

# Tail Wags & *Triangle Days*

*Your complete guide to dog parks, dog-friendly breweries & pet-perfect trails across Raleigh, Wake Forest, Cary & the whole Triangle — for every pup parent moving to the area*



*Here's a secret about the Triangle that dog owners discover fast after moving here: this region is wildly dog-friendly. We are talking off-leash parks in almost every town, dozens of breweries that roll out the welcome mat for your four-legged best friend, and trails that wind through state parks, lakesides, and wooded greenways that feel made for morning walks with a leash in hand. Raleigh even ranked in WalletHub's top 25 Most Pet-Friendly Cities in America. If your dog runs your schedule, you are going to absolutely love it here.* 🐾🌿

— Whitney, House in Bloom Realty · Proud Pet Parent & Longtime Triangle Local

## What's in This Guide

● OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS

🍺 DOG-FRIENDLY BREWERIES & BARS

👣 PET-PERFECT TRAILS & GREENWAYS

★ ONE-OF-A-KIND DOG EXPERIENCES

# Dog Parks Across the Triangle

WHITNEY RECOMMENDS

RALEIGH · DIX PARK



## Dorothea Dix Dog Park

*Raleigh's Most Beloved Off-Leash Destination*

- 1800 Umstead Dr., Raleigh, NC 27603
- Spacious, **grass-covered** fully fenced park — newly renovated with water stations for both humans and pups
- Separate sections for small and large dogs — set within stunning 308-acre Dorothea Dix Park with incredible skyline views
- Dawn to dusk, daily

**Free** | **Fenced** | **Small + Big** | **Renovated**  
ENTRY | OFF-LEASH | SECTIONS | 2023

Grass Surface

308-Acre Park Setting

Skyline Views

Water Stations

Free · No Registration

*Whitney's Note: Dix Park is one of Raleigh's crown jewels — and the dog park inside it matches the energy. Gorgeous grass, great space, and the Raleigh skyline in the background. Pack a coffee for yourself and let your pup run wild. The surrounding park has miles of trails for a walk before or after.*



## Millbrook Exchange Dog Park

*Raleigh's Oldest Dog Park — Agility Equipment & Night Lights*

- 1905 Spring Forest Rd., Raleigh, NC 27609
- Raleigh's **first dog park**, opened 2003 — once selected as a finalist for a national Dream Dog Park makeover by Beneful
- Lit at night for evening visits — agility equipment, drinking fountains, picnic tables & shaded areas
- Dawn to dusk (plus lighted evening hours)

Agility Equipment

Lighted for Night Visits

Picnic Tables

Shaded Areas

Free · No Registration

*Whitney's Note: Millbrook has serious dog park history — and the night lighting is a total game-changer for those of us with evening schedules. Agility equipment keeps the energetic ones entertained long after a regular park would have bored them silly. 🌙*



## Oakwood Dog Park

*Shaded, Tree-Lined & Perfect for Downtown Dwellers*

- 910 Brookside Dr., Raleigh, NC 27604
- Beautifully shaded — true to Raleigh's "City of Oaks" identity — with two fully fenced areas for large and small dogs
- Neighborhood feel, water stations, peaceful setting — a favorite of downtown and midtown Raleigh residents
- Dawn to dusk, daily

Tree-Canopy Shade

Two Fenced Sections

Water Stations

Downtown Adjacent

Free Entry

*Whitney's Note: Oakwood is that neighborhood gem that regulars absolutely treasure. It is quiet, beautifully shaded, and has a wonderful community vibe — you'll recognize the same dogs and neighbors every Saturday morning. 🌳*



## Carolina Pines Dog Park

*South Raleigh's Go-To Off-Leash Spot*

2305 Lake Wheeler Rd., Raleigh, NC 27603

Two separate spaces — one for regular dogs and one for elderly, infirm, small or shy dogs — an especially thoughtful design

Shade, drinking water, fenced and secure — ideal for south Raleigh and NC State-area residents

Dawn to dusk, daily · 919-831-6435

Shy Dog Section!

Water & Shade

South Raleigh

Free Entry

*Whitney's Note: The separate shy/small dog section here is genuinely one of the most thoughtful features at any Triangle dog park. If your pup is nervous around bigger dogs, this is the place to start.*

### WHITNEY RECOMMENDS



## The Barkyard at Downtown Cary Park

*Cary's Most Stunning Dog Park — Multiple Surface Types*

327 S. Academy St., Cary, NC 27511 (Inside Downtown Cary Park)

Separate big and small dog areas — features **artificial turf, concrete, gravel and mulch** surfaces to please every paw type

Play mounds, water features, natural shade — accessible by day pass or annual Cary Dog Park membership

**Day pass or annual membership required** — register online before first visit

**Pass Req'd**

ENTRY

**4 Surface**

TYPES

**Fenced**

OFF-LEASH

Multi-Surface Design

Play Mounds

Water Features

Downtown Cary Setting

Small + Large Sections

*Whitney's Note: The Barkyard is one of the most beautifully designed dog parks in the entire Triangle — and it's inside the already-stunning Downtown Cary Park. The multi-surface design is such a thoughtful touch. Register online before you go and plan to stay a while.*


CARY



## Robert V. Godbold Park Dog Park

*Cary's Classic 1-Acre Off-Leash Green Space*

 Godbold Park, Cary, NC

 Fenced, 1-acre off-leash dog park with grassy open space — a reliable neighborhood favorite for Cary residents

 Town of Cary registration required before first visit

1-Acre Space

Grassy & Open


Cary Registration Req'd


WAKE FOREST





## Flaherty Dog Park

*Wake Forest's Favorite — More Grass, More Space*

 J.B. Flaherty Park, 1200 N. White St., Wake Forest, NC 27587

 More natural grass and dirt than most parks — opened 2007, open dawn to dusk daily. Beloved by Wake Forest residents and their pups.

 Set within Flaherty Park with tennis courts, baseball fields & walking paths — make a full outing of it



 Dawn to dusk, daily · Free entry

Natural Grass & Dirt

Est. 2007

Full Park Amenities

Free Entry

 *Whitney's Note: If your dog goes absolutely feral for real grass under their paws, Flaherty is their happy place. More natural surface than most local parks, friendly neighbors, and close to all of downtown Wake Forest. Perfect Saturday morning. *

## KNIGHTDALE



### Ashley Wilder Dog Park

*At Knightdale Station Park — Walk, Play & Splash*

- Knightdale Station Park, 716 N. First Ave., Knightdale, NC 27545
- Separate gated areas for small dogs (under 25 lbs) and large dogs — right inside one of Wake County's most beloved parks
- Combine with the park's free splash pad, farm-themed playground & dog-friendly trails — a full family-and-pup adventure
- Dawn to dusk, daily · Free entry

Small + Large Sections

Knightdale Station Setting

Splash Pad Nearby

Free Entry

*Whitney's Note: The dog park at Knightdale Station is a bonus on top of an already incredible park. Let the kids hit the splash pad, let the pup hit the dog park, and meet everyone back at the picnic table. That is a perfect day.*

## HOLLY SPRINGS



### Dog Park at Sugg Farm

*A Full Acre to Run at Holly Springs' Beloved Sugg Farm*

- Sugg Farm Park, Holly Springs, NC 27540
- A **full acre** of off-leash space set within beautiful Sugg Farm Park — one of the most scenic park settings in Wake County
- Room to really run — great for high-energy dogs that need serious space. Combine with a walk through the farm park grounds.
- Dawn to dusk, daily

Full Acre Off-Leash

Sugg Farm Setting

Holly Springs

High-Energy Dog Approved

*Whitney's Note: A full acre at a beautiful farm park — your dog will absolutely sleep through the night after this one. Sugg Farm is a gem in Holly Springs and the dog park does it justice.*


APEX





## Dog Park at Apex Nature Park

2 Acres · Shade Gazebos · Water Fountains · 160-Acre Park

 2600 Evans Rd., Apex, NC 27502

 **2 acres** of fenced off-leash space — separate sections for small and large dogs, shade gazebos, benches and water fountains throughout

 **Registration required** before first visit — check the Town of Apex Parks website. Worth every step of the signup!

 Dawn to dusk, daily



**2 Acres** OFF-LEASH | **160 Acres** FULL PARK | **Register** REQUIRED

2 Acres Off-Leash

Shade Gazebos

Water Fountains

160-Acre Nature Park


 *Whitney's Note: Two acres with shade gazebos and water fountains inside a 160-acre nature park — Apex really outdid itself here. Register online first, then enjoy one of the nicest dog parks in the area.* 


GARNER





## Lake Benson Dog Park

At Garner's Crown Jewel — 64 Acres of Scenic Beauty

 921 Buffalo Rd., Garner, NC 27529

 Separate areas for small (25 lbs & under) and large dogs — set within gorgeous 64-acre Lake Benson Park with trails & boat rentals

 After the dog park, walk the 1.8 miles of paved trails around the lake together — one of Garner's most beautiful outings



 Dawn to dusk, daily · Free entry

Small + Large Sections

Lakeside Setting

1.8-Mile Trail Nearby

Free Entry

 *Whitney's Note: Dog park first, lakeside walk second, boat rental optional — Lake Benson makes Garner a wonderful dog-day destination. Gorgeous setting, free entry, and that lake air is unbeatable.* 


CLAYTON



## East Clayton Dog Park

*Three Acres — One of the Triangle's Newest & Best*

 East Clayton Community Park, Clayton, NC 27520

 **3 acres** of enclosed space with two separate sections for small and large dogs — one of the newest and most praised dog parks in the area

 Water turns off in winter months — otherwise fully equipped and spacious year-round


 Dawn to dusk, daily · Free entry

3 Full Acres

Two Sections

Newly Built

Free Entry

 *Whitney's Note: East Clayton continues to impress — their new dog park is three whole acres. Clayton is quietly becoming one of the best places in the Triangle for active families, and this dog park is a big part of why. 🐕*


WENDELL




## K9 Corral Dog Park

*Wendell's Cozy Community Dog Park*

 601 W. 3rd St., Wendell, NC 27591

 Separate sections for small dogs (30 lbs or under) and large dogs — leashed entry, then off-leash freedom inside

 Dawn to dusk, daily · Free entry

Small + Large Sections

Wendell Community

Free Entry



PAWS WELCOME ON THE PATIO

# Dog-Friendly Breweries & Bars

WHITNEY RECOMMENDS

RALEIGH · DOWNTOWN



## West Street Dog

*An Indoor Off-Leash Dog Park WITH a Full Bar — Nowhere Else Like It*

 400 W. North St., Raleigh, NC 27603 · weststreetdog.com



The Triangle's most unique dog destination — an **indoor off-leash dog park combined with a full bar** for 21+ guests



Also offers overnight boarding, doggy daycare (Mon-Fri) and bathing services year-round



Dogs must be current on Rabies, Distemper/Parvo & Bordetella vaccinations · Must be 6+ months & spayed/neutered

<b>Indoor</b> DOG PARK	<b>Full Bar</b> 21+	<b>Daycare</b> MON-FRI	<b>Boarding</b> 365 DAYS
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Indoor Off-Leash Park!

Full Bar

Doggy Daycare

Overnight Boarding

Totally Unique


* Whitney's Note: West Street Dog is genuinely one of a kind — you sip a cold drink while your dog runs around a fully indoor off-leash park. Rain, shine, blazing summer heat — it doesn't matter. This place is a must-visit the moment you move to Raleigh.  *




## Trophy Brewing Co.

*Dog-Friendly Patios · Pizza · People's Brewery of Raleigh*

 827 W. Morgan St. & 656 Maywood Ave., Raleigh — trophy.beer

 Dogs welcome on the **dog-friendly patio** at both locations — order pizza at Morgan St. or enjoy food trucks at the Maywood taproom

 Trophy Wife IPA, Milky Way Salted Caramel Stout, Cloud Surfer Hazy IPA — outstanding rotating tap list


Dog-Friendly Patio

Trophy Wife IPA

Food Trucks & Pizza

Two Raleigh Locations


Community Vibes


 *Whitney's Note: Trophy is woven into the fabric of Raleigh — and dogs are very much part of that fabric on the patio. Order the Trophy Wife, get the pizza, bring the pup. Classic Raleigh Saturday. 🏆*




## Raleigh Brewing Company

*NC's First Woman-Owned Brewery — Dogs Welcome Inside & Out*

 3709 Neil St., Raleigh, NC 27607

 Dogs welcome both **inside and outside** — one of the most dog-welcoming taprooms in the city

 32+ taps, food trucks daily, indoor and outdoor space — a warm, community-first brewery that your pup will feel right at home in


Dogs Inside & Out!

32+ Taps

Food Trucks Daily

Woman-Owned

Welcoming Vibe

 *Whitney's Note: Dogs inside AND outside at a brewery with 32 taps? Done. Raleigh Brewing is the kind of place that makes you feel immediately at home — and apparently your dog feels the same way. 🍷🍺*


CARY · DOWNTOWN




## Bond Brothers Beer Company

*Shaded Patio · Food Trucks · Dogs Welcome Inside & Out*

 202 E. Cedar St., Cary, NC 27511 · [bondbrothersbeer.com](http://bondbrothersbeer.com)

 Dogs welcome **inside and outside** — ample shaded outdoor seating and a walkable downtown Cary location make this extra convenient



 Walkable from many Cary neighborhoods — perfect for a post-walk patio beer with your pup at your feet

Dogs Inside & Out

Shaded Patio

Downtown Walkable

Food Truck Rotation

 *Whitney's Note: Bond Brothers' shaded outdoor area is such a great spot to bring your dog — and being walkable from the neighborhoods around downtown Cary makes it easy to turn a walk into a pit stop.* 


CARY · TWO LOCATIONS




## Fortnight Brewing

*British Pub Vibes · Dogs Routinely Found Here*

 307 S. Academy St., Cary, NC 27511 · Also Wake Forest location

 Friendly dogs **routinely welcomed** inside and outside — large indoor and outdoor spaces with room to spread out comfortably



 UK-inspired ales, live music, food trucks — a relaxed, welcoming vibe that your dog will pick up on immediately

Dogs Inside & Outside

British-Style Ales

Live Music Nights

Two Triangle Locations

 *Whitney's Note: Fortnight is one of those breweries where the dogs outnumber the humans on a nice Saturday afternoon — and that is a very good sign. Large, comfortable, friendly. Two Triangle locations means no excuses.* 

APEX



## Southern Peak Brewery

*Casual Neighborhood Vibe · Ample Outdoor Space for Pups*

- Villages of Apex, near Hwy 64, Apex, NC · [southernpeakbrewery.com](https://southernpeakbrewery.com)
- Ample outdoor space where dogs can socialize — **one mile from historic downtown Apex**, perfect after a walk on the greenway
- Relaxed neighborhood vibe, special events for all ages, easy parking — a beloved Apex community gathering spot

Dog-Friendly Outdoor Space

1 Mile from Downtown Apex

Family & Pet Friendly

Casual Events

*Whitney's Note: Walk the greenway in Apex, swing by Southern Peak for a cold one and some outdoor socializing for your pup. That is a near-perfect afternoon in one of the Triangle's best small towns.*

RALEIGH · DOWNTOWN



## Crank Arm Brewing

*Bike-Loving, Dog-Welcoming, Downtown Chill*

- 319 W. Davie St., Downtown Raleigh, NC 27601
- Leashed dogs welcome on the patio — one of the most laid-back and welcoming taprooms in downtown Raleigh
- Cycle-culture vibe, board games, relaxed crowd — great spot to wind down after a walk along the nearby Neuse River Greenway

Dog-Friendly Patio

Downtown Location

Board Games

Greenway Adjacent

*Whitney's Note: Walk a stretch of the Neuse River Greenway, then end up at Crank Arm's patio. Your dog will be happy, you'll have a great beer, and downtown Raleigh will do the rest.*



## Lynnwood Brewing Concern

*Covered Deck + Fenced Beer Garden — Dogs Roam Free*

1053 E. Whitaker Mill Rd., Raleigh, NC 27604 (Dock 1053)

Dogs welcome inside the taproom AND in a **fenced beer garden** — plus a covered platform deck. Multiple spots for your pup to settle in.

Live music, trivia nights, food from Wilson's Eatery next door — a complete social spot for you and your four-legged companion

Fenced Beer Garden!

Dogs Inside & Out

Live Music Nights

Wilson's Eatery Next Door

*Whitney's Note: A fenced beer garden means your dog can relax off-leash while you enjoy live music and a great beer. Lynnwood is consistently one of the most dog-friendly spots in Raleigh — and Wilson's Eatery next door means excellent food too.*



## Bombshell Beer Company

*NC's Only 100% Women-Owned Brewery · Beer Garden with Cornhole*

120 Quantum St., Holly Springs, NC 27540 · bombshellbeer.com

Dogs welcome in the **outdoor beer garden** — cornhole, food trucks Thursday–Saturday and live music on weekends

100% women-owned and operated — a community-first brewery that is as welcoming to your pup as it is to you

Dog-Friendly Beer Garden

Cornhole!

Live Music Weekends

Women-Owned

Holly Springs

*Whitney's Note: Beer garden, cornhole, food trucks, live music, and a welcoming pup policy — Bombshell is doing everything right. A perfect Holly Springs afternoon for the whole crew, two-legged and four.*

# Pet-Perfect Trails & Greenways




WHITNEY RECOMMENDS

RALEIGH — MULTIPLE ACCESS POINTS



## Neuse River Greenway Trail

*27.5 Miles of Paved River Trail — The Triangle's Premier Dog Walk*

-  Multiple access points throughout Raleigh and into Johnston County — search "Neuse River Greenway Raleigh" for closest entry
-  27.5 miles of paved, **pet-friendly trail** winding along the Neuse River — boardwalk sections through wetlands, scenic river views, historical markers
-  Part of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail system — diverse terrain, wildlife spotting, interpretive signs. A genuine adventure for dog and owner alike.

<b>27.5 Mi</b>	<b>Paved</b>	<b>Leash</b>	<b>Free</b>
TOTAL LENGTH	SURFACE	REQUIRED	ACCESS




27.5 Miles!

Paved & Accessible

River & Wetland Views

Stroller & Bike Friendly

Multiple Access Points

 *Whitney's Note: The Neuse River Greenway is our trail — a 27.5-mile paved adventure that never gets old because there's always more of it to explore. Every section feels a little different. Morning, evening, weekday, weekend — this trail delivers every single time.*  



## William B. Umstead State Park

5,500 Acres of Wooded State Park — Right Inside the City

8801 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh, NC 27612 · ncparks.gov

Over 20 miles of trails through 5,500 acres of wooded parkland — remarkable that this exists minutes from downtown Raleigh

Dogs on leash welcome on all trails — try **Sal's Branch Trail** (2.8 mi moderate loop with lake view) or **Company Mill Trail** (5.8 mi for high-energy dogs)

Dogs NOT permitted in picnic areas, on the lake, or in the family campground

**5,500** ACRES | **20+ Mi** TRAILS | **Leash** REQUIRED | **Free** ENTRY

5,500 Acres!

20+ Miles of Trails

Sal's Branch — 2.8 Mi

Company Mill — 5.8 Mi

Free State Park

*Whitney's Note: The fact that Umstead State Park exists inside one of the fastest-growing metros in America is nothing short of a miracle. 5,500 acres of deep forest trails within city limits — this is where serious dog walkers come to lose themselves in nature. Do the Company Mill Trail if your pup can handle it. Worth every step.*



## American Tobacco Trail

26+ Miles Along a Historic Railroad Corridor

Multiple access points including Cary, Durham & Chatham County — search "American Tobacco Trail" for nearest trailhead

Follows the old CSX railroad corridor for 26+ miles — flat, accessible, paved sections and packed gravel through wooded stretches

Popular with runners, cyclists, walkers and dog owners — great for long-distance outings without elevation challenges

**26+ Mi** TOTAL | **Flat** TERRAIN | **Paved + Gravel** SURFACE

26+ Miles

Flat & Accessible

Historic Railroad Route

Dog & Bike Friendly

Multiple Towns


*Whitney's Note: The ATT is beloved by Cary and Durham dog walkers for good reason — flat, shaded in sections, long enough for any energy level, and you can hop on at dozens of points. A great way to explore the corridor between the two cities.*




## Lake Johnson Park Trail

*2.8-Mile Paved Lakeside Loop + 1.5-Mile Nature Trail*

 1320 Lake Dam Rd., Raleigh, NC 27603

 A 2.8-mile paved greenway loop hugging the lakeshore plus a 1.5-mile unpaved nature trail through the woods — gorgeous at any time of year

 Kayak rentals available seasonally — one of west Raleigh's most scenic and peaceful park destinations




2.8 Mi Paved Loop

Lakeside Views

Kayak Rentals

West Raleigh

Nature Trail Option


 *Whitney's Note: Lake Johnson has that peaceful, unhurried energy that makes a walk feel restorative. The lakeside loop is beautiful in all four seasons — fall leaf reflections are genuinely spectacular.*  




## Shelley Lake Trail

*A Scenic 2-Mile Paved Loop Around a Peaceful Lake*

 1400 W. Millbrook Rd., Raleigh, NC 27612

 A beautiful paved 2-mile loop that hugs the shores of Shelley Lake — flat, accessible, and consistently one of Raleigh's most beloved dog walks

 Tree-canopy sections, lake views throughout, a welcoming neighborhood feel — connects to the Crabtree Creek Greenway for extended walks

2-Mile Paved Loop

Lake Views

Crabtree Creek Connector

North Raleigh

Flat & Accessible



## Blue Loop Trail — NC Museum of Art

*Art, Sculptures & Dogs — The Most Unique Walk in Raleigh*

2110 Blue Ridge Rd., Raleigh, NC 27607

A 1-mile art-inspired trail winding through the Jim Goodnight Museum Park — leashed dogs welcome among the outdoor sculptures and open fields

Water stations along the trail to keep pups hydrated — connects across I-440 to the House Creek Greenway for extended adventures

Dog-Friendly Art Trail

Water Stations

Sculpture Walk

Greenway Connector

Free Entry

*Whitney's Note: Art and dogs together in a gorgeous open park — this is genuinely one of the most pleasant walks in Raleigh. You'll see sculptures, your dog will sniff everything, and you'll both leave happy. The Greenway connector extends the adventure if you want more.*



## Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve

*Quiet, Wooded & Perfect for Shy or Calmer Dogs*

2616 Kildaire Farm Rd., Cary, NC 27518

2.9 miles of trails through beautiful forest ridges and bluffs — typically quieter than other Triangle trails, ideal for dogs that prefer a gentler pace

Rare Eastern hemlock trees, wildlife sightings, and a serene atmosphere — an underrated Cary gem

2.9 Miles of Trails

Quiet & Wooded

Good for Shy Dogs

Eastern Hemlocks

Cary Hidden Gem

*Whitney's Note: If your dog gets overwhelmed by crowds, Hemlock Bluffs is your answer. Beautiful, quiet, wooded — the rare Eastern hemlocks make it feel truly special. A Cary secret worth knowing.*





### Vaccinations First

Most Triangle dog parks require proof of Rabies, Distemper/Parvo and Bordetella. Have your vet records handy before your first visit.



### Some Parks Require Registration

Cary, Apex, and some other towns require registration before your dog's first off-leash visit. Check each park's website in advance.



### Mind the NC Summer Heat

Our summers are HOT. Early morning or evening walks are best from May through September. Always bring fresh water for your pup.



### Heartworm & Fleas

Year-round prevention is important in NC's climate. Your Triangle vet will set you up — mosquitoes and fleas are active most of the year here.



### Use BringFido

BringFido.com is the best resource for dog-friendly restaurants, hotels, events and hidden spots across the Triangle — bookmark it.



### Raleigh Is Pet-Friendly

Raleigh ranked in WalletHub's top 25 Most Pet-Friendly Cities in America in 2025 — your dog is moving somewhere that truly loves them back.



The Triangle Loves Your Dog *as Much as You Do*

*From 27-mile greenways to neighborhood dog parks within walking distance of a cold pint — moving to the Triangle means your pup gets to upgrade their life right along with you. This is a community that takes its dogs seriously, and we think that says something pretty wonderful about the people here. Welcome home — to both of you. 🐾🌿*

## 🌸 House in Bloom Realty 🌸

Park rules, registration requirements, and hours change — always verify directly with each park before visiting. Some parks require pre-registration online. Dogs must be on leash outside designated off-leash areas. Please be a responsible pet parent and clean up after your pup! 🐾

Affiliated with LPT Realty · Serving Wake County & surrounding areas · Helping families bloom where they're planted 🌿

