

DOGS OFF LEASH

Where you can walk/have a dog off leash in Pitkin County is not to be confused with a dog running at large. Dog guardians are responsible for their pet's actions and control of a pet is required.

A general rule of thumb: Dogs can be walked off leash in all areas of the national forest that are not wilderness, except areas where dogs are specifically regulated. Dogs can be walked off leash on BLM lands. Dogs must be leashed on county and municipal trails and in parks, unless exceptions have been made.

All of the following locations can be found at www.pitkinoutside.com – an online map of trails and other recreational amenities in Pitkin County. PitkinOutside is also available as a free mobile app.



1. ASPEN/PITKIN COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Dogs are permitted off leash at Rio Grande Park, Wagner Park, Marolt Open Space and on Smuggler Mountain Road (pictured). Dogs must be under sight and voice control in these areas. Dog guardians must have a leash and waste bag in their possession. Immediate removal of dog waste is required. Dog walkers on Smuggler are limited to two dogs per person.

2. BACKCOUNTRY ROADS

Dogs can be walked off leash on various U.S. Forest Service roads, as well as county roads that traverse through federal lands. Pet owners must judge where and when traffic conditions are such that it's safe to walk a pet off leash.

These roads include (but are not limited to): Express Creek Road, Pearl Pass Road, Montezuma Basin Road, Cooper Creek Road, Richmond Hill Road, Little Annie Road, Midnight Mine Road, Upper Hurricane Road, Lincoln Creek Road (upper section), Canal Service Road, Hunter Creek Toll Road, Burnt Hole Road, Repeater Road, Four Corners Road, Larkspur Mountain Road, Yeckel Road, Kobey Park Road, Little Woody Road, Red Rim Road, upper Capitol Creek Road, the roads in Coal Basin, upper Thompson Creek Road, upper North Thompson Creek Road, Marion Gulch Road, Burnt Mountain Loop.

3. BLM LANDS

Light Hill and the Crown.

4. NATIONAL FOREST

Dogs may be walked unleashed in the national forest outside of wilderness area boundaries, except where dogs are specifically prohibited or otherwise regulated. In the Aspen area for example, dogs must be leashed at Maroon Lake, often referred to as the Maroon Bells. No dogs are permitted at Conundrum Hot Springs, but leashed dogs are permitted on the Conundrum Creek Trail as far as Silver Dollar Pond on the Aspen side (a distance of 5.5 miles).

5. TRAILS

Aspen area - Hunter Creek Trail (north and south, between national forest boundary and wilderness boundary only, NOT between Aspen and national forest boundary). Sunnyside and Shadyside trails, Upper and Lower Plunge, Hobbit Trail, Secret Single Track, Hunter Creek Overlook, Bald Knob and Van Horn Park west of wilderness boundary. Congo Trail. Stirling Cooper Trail.

Woody Creek area - Tincup Trail, Johnson Creek, Hannon Creek.

Fryingpan Valley - Ruedi Overlook Trail, Rocky Fork Trail, Miller Divide Trail, Miller to Rocky Fork Trail, Montgomery Flats.

Midvalley area – Arbaney-Kittle Trail, Perham Creek Trail, East Creek Trail (below wilderness boundary), Lake Ridge Lake Trail, Braderich/South Thompson Creek Trail, Middle Thompson Creek, Hay Park Trail, Buzzard Basin Trail, Thomas Lakes Trail below wilderness boundary.

6. WINTER-ONLY OPTIONS

Nordic ski trails: Bernese Boulevard at the Aspen Golf Course and Labrador Lane at the Snowmass Golf Course. Dogs must be in sight and voice control, and remain on these dog-friendly loops.

Maroon Creek Road and Highway 82 on Independence Pass are open to dogs off leash beyond the winter closure points.

Difficult Campground southeast of Aspen is also open to off-leash dogs during its winter closure.