

2. MIDWEST REGION (ILLINOIS, INDIANA, IOWA, KANSAS, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA, OHIO, WISCONSIN)

This region has beaches, woods, prairies, and several city type parks, so no matter what you like, you'll find it here! A lot of these states get EXTREMELY hot and humid in summer, so that may not be the best time for a visit if you're wanting to do a lot of outdoor activities. Being from the Midwest, I can attest to this! Please be careful if you do choose to visit in the summer. Know your dogs limits, and carry plenty of water. Ticks are another consideration for many parks in the area. Be extra vigilant checking them after walks.

INDIANA:

***Fox Island County Park: Dogs allowed on all trails. This park also has a small dog beach, and this is the only area they are allowed off leash.

***Indiana Dunes National Park: Dogs are allowed on all trails except Pinhook Bog Trail and the equestrian portion of the Glenwood Dunes Trail system. Dogs are allowed on all beaches, the exception being the lifeguarded swimming area of West beach between the Friday of Memorial Day and the Monday of Labor Day. They are not allowed in the nature play areas (located within the Dunewood Campground and on the east side of the Douglas Center parking lot).

***Indiana Dunes State Park: Dogs allowed on all trails. They are not allowed on the designated swimming beach, but can be on the beach to the east of the pavilion and lifeguard station.

***Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial: Dogs allowed on all trails.

***Ouabache State Park: Pets are allowed on all trails. They are not allowed on the swimming beach.

***Turkey Run State Park: Dogs allowed on all trails.

IOWA:

***Effigy Mounds National Monument: Dogs allowed on the grounds and trails.

***Herbert Hoover National Historic Site: Dogs allowed on the grounds and trails.

***Jackson County Conservation: There are several parks included in the Jackson County Park system. Please check their website for specific rules for which park you plan to visit.

***Jester Park Nature Center: Dogs allowed on all trails.

***Mahaska County Environmental Learning Center: You have options here! You can visit Caldwell Park, Cedar Bluffs State Preserve, Eddyville Dunes Sand Prairie, Quercus Wilderness Area, or White Oak Conservation Area. Dogs allowed on all trails.

***Nahant Marsh Education Center: Dogs allowed on all trails.

***Winneshiek County Conservation: There are several parks included in the Winneshiek County Park system. Please check their website for specific rules for which park you plan to visit.

KANSAS:

***Fort Scott National Historic Site: Dogs allowed on park grounds.

MICHIGAN:

***Chelsea, MI Chamber of Commerce: Several dog friendly trails in the town. Check their website for specifics.

***Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge: Dogs allowed on all trails and open units.

***Marquette County Parks: There are several parks included in the Marquette County Park system. Please check their website for specific rules for which park you plan to visit.

***Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore: Dogs allowed on roads, parking lots, and picnic areas. They are also allowed at the Sand Point Beaches, Munising Falls Trail, Miners Falls Trail, Miners Castle (paved trails and overlook platforms), Miners Beach, Au Sable access road to the light station, Lake Superior Overlook and Beach, Sable Falls Trail and Beach, Twelvemile Beach and Hurricane River drive in campgrounds, and the Lake Superior beaches directly in front of the campground and day use areas.

***Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore: Dogs are allowed on most hiking trails and sections of the beaches. The dates and times some trails and beaches are open to pets is varied, depending on the habits of the piping plover, a federally protected species of bird. During their breeding and nesting times, sections of the beaches they use will be closed to pets. There is a map on the NPS pet page for this park that is marked what is open at specific times. Please check this page before visiting the park. PLEASE NOTE: THE BARK RANGER PROGRAM HERE IS ONLY FOR VOLUNTEERS, NOT THE GENERAL PUBLIC. Listed for those that live close or may be in the area for extended amounts of time and have the time to volunteer, but we want to make sure there is no expectations of a tag, certificate, etc. for park visitors.

MINNESOTA:

***Grand Portage National Monument: Dogs allowed on Grand Portage and Mount Rose trails, as well as in the Ojibwe Village and walking paths outside of the stockade.

***Itasca State Park: Dogs allowed on all trails.

***Pipestone National Monument: Pets are allowed on all trails.

***Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge: Dogs allowed on all trails.

***Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge: Dogs are allowed on all trails. This park includes parts of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

MISSOURI:

***Gateway Arch National Park: Dogs are allowed on park grounds, but not inside of the Arch.

***George Washington Carver National Monument: Dogs allowed on all trails.

***Ozark National Scenic Riverways: Dogs are allowed on all trails except for designated horse trails. Dogs are allowed to swim in the rivers, but are prohibited from swimming in springs and spring branches. They are also not allowed to enter caves.

***Ulysses S. Grant National Historical Site: Dogs are allowed on park grounds.

***Wilson's Creek National Battlefield: Dogs are allowed on all trails. Be cautious of the creek as it contains run off from a waste plant nearby.

NEBRASKA:

***Agate Fossil Beds National Monument: Dogs allowed on all trails.

***Lewis and Clark National Trail: This is not a park, and there are no trails at this location, but you are able to buy tags in the Visitor Center. If you are interested in doing something along the national trail with your dog, there are options in several different states. Check the NPS website for all these locations.

OHIO:

***Alum Creek Lake State Park: Dogs are allowed on all trails. There is an off leash dog beach at this location as well.

***Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument: Dogs allowed on grounds and all trails.

***Cuyahoga Valley National Park: Dogs are allowed on all trails except the East Rim Mountain Bike Trails, and they are not allowed at Virginia Kendall Hills during sledding

activities. Cuyahoga does not have an official program, but they do have a Bark Ranger tag that is sold at the Boston Mill Store (not the Visitor Center, the store is a short distance from the VC).

***Delaware Lake Army Corps of Engineers: Dogs allowed on all trails.

***Greene County Parks and Trails: Dogs allowed on all trails. Several also offer off leash dog areas. Visit Greene County Parks website for details.

***Hopewell Culture National Historical Park: Dogs allowed on all trails. Dogs (and people!) are prohibited from climbing on the mounds.

***James A. Garfield National Historic Site: Dogs allowed on the grounds.

***Muskingum Area Army Corps of Engineers: Dogs allowed on all trails.

***Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge: Dogs are allowed on all trails. There may be occasional partial trail closures for bird nesting sites.

***William Howard Taft National Historical Site: Dogs allowed on grounds and all trails.

WISCONSIN:

***Apostle Islands National Lakeshore: Dogs allowed on trails, beaches, and campgrounds. Park website takes care to mention keeping control of your dog around the piping plovers. This is an extremely endangered bird, and if chased or disturbed, will often abandon their nests.

***Necedah National Wildlife Refuge: Dogs allowed on all trails most of the year, however, there are seasonal closures for nesting birds. Please check before visiting for these closures.

***Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge: Dogs allowed on all trails.

***Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge: Dogs are allowed on all trails. This park includes parts of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The only Visitor Center we are aware of at this time that has the tags is in La Crosse, WI, but please see the parks website for specific locations in all of the above-mentioned states.