

Top 7 Pet-Friendly Places to Visit in the Rockford Region: Unleash the Fun with Your Furry Friends!

If you're looking for pet-friendly experiences, then you've come to the right place. Bring your furry companion along for a good run, lots of play time and exploring new adventures with us here in the Rockford region. From scenic outdoor parks to fun events and delicious restaurants, here's a guide to the best pet-friendly places to visit during the dog days of summer...or any time of year!

1. Ernie's Midtown Pub - Midtown Dog Walk

Calling all dog owners and dog enthusiasts! Ernie's Midtown Pub hosts The Midtown Dog Walk – a PAWsome outdoor event with kiddie pools, sprinklers, games, and more for your furry friend. Bad Humor Ice Cream Truck, The Canine Crunchery, Inzombia Coffee, Ernie's with food and beverages, will be there to cover the humans' needs too! Noah's Ark Animal Sanctuary will be attending with dogs to adopt!

May 4, 2023 - October 5, 2023 - recurring monthly on the 1st Thursday (5 p.m. - 8 p.m.)
Address: 1025 5th Avenue, Rockford, IL 61104

2. Prairie Street Brewing Company

When hunger strikes, head to Prairie Street Brewing Company! This pet-friendly restaurant has a relaxed atmosphere and invites you to bring your dog along for a memorable outdoor dining experience. You can enjoy delicious craft beer, a wide range of unique foods and beautiful scenic views with your pup right by your side on their dog-friendly patio.

Address: 200 Prairie St., Rockford, IL 61107

3. Great local dog shops – Canine Crunchery and Bark on Mulford

Taking your pet to local shops like Canine Crunchery and Bark on Mulford is not just about buying them homemade treats – it's about creating happy moments with your furry friend. Treat your side kick to a day of pampering and making them feel extra loved by their favorite human. They will love the extra special attention and being the center of your world as you shop together for their favorite goodies.

Addresses: Canine Crunchery - 1888 Daimler Road, Rockford, IL 61112 and Bark on Mulford - 2002 S Mulford Rd, Rockford, IL 61108

4. Pints for Pups at The Olympic Tavern

Every Monday evening after 4 p.m. join the Olympic Tavern for Pints for Pups – a pet-friendly experience on their outdoor patio. This special event not only fosters a friendly atmosphere for

pets but also serves as a community hub. It's a place where fellow pet owners can connect and share stories. You'll find yourself part of a heartwarming camaraderie that helps to create new friendships, and also gives back to supporting local dog charities in need.

May 15 – September 25 - every Monday after 4 p.m.

Address: 2327 N Main St, Rockford, IL 61103

5. Rockford Art Deli Pup-Friendly Shopping Experience

As you browse to find locally made 815 gear, and other cool items, your dog can join alongside you. This pet-friendly shop even has a resident mascot named Pepper, who greets you and is always ready to make new friends. While you're there pick up some trendy dog items so they can rep the 815 just like you.

Address: 402 East State Street, Rockford, IL 61104

6. Dog friendly Parks

The Rockford region is home to wonderful dog-friendly parks where you can take your furry friend for outdoor fun and high energy activities. Our community features miles of picturesque trails, perfect for hiking, jogging, or simply strolling with your pup. We also have designated dog parks offering ample space for running around and playing off-leash too. Here are some of the best dog-friendly parks in the Rockford area:

Rock Cut State Park – 7223 West Lane Road, Loves Park, IL 61111

Canine Corners Searles Park - 4950 Safford Road., Rockford, IL 61101

Canine Corners Olson Park - 7901 Harlem Road., Loves Park, IL 61111

Canine Corners Elliot Park – South Lyford and Mill Roads, Rockford, IL 61109

Aldeen Park – 623 North Alpine Road, Rockford, IL 61107

Sinnissippi Park – 2010 Arlington Avenue, Rockford, IL 61107

Atwood Park – 7074 Rydberg Road, Rockford, IL 61109

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens (outdoor only) -

Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden – 2715 South Main Street, Rockford, IL 61102

Severson Dells Nature Center – 8786 Montague Road, Rockford, IL 61102

Baumann Park – 298 South Walnut Street, downtown Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Barkwood Dog Park - 11369 N Main St, Rockton, IL 61072

7. Octane + downtown Rockford

After exploring downtown Rockford with your pup you both may get a bit hungry and thirsty, so head on over to Octane's pet-friendly outdoor patio to recharge. Once you and your pal are ready

to go again be sure to check out the beautiful public art within walking distance or plan to take a jog to Davis Park to take a selfie by the Rockford sign!

Address: 124 North Main Street, Rockford, IL 61101

We hope you will visit these fido-approved places (and all others) throughout the Rockford region. Be sure to document your adventures with us by tagging #gorockford on social media!

PHOTO CREDIT: Rock River Current, Prairie Street Brewing Company, Octane, Bark on Mulford, The Olympic Tavern, Rockford Art Deli, Lottie.The.Pembroke