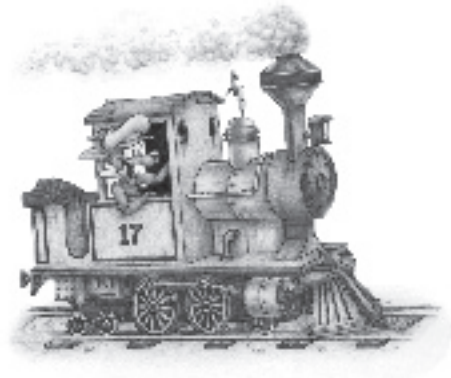
Bonus

If you take the *Switchback Trail* into the town of Jim Thorpe walk your dog past the Asa Packer Mansion, a grand Italianate Villa that was the home of philanthropist, railroad magnate, and founder of Lehigh University, Asa Packer. It is easily identified by its red-ribbed tin roof and central cupola.

Designed in 1861 by architect Samuel Sloan of Philadelphia, the home was built over a cast iron frame at the cost of \$14,000 dollars (the equivalent of \$2.3 million dollars today) and renovated twenty years later with another \$85,000. The most amazing story about this National Historic Landmark is that the mansion was boarded up from 1912 until 1956 and it was never vandalized and nothing was ever stolen from the house.

For dogs not ready to bite off this ambitious hike, the *Shoreline Trail* stays in the park and slips between mixed hardwoods and open shoreline around the lake. The full circuit covers six miles, almost all of it across easy, level terrain. You can also explore the Fireline Trail, a 3.5-mile shale roadway that runs along the top of the Mauch Chunk Ridge through a predominately oak forest. Again, this is an easy ramble for your dog.

Trail Sense: Maps are available and routes are marked.



Dog Friendliness

Dogs can use the trails but can't go in the beach or swimming areas or stay overnight in the campground.

Traffic

The *Switchback Trail* is popular with mountain bikers; crowds around Mauch Chunk Lake thin out on the opposite shores.

Canine Swimming

Plenty of good swimming in Mauch Chunk Lake.

Trail Time

Many hours possible here.

15

Mt. Pisgah State Park

The Park

The land that became Mt. Pisgah State Park was first cleared for farmland in the early 1800s. Later a resort hotel with a 27-meter observation tower was built on this isolated hill. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania obtained the land in 1969 with funds from Project 70, a state bond issue. Facilities were developed through Project 500, another state bond issue, and a grant from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Stephen Foster Dam, named for the beloved composer who spent time in school in nearby Towanda, was completed in 1977. Mt Pisgah State Park was dedicated in 1979.

Bradford

Phone Number
- (570) 297-2734

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

Admission Fee
- None

Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Troy*; on Wallace Road (SR 3019), two miles north of US 6.

The Walks

Mt. Pisgah State Park features some ten miles of trails from an easy leg stretcher like the 2-mile circumnavigation of Stephen Foster Lake on the *Oh! Susanna Trail* to rugged hill-climbing. Intrepid canine hikers will want to tag the Mt. Pisgah summit on the linear *Ridge Trail* that climbs over 800 feet but takes a mile to do it. There are plenty of open air views and some of the best meadow-hiking in the northeast mountains amid the second-growth forest on the journey.

Grab a park map before setting out on the other trails since not many loop in this park. Additional trails visit the adjacent State Game Lands #259 for long, solitary hikes with your dog.

Trail Sense: A park brochure/map and marked trails make it easy to find your way around Mt. Pisgah.

Bonus

Look for stone walls that are remnants of the farmland cleared by New England immigrants to the area. Stone walls were used to mark property lines and constrain farm animals. Often stone walls were a logical way to dispose of "Pocono Potatoes" that needed to be pulled from the ground to create cropland but many were not erected without great planning and care - often a farmer's wall had to be inspected by local authorities after it was constructed.

If it passed scrutiny a farmer could not be held responsible for damage to his crops by neighboring animals. Other walls were built from the stumps of hardwoods pulled from the ground and these still stand in the park as well.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are not permitted on park trails.

Traffic

Most of these trails are lightly used.

Canine Swimming

The 75-acre Stephen Foster Lake offers grassy banks and easy access to the water for super dog paddling.

Trail Time

Anything from short hikes near the lake to a full day.



Big Pocono State Park

The Park

Big Pocono State Park is part of a large land tract once owned by Henry S. Cattell near the turn of the 20th century. In 1928, 12 years after Mr. Cattell's death, the Pennsylvania Game Commission purchased the entire area. The Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry had previously erected the Big Pocono Fire Tower on the mountain in 1921; the tower, staffed during the spring and fall seasons, has been dedicated by the National Fire Tower Association as a historical structure.

In 1950, a portion of the state land on the steep north slope of the mountain was leased to Big Pocono Skiing, Inc., for commercial ski development. Later named Camelback Ski Corporation, the facility has been developed into a major ski resort. In 1954, after the construction of restrooms, parking areas, picnic sites, fireplaces and a scenic drive around the summit, the area was opened to the public as Big Pocono State Park.

The Walks

You have a choice of three wooded loops atop Camelback Mountain to hike with your dog. The toughest is to drop down the mountainside on the wide, rocky *North Trail* (red blazes) and climb back up on the more reasonably graded *South Trail* (yellow blazes). The entire loop will cover about three miles and 90 minutes with only a few level footfalls the entire way. The *South Trail* can also

Monroe

Phone Number
- None

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

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset; the park is closed from just after deer-hunting season in mid-December until mid-March.

Directions
- *Tannersville*; the entrance to the park is from PA 715 and Exit 299 of I-80 at Tannersville. Turn left into the Camelback Ski Area and follow the road to the top of the mountain. The trailhead is off the Rim Road to the right; summit views are straight ahead.

Bonus

Henry Cattell constructed a stone cabin on the summit of Camelback Mountain in 1908 and, knowing that many others shared his love for the area, left it unlocked for many years to be used as a shelter by anyone who wished. The Cattell Cabin served for many years as a park office and nature museum.



There are long views across the Poconos available for your dog all around the top of Camelback Mountain.

be hiked completely around the summit using the paved entrance road to close the loop. Inside the *North-South Loop* is the 1.3-mile *Indian Trail* loop that also drops off the summit but not as severely. These are rocky fire roads on the mountain slopes.

Trail Sense: Park brochures can be found if the kiosks in the parking lot are filled; finding the trailhead may be your biggest navigation challenge - it is at the far end of Lot #4.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are welcome to cruise around the summit of Camelback Mountain.

Traffic

You will be sharing the trails with horses and mountain bikes.

Canine Swimming

None; this is a hiking-only outing for your dog.

Trail Time

Between two and three hours.

17

Beltzville State Park

The Park

The 2,972-acre Beltzville State Park is developed around the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control project, Beltzville Dam. Beltzville Lake is 949 acres with a shoreline of 19.8 miles. The park is along the Pohopoco Creek with recreation areas around the lake. The park officially opened in 1972.

The Walks

There are four areas to get your dog on the trail at Beltzville. For longer outings head for the south shore and Preachers Camp where long linear trails leave from both sides. Behind the dam on the west end are two short, stacked loops and there are short trails in the recreation area. But the prime spot to experience Beltzville is from the lot at the Wildcreek Trailhead. The trail pushes out on a wide woods road before fracturing into three segments. The comely *Falls Trail* drops off to the left and then you can continue onto the two-mile *Cove Ridge Trail* loop. If your dog hasn't gotten enough of the mature hemlocks and mixed hardwoods you can tie into the *Christman Trail* and finish a complete two-hour tour of the peninsula around Wild Creek Cove. These natural surface trails roll on hills for a sporty outing with swimming in the lake never far away.

Trail Sense: The trails are blazed in different colors and a park brochure with color map is available; information boards are at trailheads and boat ramps.

Carbon

Phone Number
- (610) 377-0045

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

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Leighton*; five miles east, just off of US 209. From the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, take Exit 74 and follow the signs to the park.

Bonus

At the suggestion of local residents, the original covered bridge, built across Pohopoco Creek in 1841 by local craftsman Jacob Buck, has been relocated between the picnic areas and the beach for public use and enjoyment. This bridge was first used by horse and buggy traffic and later by one-lane car traffic. It is now for pedestrian use only.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are allowed on the trails but steer clear of the recreation area in season.

Traffic

Most people think of Beltzville for the boating opportunities on the lake and in the recreation area which leaves loads of room to stretch out on the trails.

Canine Swimming

Plenty of opportunity to get your dog in Beltzville Lake from the trail or boat ramps.

Trail Time

About one hour per area trail system.



Your dog will be happy to use this bridge to cross Wild Creek rather than wade through the frisky waters.

Promised Land State Park

The Park

There is a long tradition of irony in geographical place names - Greenland, for instance, is mostly ice. Promised Land was named by the Shakers, a religious sect who purchased land here in hopes of founding a Utopian agricultural community and found instead nothing but unplowable rocky soil. They quickly left. Early settlers of the area erected sawmills to process the large stands of conifer and hardwood trees. The land was repeatedly clear-cut until the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania purchased the land in 1902. Promised Land then became the fourth Pennsylvania state park, opening to the public in 1905. The Commonwealth worked to protect and reclaim the area and the forest and wildlife began to return.

Not much happened in the park until the Depression of the 1930s when Civilian Conservation Corps camps were established to reforest the land, carve roads and construct campgrounds. Today there are four campgrounds with 500 sites and it is a busy place in season.

The Walks

Several short trails are available in the park including a unique one-mile *Conservation Island Trail* on an island in Promised Land Lake and the *Little Falls Trail* that skips past several waterfalls on the East Branch of Wallenpaupack Creek. For extended time on the trail with your dog, jump on the *Boundary Trail* for a trip around Promised Land Lake, although the lake isn't a standout feature of this hike. This excursion will lead you through luxuriant stands of

Pike

Phone Number
- (570) 676-3428

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

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Greentown*; 10 miles north of Canadensis, along PA 390. The park office is about five miles south of I-84, Exit 26.

Bonus

On Sunday evening, May 31, 1998, an F-2 tornado (winds of 113 -157 mph) passed through Promised Land State Park. It cut a northeasterly path through the park and crossed Lower Lake Road, PA 390 and North Shore Road near Sucker Brook. Over 500 people were trapped overnight in the park, but no one was seriously hurt. The park office has copies of *After the Wind Died Down*, a booklet about the tornado and its aftermath.



This jumble of stones in the middle of Conservation Island brings a bit of elevation to an otherwise flat trot for your dog in Promised Land Lake.

rhododendrons and past wooded swamps along gently rolling terrain. If you are staying in the campground you could fill up a weekend hiking with your dog on the surrounding Delaware State Forest trails that connect to the park trails.

Trail Sense: A reliable trail map is available and trail junctions are marked with Pennsylvania DCNR Trail Signing System posts.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are allowed on the trail and in designated sites in the campground.

Traffic

Most trails are multi-use, especially if you venture into the state forest.

Canine Swimming

Come for the hiking, stay for the swimming in the lakes.

Trail Time

Up to a full day or more.

19

Gouldsboro State Park

The Park

The name Gouldsboro comes from the village north of the park that was named for Jay Gould (1836-1892). A native of New York, Gould acquired a very large fortune that eventually included ownership of ten percent of all railroad track in the country. One of the railroads he owned was the Erie-Lackawanna. This rail line parallels the eastern boundary of the park and is now a part of the Steamtown, USA railroad excursion route between Scranton and Pocono Summit.

Gould was also a co-owner of a leather tannery at Thornhurst, a small village 9.5 miles west of Gouldsboro. Raw hides shipped from Australia and the western United States came to Gouldsboro by railroad and then were taken in two-ton loads by horse drawn wagons over a plank road to Thornhurst for tanning.

Gouldsboro State Park, a triangular swath of land penetrated essentially by only one trail, contains 2,800 acres, including the 250-acre Gouldsboro Lake.

The Walks

Canine hiking in Gouldsboro State Park is conducted on the *Prospect Rock Trail*, a large loop that features long, level stretches save for a topsy-turvy area around the namesake rock formation and a steady climb up the *Old Route 611 Trail*. The 5.8-mile trip is about evenly divided by trotting on woods paths and wide, old roads. The old concrete highway travels through the wide open

Wayne/Monroe

Phone Number
- None

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

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Gouldsboro*; the park entrance is one-half mile south of the village on PA 507. PA 507 intersects with I-380 at Exit 13, two miles south of the park entrance, and with I-84, 13 miles north of the park entrance.

Bonus

You get to hike with your dog for more than one mile on the cracked concrete of the original Route 611 that was once the main thoroughfare to Philadelphia in a less congested time.



Your dog doesn't get the opportunity to hike on a historic American roadway too often.

Kistler Swamp. There are a few tough patches and the full circuit will provide a hearty canine hike. For additional hiking with your dog the *Frank Gantz Trail* travels four-plus demanding miles to the recreation area at neighboring Tobyhanna State Park.

Trail Sense: The route is well-marked with blazes and signs at the key trail junctions.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are allowed throughout the park.

Traffic

Bikes are allowed on the *Old 611 Trail* but can't make it across the *Prospect Rock Trail*.

Canine Swimming

The trail doesn't touch Gouldsboro Lake but the water isn't far away from any of the parking areas.

Trail Time

It will take about two hours to complete the main park loop; allow another three hours for the out-and-back trip on the linear *Frank Gantz Trail*.

20

Lackawanna State Park

The Park

In 1898 several area farmers organized the Maitland Fair and Driving Park Association. Annual fairs and horseraces attracted large crowds for a dozen years. The site of the former racecourse is located in the park camping area on the *Woodland Ponds Trail*.

The price of water indirectly led to the creation of Lackawanna State Park on this former swath of farmland. In 1912, the D.L. & W. Railroad felt that they were being overcharged for water and began purchasing land to build their own reservoir. The Scranton Gas and Water Company lowered their price and the lake was never built. The land was leased to farmers until 1946 when Robert Moffat, a prominent Scranton coal operator, purchased the land and rented it to his employees. In

1968, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania purchased the land and developed it into an outstanding recreation area whose primary attraction is Lackawanna Lake, the meeting place of many streams (Lackawanna is an American Indian word meaning “the meeting of two streams”). The park was dedicated on June 10, 1972.

The Walks

Over five miles of trails fold back on one another, mostly on the east side of the lake. Much of the second-growth forest in the 1,411-acre park was planted in rows of pine and hemlock trees. You can even cobble together a route to circle the lake cutting through the recreation area and using some short walks

Lackawanna

Phone Number
- (570) 945-3239

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

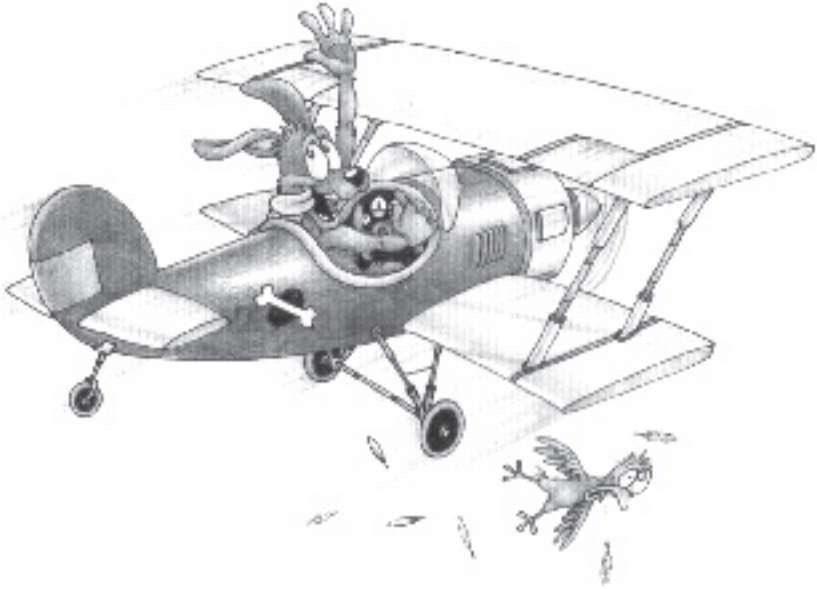
Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Dalton*; from I-81 north of Scranton take Exit 199 and travel three miles west on PA 524. Visitors coming via US 6 and US 11 should take PA 438 east about three miles to PA 407, then south to the entrance on the right.

Bonus

At Parking Lot #4, the last one around the lake is an official hot air balloon launching site. If you are hiking with your dog in the early morning or in the evening you may happen upon an inflation and launch of one of these multi-hued airships.



on paved roads. There is a pleasing mix of open air and wooded trails in the park. Expect a fair share of moderate climbing for your dog and many easy stretches as well.

When the crowds thin out in the off-season, many dog walkers like to use the paved paths and lightly traveled park entrance road for an easy canine hike. Poop bags are provided for these visits.

Trail Sense: A park map is available and the trails are well-signed and marked.

Dog Friendliness

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

Traffic

Most of the trails way from the recreation area are multi-use.

Canine Swimming

Lackawanna Lake and farm ponds will suit the bill.

Trail Time

Lackawanna State Park offers the opportunity for quick, leg-stretching hikes with your dog and longer hours-long canine hikes.

Shuman Point Natural Area

The Park

Lake Wallenpaupack was created in 1926 by the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company as a source for hydro-electric power. The valley was flooded and the lake filled in for 13 miles to a depth of 60 feet. Lake Wallenpaupack is the largest impoundment of water anywhere in the Poconos - but it now serves as a rarely used auxiliary power source.

Few residents mourned the loss of hardscrabble farms and small settlements like Wilsonville Village as they flocked to new shorelines created by Lake Wallenpaupack. Shuman Point, a 250-acre peninsular knob, is one of the last remaining undeveloped areas around the lake.

The Walks

This is a single-trail park - a 3-mile loop through the hardwoods that hug the shoreline for almost constant water views between the trees. The only real exertion comes immediately if you start the loop to your right as you climb about 200 feet to the high point in the middle of the peninsula. The path is rocky along this climb and the toughest under paw on the circuit. Also be prepared for soggy trails from water seeps before reaching the lakeshore.

The trail eventually drops down to the waterline where your dog will enjoy long, albeit rocky, stretches of access to some of the best swimming in the Poconos. After you climb easily away from the water you reach Shuman Point, accented with rows of old stone walls. You'll finish the loop on the wide remains of an old woods road that was once the main drag to Wilsonville Village.

Wayne

Phone Number
- None

Website
- [www.pplweb.com/
lake+wallenpaupack/
things+to+do/
shuman+pt+natural.htm](http://www.pplweb.com/lake+wallenpaupack/things+to+do/shuman+pt+natural.htm)

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Hawley*; from Route 6 turn west on Route 590 one mile east of town. The parking area is two miles down on the left.

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. By 1950 millions of acres of woodlands were left with dead, standing trees. The chestnut blight remains 100% fatal - young chestnuts may reach 20 or 30 feet but are doomed to succumb to the disease. At Shuman Point look for sprouts of American chestnuts growing in old stumps.



The Lake Wallenpaupack shore is rocky but easy for your dog to get in the water.

Trail Sense: You'll find an information board at either end of the parking lot and hopefully a printed brochure with a trail map. If not, there are enough blue blazes on the trail to keep you on track.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are welcome at Shuman Point.

Traffic

No trail bikes or ATVs and no snowmobiles in the winter.

Canine Swimming

Bring your dog's swimming trunks for this hike.

Trail Time

Between an hour and 90 minutes.

Tobyhanna State Park

The Park

The 5,440-acre park includes the 170-acre Tobyhanna Lake. Tobyhanna is derived from an American Indian word meaning “a stream whose banks are fringed with alder.”

The lake supported a vibrant ice industry in the early 1900s when winter ice was cut from the water in huge chunks and stored under straw in nearby barns. Come summer as many as 150 boxcar loads of ice per day were shipped to locations as far away as Florida.

In 1912, the federal government acquired land that would become the Tobyhanna Military Reservation that was used to train tank and ambulance corps during World War I. After the war, the property was used for artillery training. After World War II, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania gained control of 26,000 acres of the military reservation, including the part that became the park. Tobyhanna opened to the public in 1949.

The Walks

The bulk of your canine hiking in the park will be on the *Lakeside Trail* that circles easily around Tobyhanna Lake for 5.1 miles on a hard-packed path. The route only touches on the water on the east side of the shore but there are other water views including the Black Bear Swamp and Pole Bridge Run. This is a low-key exploration but if your dog demands more you can fill a day by heading down one of two linear connecting trails of about three miles each

Monroe

Phone Number
- (570) 894-8336

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

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Tobyhanna*; the park entrance is 2.1 miles north of the community of Tobyhanna on PA 423. PA 423 intersects with I-380, 2.5 miles south of the park entrance. The park can also be reached from Interstate 84 via PA 507, PA 191 and PA 423, a total distance of 11.4 miles.

Bonus

Much of the park is the result of glaciation that scoured much of the soil from the ground, leaving an abundance of sphagnum moss bogs characterized by thin, moist, nutrient-poor soil. For sustenance plants turn to insects and several carnivorous plants can be found here, including pitcher plants and the yellow bladderwort. In the underwater portion of the plant growing in bogs and Tobyhanna Lake, the bladderwort traps tiny aquatic animals in small sacks.



It

is

- the red-blazed *Frank Gantz Trail* that leads to Gouldsboro State Park or the *Yellow Trail* that crosses swampland to the park boundary at Route 196. Both are invigorating treks that call for a good amount of rock-hopping.

Trail Sense: The obvious path is well-marked and signed; a park brochure/map is also available.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are allowed throughout the park except in swimming areas during the summer and are allowed in designated sites in the campground.

Traffic

The *Lakeside Trail* is inviting to road bikes, rollerbladers and strollers and in the winter, snowmobiles and cross-country skiers.

Canine Swimming

Tobyhanna Lake is a dog-paddler's paradise.

Trail Time

Allow two to three hours to complete the circuit around the lake but you can extend your dog's hiking to a full, hearty day by including the Black Bear & Bender Swamp Natural Area.

23

Seven Tubs Nature Area

The Park

The Seven Tubs Nature Area is a 500-acre slice of wetlands and woods whose prime lure is a series of large potholes gouged out of underlying bedrock by Wheelbarrow Run in Whirlpool Canyon. The potholes were a magnet for local nature enthusiasts and others looking for a cool dip in a pothole on a hot day for generations. But the area was abused by litterers and graffiti artists. In 1980 the county began a clean-up of the area and the site was formally dedicated as a Nature Area by Luzerne County in July of 1992.



Luzerne

Phone Number
- (570) 477-5467

Website
- www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/pennsylvania/preserves/art813.html

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Wilkes Barre*; four miles southeast of downtown on Route 115. The entrance is about 1.5 miles southeast of the I-81 interchange.

Bonus

The tubs, of course. The largest is about 30 feet wide. The water in the potholes appears to be deep but the real depth is still unknown because their bottoms are obscured by a layer of gravelly sediment.

The Walks

Two stacked loop trails explore these unique limestone stylings of Wheelbarrow Run. The short *Tubs Trail* drops into the ravine but your dog will do most of her leg stretching on the blue-blazed *Laurel Run Trail* that hugs the quick flowing stream for almost a mile.

Trail Sense: The trails are blazed and a map can be found as well.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are allowed in the park.

Traffic

Plenty of traffic of all sorts around the tubs but less competition for the trails deeper in the park.

Canine Swimming

The streams do not support real canine swimming and any swimming in the potholes is prohibited.

Trail Time

More than half one hour.



Wilkes-Barre Riverfront Parks

The Park

The City of Wilkes-Barre owns and maintains 91 acres of open space and floodplain forest along the Susquehanna River in Wilkes-Barre, Kingston and Edwardsville. Initially set aside in 1773, these riverside parks provide exceptional access to the river and to the natural areas in the flood plain. The original Kirby Park (designed in 1921 by the Olmsted Brothers architecture firm) on the west bank of the river was bisected into two pieces by the 1936 levee project, creating, on one side, an urban recreational park and on the river side, the Kirby Park Natural Area. This park contains 65 acres of riparian forest exposing visitors to a wealth of animal, bird and plant life. Nesbitt Park, north of the Market Street Bridge, also offers access to the river.

Luzerne

Phone Number
- None

Website
- None

Admission Fee
- None

Hours
- Sunrise to sunset; the levee trail is lighted

Directions
- *Wilkes Barre/Kingston*;
Market Street, on either side
of the Susquehanna River.

The Walks

The Kirby Park Natural Area, resplendent with large silver maples and cottonwoods growing in the silt and sandy soil from the overflowing river, serves up a network of five marked trails. The space between the levee and the river around Nesbitt Park offers mountain bikers up to eight miles of secluded trails. Dog owners can join the joggers and strollers enjoying the wide, lighted path atop the elevated dike that has only been breached once - in 1972 during Tropical Storm Agnes. These long, level canine hikes take place across asphalt, crushed gravel, soft dirt and grass.

Trail Sense: There are kiosks scattered around the connected parks that indicate where you can hike with your dog.

Bonus

The trail system is composed of four levees that have been engineered to contain the river. A series of walks and rambles have been laid out to emphasize the city's heritage: as a meeting place for early settlers, as an anthracite coal center and so on. Kiosks stationed around the park explain how the levees work and also display pictures of the region under extreme flood conditions.



The trail atop the levee in Kirby Park is a favorite of canine hikers.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are allowed on these urban trails.

Traffic

Bikes, joggers, strollers, rollerbladers, dog walkers all use these paths.

Canine Swimming

There is limited access to the "Muddy River," as the Susquehanna River translates into.

Trail Time

A short walk of several hours possible.

Florence Shelly Preserve

The Park

The outstanding feature here is a glacial pond surrounded by a floating bog, remnants of the last Ice Age, about 12,000 years ago. The preserve, that combined with the adjacent Thompson Wetlands comprises 370 acres, is named for Florence Shelly, who helped identify and protect this biologically diverse habitat. The Shelly family donated the land in the 1980s and later the nearby Plew's Swamp was added to the preserve.

The Walks

In the small dirt parking lot look for a tiny wooden "Trail" sign at the end of the lot to start your dog's adventure here. The narrow path leads down to a mapboard that will orient you to the preserve.

A trio of independent footpaths fan out across the property but first you need to hike with your dog down an old farm road that is likely to be mushy, gutted by a rivulet of water. Most of your canine hiking will be on paw-friendly mown grass and soft dirt pathways. In addition to the signature wetlands you will wander through spruce and scotch pine and hemlock plantations that are continuing to mature. The green-blazed *Nature Trail* and blue-blazed *Weir's Pond* trail both loop back to the main stem trail but the trip to the edge of Piew's Swamp is an out-and-back affair. There is just enough elevation change in Florence Shelly Preserve to hold your dog's interest.

Trail Sense: Come with a mind to explore - the paths are not marked but a trail map is posted at the trailhead.

Susquehanna

Phone Number
- None

Website
- www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/pennsylvania/preserves/art827.html

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Thompson*; one mile north of the village on PA 171. Take PA 171 north from Route 6 or south from I-81.

Bonus

Off nearby Ireland Road you can take a short trail with your dog to a two-story wooden observation deck overlooking the reedy Piew's Swamp. Be still and you may happen to hear the screech of a horned owl or see a mink scamper across the fen.



The Florence Shelly Preserve is dotted with tree plantations like this one.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are allowed on the preserve trails.

Traffic

Foot traffic only.

Canine Swimming

Concentrate on the hiking at Florence Shelly Preserve.

Trail Time

More than one hour to explore all the trails in the preserve.

Ledgesdale Natural Area

The Park

When the plan to dam the Wallenpaupack River for hydroelectric power was hatched the Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey Power Company did not have the power of eminent domain, and had to bargain for every inch of the land needed to flood the basin. It was necessary to acquire 15,000 acres of land in order to flood 5,700 acres by the Wallenpaupack dam. Farmers along the river had long tired of the rocky, money-draining soil and it only took about \$250,000 to assemble the land in 1913, seven years before the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company was formed. The Guaranty Trusts Company loaned the Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey Power Company \$25,000,000, secured in part by the land, for clearing the basin and constructing the dam and power plant. Work began in 1924 and Lake Wallenpaupack was full and operating by spring of 1926.

Pike

Phone Number
- None

Website
- [www.pplweb.com/
lake+wallenpaupack/
things+to+do/
ledgedale+natural.htm](http://www.pplweb.com/lake+wallenpaupack/things+to+do/ledgedale+natural.htm)

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- Ledgesdale; from I-84 take Exit 20 and head north on PA 507. After a half-mile make a left on Ledgesdale Road and follow for 1.5 miles. Turn left at the sign onto Kuhn Road; parking is up the hill on the left.

The Walks

A series of intersecting trails dissect this tree-covered 100-acre tract that is a good place to bring your dog for a leg stretcher when visiting the heavily developed south shore of Lake Wallenpaupack. Your dog will be trotting along old logging roads that hauled timber down this hillside in the late 1800s to provide tannins for a leather tannery. After a short introductory walk into the woods the trail divides and once you dispose of the initial climb you will settle into an easy ramble under a variety of hardwoods, rhododendron forests

Bonus

Bringing bright green color to the trail are patches of running pine, or ground pine. Over-collected in the past for Christmas decorations the lively ground cover is now an endangered plant in some areas.



Large boulders left behind from retreating glaciers are highlights of the trail system at Ledgesdale Natural Area.

and 80-year old hemlocks. So many downed trees litter the forest floor that it feels like you are hiking through a tree junkyard.

Trail Sense: There is a map /pamphlet at the trailhead and the different trail segments are unenthusiastically blazed in different colors so don't be surprised if you take a misstep.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are allowed on the Ledgesdale Natural Area trails but not in the adjacent Ledgesdale Recreation Area.

Traffic

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

Canine Swimming

A little splashing in the stream as it trickles down to Lake Wallenpaupack.

Trail Time

About one hour.

Grey Towers

National Historic Site

The Park

The Pinchot family arrived in Milford in 1816 and opened a mercantile operation, The French Store. In 1850 by the time 19-year old James was ready to enter the family business there was no room so he trundled off to New York City and made a fortune in the wallpaper trade. He retired after 25 years and by 1886 he had built the French-influenced Grey Towers in his hometown.

At the time his son Gifford was 21 and instilled with a love of nature. When his friend Theodore Roosevelt became President in 1900, Gifford Pinchot was named the first Chief Forester of the United States Forest Service. During his tenure, national forests tripled in size to 193 million acres. Later, Pinchot became one of Pennsylvania's most popular and progressive governors, wiping out a \$30 million budget deficit and paving rural roads to "get the farmer out of the mud." The Pinchots donated Grey Towers to the American public in 1963.

The Walks

A collection of short trails designed to educate and experience nature surround the Grey Towers mansion. The *Trail of Time* snakes down a hillside to learn about the Pinchot land, lives and legacy. The *Forestry Trail* travels on well-groomed loop through the woods behind the house for almost one mile and the *Bluebird Trail* is a walk along the deer fence around the perimeter of

Pike

Phone Number
- (570) 296-9630

Website
- www.fs.fed.us/na/gt/local-links/directions.shtml

Admission Fee
- None for the grounds

Park Hours
- The grounds are open sunrise to sunset for pedestrians; the gates open to vehicles at 9:00

Directions
- *Milford*; take I-84 to Exit 46. Turn left off ramp onto Highway 6 East toward Milford. At the base of the hill, make a sharp right just after the Apple Valley shops complex. The entrance to Grey Towers is about 1/4 mile on the left.

Bonus

The Grey Towers mansion is open for tours; be sure to visit the historic gardens that include the Fingerbowl, the Pinchots' unique outdoor dining table.



The grassy Tree Trail is a spacious tree museum that flows down the slopes of the front lawn of Grey Towers.

Some of the most fun for your dog will be on the free-form *Tree Trail* where you are invited to “wander, walk, saunter, run, skip or hop” through the field along the estate driveway and learn about some of the trees of Grey Towers. Tree ID signs reveal the names and most popular uses of these trees. One oak tree in the yard is over 150 years old and 18 feet in diameter.

Trail Sense: A park brochure is available and there are detailed information boards near the parking lots.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are welcome on the trails but not in the mansion.

Traffic

Foot traffic only.

Canine Swimming

None.

Trail Time

About one hour.

Bushkill Falls

The Park

In 1904 Charles Peters, then 22 years old, had a plan to turn the waterfalls on his family's property into a tourist attraction. It took some fancy talking but he finally persuaded his parents to agree to allow the public onto their land. Peters charged a dime to walk along a single path to a swinging bridge across the top of the main 100-foot falls. To attract customers he hung a sign calling the falls "the Niagara of Pennsylvania." His parents were certain the scheme would be short-lived but over the next ten years more than 30,000 tourists came to enjoy the natural splendor of the falls.

A century later the property is still owned by the Peters family and for many Bushkill Falls has become synonymous with the Poconos.

The Walks

If you are in the mood for a communal hike with your dog, come enjoy the powerful beauty of Bushkill Falls - actually eight waterfalls that drop as Little Bushkill Creek and Pond Run Creek race through rocky walls toward a confluence at Big Bushkill Creek. There are three main trails leading to the streams with the *Bridal Veil Falls Trail* visiting all eight hydrospectaculars in the course of two miles. The paths are well-groomed and feature an occasional boardwalk to smooth the way over sometimes challenging ground.

Trail Sense: The paths are well-marked and a detailed trail guide is available for sale.

Pike

Phone Number
- (570) 588-6682

Website
- www.visitbushkillfalls.com

Admission Fee
- Yes, per person daily rate

Park Hours
- Open April through October

Directions
- *Bushkill*; on Route 209 between I-80 to the south and I-84 to the north.

Bonus

This isn't your normal canine hiking outing with your dog so if you come you may as well switch into your tourist mode and visit the Fudge Kitchen and enjoy a funnel cake, pan for gemstones and drop a fishing line in Paddlewheel Pond.



Dog Friendliness

Leashed dogs are welcome at Bushkill Falls.

Traffic

The crowds do thin out as you move to visit some of the outlying waterfalls.

Canine Swimming

None.

Trail Time

The hike to visit all the park waterfalls will take at least one hour.

29

Lacawac Sanctuary

The Park

This property has, at one time or another, been in the hands of many of the region's most powerful landowners, beginning with William Penn, whose family called its holding here Wallenpaupack Manor. The next owner was James Wilson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, who, at his death in 1799, was the largest landowner in Wayne County. Then in 1849 came Burton G. Morss, whose sawmill and tannery dominated the area. At the turn of the century, coal baron William Connell bought the Lacawac property as a summer estate and a deer farm (at that time you actually had to import and breed deer in eastern Pennsylvania). When he died the property was acquired by Colonel Louis A. Watres, Scranton's leading businessman. His grandchildren sought to establish Lacawac as place of study and nature and formed the Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation in 1966.

Wayne

Phone Number
- (570) 689-9494

Website
- www.lacawac.org/

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Lake Ariel*; take the Lake Wallenpaupack Exit (20) and follow Route 507 north for half a mile. Turn left onto Ledgesdale Road. Follow to stop sign, then turn right (toward Hawley). Go one mile and turn right onto St Mary Church Road. Go 0.2 miles and turn right onto Lacawac Road. After about half a mile turn right at the Lacawac Sanctuary/Sanctuary Road sign onto a dirt road. Follow this to the main entrance marked by a stone gate. Parking for the nature trail is ahead on the right.

The Walks

The sanctuary covers more than 500 acres and features a mature second-growth forest, a glacial lake, two ponds, several wetlands, and over one mile of shoreline on Lake Wallenpaupack. For the canine hiker the most important will be the woods, last lumbered in 1920. The *Maurice Broun Nature Trail* begins in an open field where nature is reclaiming an old apple orchard. After a short

Bonus

If you spend any time in the woods in the spring, you are likely to encounter folks with a hiking stick and a mesh bag. These are morel mushroom hunters - passionate seekers of the storied fungus that sprouts in moist, dank woodlands. A prime spot for morel hunters are abandoned apple orchards like the one in Lacawac. Look near the trunks in late May.



Lacawac is speckled with soft rocks like this 200-ton boulder where water has dissolved enough stone to allow trees to grow on top.

time the path drops down the hillside and begins a mile-long loop above Lake Wallenpaupack and meanders among weathered rock formations. The rock ledges above the lake that give out views of the water when the leaves are down inspired early settlers to give the town of Ledgesdale its name.

Trail Sense: A descriptive trail map is available and the route is well-marked with large blue plastic diamonds.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are permitted on the nature trail.

Traffic

Foot traffic only.

Canine Swimming

None.

Trail Time

About one hour.

30

Tuscarora State Park/ Locust Lake State Park

The Park

The thick hemlock and chestnut forests that supported American Indians for centuries were sacrificed to loggers to feed local tanneries in the 1800s. The forests were gone by the early 1900s, replaced by shrubby land prone to seasonal floods and forest fires. The denuded land was purchased by the Marshalonis Brothers as a fishing spot and picnic grove. When digging a lake, the brothers found a dam, boards and the hub of a waterwheel under seven feet of leaves, silt and debris. The remains of an old logging mill and dam were under silt from flooding and runoff caused by the removal of all the trees during the logging era. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania purchased the Marshalonis Brothers' land in 1966. Locust Lake State Park, that is mostly a camping park, officially opened on June 10, 1972. Tuscarora Park is more for day use activities.

The Walks

The canine hiking at Tuscarora takes place on wide, old logging roads that move easily through the hillsides. A handful of designated paths in the regenerated hardwood forest are topped by the double-loop *Log Trail*; other short trails tour the developed picnic area on the wide, open shore of Tuscarora Lake. The longest park trail, the *Crow*, is a linear route connecting the lake and the park boundary. Canine hiking at Locust is for campers only until the off-season and much sportier on footpaths. This is not level terrain but the slopes are managed on long, gradual climbs.

Schuylkill

Phone Number
- (570) 467-2404

Website
- <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateParks/parks/tuscarora.aspx>

Admission Fee
- None

Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Barnesville*; two miles west of Tamaqua off of PA 309, south of Barnesville, which is on PA 54 between the Hometown Exit (131A) of I-81 and PA 309.

Bonus

Tuscarora Lake is a great spot to fish, it offers the chance at the occasional monster walleye or musky. Outside the park season your dog will appreciate the beach area and easy access to the water.



Trail Sense: The paths are blazed; the trailheads obvious and park maps available.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are permitted on the trails in both parks and allowed in designated campsites in Locust Lake State Park; however, during camping season the only dogs permitted at Locust Lake are those brought in by campers.

Traffic

The trails are mostly wide, multi-use fare.

Canine Swimming

Super swimming for your dog in the lakes in the off-season with easy access to the water from the developed areas of the parks.

Trail Time

More than one hour.

31

Moon Lake Park

The Park

Moon Lake is a natural 48-acre lake that was developed as a recreational oasis by Luzerne County in 1968. The 600 acres of farms and fields are the only facility of its type within the county.

The Walks

Most of the 20 miles of hiking trails are best suited for cross-country skiing. When the ground is snow-free the first choice for canine hikers will be the *Nature's Way Trail* that pushes away from the park office in a one-mile loop. The 29-station interpretive trail rolls gently through former farm fields that have been reclaimed by the forest. The path is narrow in most places and rocky under paw; the hills are rolling rather than demanding.

Trail Sense: A park brochure/map and descriptive trail pamphlet is available from the park office at the entrance; the route is marked by numbered posts.

Luzerne

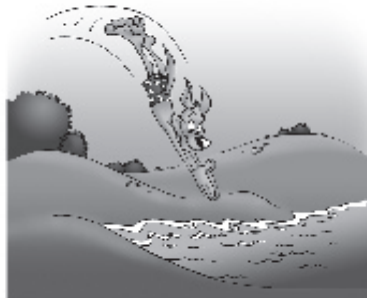
Phone Number
- (570) 477-5467

Website
- www.moonlakepark.com/

Admission Fee
- None

Hours
- 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. during the summer and 8:00 a.m. to sunset the rest of the year

Directions
- *Hunlock Creek*; southwest of Wilkes Barre. The entrance road is off Route 29 (Lake Silkworth Road), accessed four miles south from Route 118 in Pike's Creek or north from Route 11 in West Nanticoke.



Bonus

On the *Nature's Way Trail* you can see a determined tree growing through a rock - a trenchant example of how the land is colonized by plants. Eventually the tree will cause the rock to split allowing lichens to grow freely and begin turning this rock into soil. Not anytime soon, however.



This unusual tree in Moon Lake Park is growing steadily through this rock.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are not permitted in the swimming pool area or any restroom or shower area; dogs are allowed in the campground.

Traffic

Foot traffic only on the nature trail.

Canine Swimming

Moon Lake suits the bill nicely.

Trail Time

Less than one hour if you limit your park experience to just the nature trail.

Archbald Pothole State Park

The Park

As the last glacier retreated to the north 20,000 years ago some meltwater slipped through a crack in the ice down to the bedrock hundreds of feet below. The cataract stirred up some rock fragments that began swirling and grinding in a small depression as the great ice mass slowly moved over it. When the glacier was finally gone the hole was 38 feet deep and big enough to hold 140,000 gallons of water.

Archbald Pothole was discovered in 1884 by a coal miner and was initially used as a ventilation shaft - a large fire kept burning in the bottom, drawing air out of the mine. In 1887 the landowner built a retaining wall around the hole and it became a popular tourist attraction. In 1914, the pothole was donated to the Lackawanna Historical Society. With the addition of 150 acres, Archbald Pothole became a Lackawanna County park in 1940. The county deeded the property to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the park was created in 1964.

The Walks

Although 40 years old the park is still largely undeveloped and the land is undergoing strip mine reclamation. The main loop trail pushes away from the small parking lot on an old coal mine tram road through a stunted forest. There are shoot off the main trail to explore with your dog.

Trail Sense: None, but there will be scarcely a need to keep the St. Bernard Rescue Patrol on speed-dial.

Lackawanna

Phone Number
- None

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

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Archbald*; nine miles north of Scranton. From I-81 take Exit 191A to Business US 6 east towards Carbondale. The park entrance is six miles on the right.

Bonus

The trail wanders through the ghosts of a strip mining operation - past slag piles and sinkholes. Pioneering vegetation covers large piles of discarded rock giving this small park a distinctive feel.



The world's largest known glacial pothole cut first through sandstone bedrock then underlying shale and finally into the layer of anthracite coal.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are allowed in the park.

Traffic

Lightly used trails away from the pothole, just a short distance from the park entrance, await.

Canine Swimming

None.

Trail Time

Less than one hour.

Tannersville Cranberry Bog

The Park

The relic boreal bog was once a huge glacial lake. Since the ice receded 10,000-15,000 years ago, approximately 40 feet of peat has accumulated on the floor of what was once a 715-acre lake. Today, the bog stands out in contrast to the surrounding forests. The bog is only open during regularly scheduled tours but two nearby woodland trails are open for public use.

The Walks

The *North Wood Trail* is a stacked loop of almost a mile, with an extending option of a half-mile. This is an interpretive trail that sneaks up a ridgeline and returns along the rise. The path is narrow with a liberal sprinkling of inbedded rocks. The *Fern Ridge Trail* is unmarked but you can make out the way by hopping rocks through a moist area until the trail splits into a loop. This trail works easily up a hillside; both trails are completely immersed in upland forest.

Trail Sense: You can get information and a map from a kiosk at the *North Wood Trail*, which has trail markings. There is nothing to help you out at the *Fern Ridge Trail* but you can figure your way around thanks to some logs laid out to frame the path.

Monroe

Phone Number
- None

Website
- www.nature.org/wherewe-work/northamerica/states/pennsylvania/preserves/art828.html

Admission Fee
- None

Park Hours
- Sunrise to sunset

Directions
- *Tannersville*; take PA 715 to PA 611 and make a left heading south. Turn left on Cherry Lane Road and go 2.5 miles to Bog Road and make a right. In a half-mile there is an unmarked pull-off on the left (look for an information kiosk back from the road). Another quarter-mile down the road is a barely discernible pull-off to the right for the Fern Ridge Trail - better to walk down Bog Road if you can.

BONUS

You will invariably notice the abundance of mossy footfalls on the Fern Ridge Trail. The vegetation here - sphagnum mosses, black spruce trees, carnivorous pitcher plants and tamaracks - are similar to that found in the restricted Tannersville Cranberry Bog.

Dog Friendliness

Dogs are not allowed to visit the Cranberry Bog that is the star of this park but they are welcome to explore these trails.

Traffic

There is scarcely any room to park - you won't be jockeying for elbow room on these canine hikes.

Canine Swimming

None.

Trail Time

About a half-hour each for these trails.



You are likely to be alone with your dog on these trails off Bog Road.

Camping With Your Dog In The Northeast Mountains

81-80 RV Park And Campground

Drums - Luzerne County

Off Route 309, .5 miles north of I-80 at 718 North Old Turnpike Road.

open year-round (570) 788-3382

Blue Ridge Campground

Ashfield - Carbon County

Off Route 895 between Route 309 in Snyders and Route 248 at Bowmanstown.

open May 1 to November 1 (570) 386-2911

Cherry Ridge Campsites

Honesdale - Wayne County

Off Route 296 south of Route 6. Turn left onto Owego Turnpike and go 5.5 miles. Turn right on Melody Road and follow signs to campground.

open May 1 to November 1 (570) 488-6654

Chestnut Lake Campground

Brodheads ville - Monroe County

Off Route 209, one mile north of junction with PA 715. Turn on Frable Road and follow signs to campground.

open May 1 to November 1 (570) 992-6179

Council Cup Campground

Wapwallopen - Luzerne County

From I-80 take Exit 256 onto Route 93. Go north for 3.8 miles and turn right on Route 239 north for 5.3 miles to Ruckle Hill Road. Turn left to the campground in one mile.

open year-round (570) 379-2566

Countryside Family Campground

Honesdale - Wayne County

On PA 670, 6.5 miles north of PA 191.

open year-round (570) 253-0424

Cranberry Run Campground

Analomink - Monroe County

Three miles north of Stroudsburg on Route 191.

open April 1 to November 1 (570) 421-1462

Day's End Campground

Meshoppen - Wyoming County

From the junction of US 6 and PA 267 go 8.8 miles north on PA 267 and then east on SR 3004, just west on Chase Road.

open May 1 to mid-October (570) 965-2144

Delaware Water Gap KOA Kampground

East Stroudsburg - Monroe County

On Route 209, 6.4 miles north of I-80. turn east on Hollow Road and go one mile to the campground.

open year-round (570) 223-8000

Dingmans Campground

Dingmans Ferry - Pike

On Route 209, south of the traffic light.

open May 1 to November 1 (570) 828-1551

Note: maximum of two dogs per campsite without prior approval

Don Laine Campground

Palmerton - Carbon

On Route 209, nine miles north of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Exit 74.

open May 1 to November 1 (610) 381-3381

Note: dogs allowed in the campground EXCEPT rottweilers, pitbulls and doberman pinschers

Driftstone On The Delaware

Mount Bethel - Northampton County

Four miles south of the Portland, PA-Columbia, NJ bridge across the Delaware River on River Road.

open mid-May 1 to mid-September (570) 897-6859

Note: one dog per campsite

East Lake Campground

New Milford - Susquehanna County

Off I-81 at Exit 223 (New Milford/Lakeside Exit). Go right onto Route 492 East. Go 3/8 mile, then turn left onto East Lake Road. Proceed three miles and the campground entrance is on the left.

open mid-April to mid-october (570) 465-2267

Endless Mountain Campground

Laceyville - Wyoming County

From Route 6 in Laceyville: Westbound take 3rd exit. Eastbound take 1st exit. At 'T' make a left. At bottom of hill turn right on Lacey Street. Go approximately 1/2 mile and turn left onto Lacey Street River Road #1. Go over the railroad tracks and make the first right.

open May 1 to October 31 (570) 869-2580

Four Seasons Campground

Scotrun - Monroe County

Take I-80 Exit 299 north on PA 715 to Route 611. Turn left and go one mile and follow signs to campground.

open mid-April to mid-october (570) 629-2504

Foxwood Family Campground

East Stroudsburg - Monroe County

Off Route 209, 1.7 miles north of I-80, Exit 309. Turn right onto Buttermilk Falls Road. Follow for approximately 1 mile to crest of hill and turn left onto Mt. Nebo Road. The campground is two miles on the left.

open year-round (570) 421-1424

Frances Slocum State Park - NO DOGS!

Dallas - Luzerne County

Hemlock Campground & Cottages

Tobyhanna - Monroe County

From I-380 Exit 3 take Route 940 East to Route 611. Turn left and go 1.5 miles north to Hemlock Drive. The campground is 1/4 mile on the right.

open mid-May to mid-October (570) 894-4388

Hickory Lake Campground

Bangor - Northampton County

From Route 611, south Of I-80, go into Mt. Bethel and turn right at T.K.'s Bar & Grill to the stop sign. Turn left onto Million Dollar Highway and go 2 miles. Make a right on Laurel Hill Road to the campground on the left.

open May 1 to October 31 (570) 897-5811

Hickory Run State Park Campground

White Haven - Carbon County

On PA 534, five miles east of I-80, Exit 274.

open May 1 to October 31 (570) 443-0400

Highland Campground

Dalton - Wyoming County

From I-81 take exit 194, the Clarks Summit exit. Follow US 6 West/11 North for 1 1/2 miles. Turn left onto Winola Road and go 1 mile to Route 307 North. Follow Route 307 North for 5 miles, turn right onto Highland Drive. Follow Highland Drive for 6/10 mile, turn left. Follow to stop sign. Continue straight for 1.2 miles to the entrance on left.

open year-round (570) 586-0145

Ironwood Point Recreation Area - NO DOGS!

Greentown - Pike County

Jim Thorpe Camping Resort

Jim Thorpe - Carbon County

From the Pennsylvania Turnpike take Exit 74 and follow signs for Route 209S and Lehigh. Continue over the long hill into Jim Thorpe and turn left at the light onto Broadway. Continue 2.2 miles as the road becomes Lentz Trail to the campground up the hill.

open April 1 to November 1 (570) 325-2644

Keen Lake Camping & Cottage Resort

Waymart - Wayne County

From I-81 take Exit 187 onto East 6 Carbondale (Robert Casey Highway). Travel 18.2 miles to the light at the intersection of Routes 6 and 296 on the outskirts of the town of Waymart. Continue east on Route 6 for 1.7 miles. Turn right on to Little Keen Road. At bottom of hill, turn left on Keen Lake Road.

open May 1 to Columbus Day (570) 488-6161

Note: two dogs maximum per site without prior approval

Lackawanna State Park - NO DOGS!

Dalton - Lackawanna County

Lake Moc A Tek Campground

Lakeville - Wayne County

Located 1/4 mile off Route 590 on Piefer Road halfway between Hamlin & Hawley.

open May 1 to Columbus Day (570) 646-2300

Note: one dog per campsite; less than 30 pounds

Lehigh Gorge Campground

White Haven - Carbon County

Take Pocono Exit off the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Turn right onto Route 940 West and go 3 miles to the campground on the right.

open year-round (570) 443-9191

Locust Lake State Park Campground

Barnesville - Schuylkill County

Exit 131 A/B from I-81 and follow signs.

open year-round (570) 467-2772

Mauch Chunk Lake Park - NO DOGS!

Jim Thorpe - Carbon County

Mount Pocono Campground

Mount Pocono - Monroe County

Take I-80W to I-380N. Take PA-940, Exit 3 toward Pocono and proceed 2.5 miles. At the intersection of PA-940, Rt. 611 & PA-196, bear left onto PA-196N. Proceed 7/10 of a mile to our sign and turn right onto Edgewood Road. Follow Edgewood Road, straight through 2 stop signs.

open May 1 to November 1 (570) 839-8950



Mountain Vista Campground

New Columbia - Monroe County

Off Business Route 209, north of I-80. Go west on Craigs Meadow Road, then (left) 500 feet on Taylor Drive.

open mid-April to November 1

(570) 568-5541

Moyer's Grove Campground & Country RV

Hobbie - Luzerne County

Take I-80 West to Exit 256 (Conyngham). Turn right to SR 93 North and follow signs for 7.3 miles to the campground.

open year-round

(570) 379-3375

Otter Lake Camp-Resort

Marshalls Creek - Monroe County

From I-80 take Exit 309 to Route 209 North into Marshalls Creek. Turn left onto Route 402 and travel 300 feet. Turn left at the firehouse for seven miles to the campground.

open year-round

(570) 223-0123

Pine Cradle Family Campground

Rome - Bradford County

From US 6 go north on PA 187 and follow signs to Shoemaker Road.

open mid-April to mid-December

(570) 247-2424

Pioneer Campground

Laporte - Sullivan County

On US 220, two miles south of town.

open mid-April to mid-October

(570) 946-9971

Pocono Raceway Campground

Long Pond - Monroe County

On Long Pond Road, one mile East of Pocono Raceway; five miles south of I-80, Exit 284.

open April 15 to October 31

(570) 646-2300

Pocono Vacation Park

Stoudsburg - Monroe County

From I-80 take Exit 305 to Business Route 209 South; go two miles and take a right on Shafer School House Road to the campground.

open year-round

(570) 424-2587

Ponderosa Pines Campground

Honesdale - Wayne County

West of town on Route 6 and take PA 170 north for 3.5 miles and follow signs to campground.

open May 1 to November 1

(610) 381-3381

Note: dogs allowed in the campground EXCEPT chows, rottweilers, pitbulls, doberman pinschers and wolf-hybrids

Promised Land State Park

Canadensis - Pike County

On PA 390, five miles south of I-84, Exit 26.

open year-round

(570) 676-3428

Ricketts Glen State Park - NO DOGS!

Benton - Luzerne County

River Beach Campsites

Milford - Pike County

On Route 209, three miles south of I-84, Exit 53.

open April to November

(570) 296-7421



Riverside Acres Campground

Towanda - Bradford County

At US 6 in Wysox go south on PA 187 for .5 miles and then 1.5 miles, following signs.

open mid-May to mid-October (570) 265-3235

Rosemount Camping Resort

Tamaqua - Schuylkill County

Off Route 209, five miles south of town

open April 15 to October 15 (570) 668-2580

Sandy Valley Campground

White Haven - Luzerne County

Take Exit 273 off I-80 and go .5 miles west on PA 940 then south on Lehigh Gorge Road and 3.5 miles on Sandy Run Road to Valley Road.

open year-round (570) 636-0770

Shore Forest Campground

Hop Bottom - Susquehanna County

Take I-81 to Exit 211 (Lenox). Go left on Route 106 past the blinking light and on to Loomis Lake Road. Follow this road for 4 1/2 miles and make a right on Forest Street to the campground at the bottom of the hill on the right.

open mid-April to November 1 (570) 289-4666

Silver Valley Campsites

Broadheadsville - Monroe County

On Route 209; in town turn left at Meadow Brook Diner onto Silver Valley Drive and follow signs for one mile to the campground.

open May 1 to November 1

(570) 992-4824

Sunrise Lake Family Campground

Nicholson - Wyoming County

Go to end of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (Exit 39, Clarks Summit) and take US 6 /Route 11 North. Stay on Route 11 to Route 92 and go south 2 1/2 miles to the campground on right.

open April 1 to November 1

(570) 472-2214

Three Pines Campground

Lakeville - Wayne County

Off Route 590, halfway between Hamlin & Hawley.

open May 1 to October 30

(570) 226-6286

Tunkhannock Family Campground

Tunkahannock - Wyoming County

On US 6, two miles east of town.

open mid-April to mid-October

(570) 836-4122

Valleyview Farm Campground

Waymart - Wayne County

From Route 6 turn north On PA 296 and go seven miles to the stop sign and another mile to the campground on the left.

open May 1 to October 15

(570) 448-2268

Worlds End State Park - NO DOGS!

Forksville - Sullivan County

WT Family Camping

Blakeslee - Monroe County

On Route 115, five miles south of I-80, Exit 284.

open April 1 to November 1

(570) 646-6317

Index To Parks

<i>Bradford County</i>	page	<i>Northampton County</i>	page
Mt. Pisgah State Park	44	Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center	28
<i>Carbon County</i>	page	<i>Pike County</i>	page
Beltzville State Park	48	Bushkill Falls	70
Hickory Run State Park	22	Delaware State Forest	18
Lehigh Gorge State Park	38	Grey Towers NHS	68
Mauch Chunk Lake Park	42	Ledgedale Natural Area	66
		Pocono Environmental Education Center	24
		Promised Land State Park	50
<i>Lackawanna County</i>	page	<i>Schuylkill County</i>	page
Archbald Pothole State Park	78	Locust Lake State Park	74
Lackawanna State Forest	40	Tuscarora State Forest	74
Lackawanna State Park	54		
<i>Luzerne County</i>	page	<i>Sullivan County</i>	page
Frances Slocum State Park	30	Worlds End State Park	26
Moon Lake Park	76		
Nescopeck State Park	32	<i>Susquehanna County</i>	page
Ricketts Glen State Park	16	Florence Shelly Preserve	64
Riverfront Parks	62	Salt Springs State Park	20
Seven Tubs Nature Center	60	Woodbourne Forest	36
<i>Monroe County</i>	page	<i>Wayne County</i>	page
Big Pocono State Park	46	Gouldsboro State Park	52
Gouldsboro State Park	52	Lacawac Sanctuary	72
Mount Minsi (DE Water Gap)	34	Shuman Point Natural Area	56
Tannersville Cranberry Bog	80		
Tobyhanna State Park	58		

