

Exploring Ozaukee County with your four-legged friends

Submitted by the Ozaukee County Tourism Council

We're willing to bet if you didn't add a furry friend to your family in 2020, you know a family (or several families) who did! Canine companions have long played a role in our lives, and during the pandemic many families decided there was no better time to adopt a new pooch than when they were working from home, trying to keep their kids exercised and entertained, and looking to infuse some new energy into their now-Cheerio-sized social circles.

Dogs are a great motivator to get out of the house and explore. Once you're out and about, Ozaukee County offers a number of great dog-friendly places for your pup to take you for some exercise, to pick up some supplies or even to grab a cup of coffee or a beer!

Local dog parks

Top on your dog's list might be a local dog park, and Ozaukee County has several to offer. Muttland Meadows in Grafton is a fenced 7-acre park that was opened to the community in 1981 by Joseph and Georganna Uihlein. It is now an official non-profit organization run by a very dedicated board of volunteers and sustained by the donations of its patrons. Trails run along the perimeter, and dogs of all shapes and sizes love darting through the woods, chasing and being chased, and wrestling in the open areas.

Katherine Kearney Carpenter Park in Mequon is a 35-acre park with walking trails and an off-leash dog park. This beautiful site was donated to the city of

Mequon in 1967, subject to the conditions that it be used for public park purposes and that children and pets be given unrestricted access. It offers open terrain, streams and trails through the woods, but keep in mind that it's an unfenced park so make sure to only bring your pooch if he or she responds to commands.

Pepi's Playground in Belgium is a 3-acre park that opened to the public in 2013. It's fully fenced and offers plenty of space for pups to play, as well as picnic tables and a fresh water spigot to keep the four-legs cool and hydrated.

County parks and more

The Ozaukee Interurban Trail and all Ozaukee County Parks are dog-friendly, but do require your furry friends to be on leash. Most of the larger parks offer dog bag stations. Popular parks include Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve, Tendick Nature County Park, Virmond County Park, Mequon Nature Preserve, Mee-Kwon County Park and Ehlers County Park. Visit the Planning and Parks Department website to see a list of Ozaukee County Parks. Dogs are not allowed on golf courses or cart paths.

If your pup loves playing in the waves, check out South Beach in Port Washington, Lion's Den Gorge in Grafton (it's a nice hike down to the beach!) or Harrington Beach State Park in Belgium, which also offers a dog friendly campground and trails.

If your fuzzy buddy doesn't realize he's a different species and can't understand why he's not always welcome in retail and other establishments, we have some good news for both of you. Health restrictions



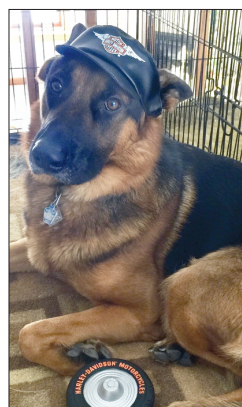
Submitted photo

Pepi's Playground is a good outdoor option to make sure your pets get their exercise.



Submitted photo

Simba checks out Rebellion Brewing with his owners.



Submitted photo

Suburban Motors Harley Davidson in Thiensville also welcomes dogs.

Christmas tree farm. They've even had dogs walk down the aisle for their owners' weddings!

Other dog-friendly businesses

Generally businesses with full kitchens cannot allow any pets but service dogs inside for health code reasons. But in warmer weather many of our restaurants, bars and coffee shops allow well-behaved pups to join their owners on the patio. Dog friendly places include Beanies in Port Washington; Out & Out, Wayne's Drive In and The Fermentorium in Cedarburg; Kyotes Bar & Grill in Belgium; Skippy's Burger Bar in Thiensville; and Café Hollander in Mequon.

"As a family-owned business, we wanted to make a place that was family friendly," said Matthew Hofmann, owner of Sahale Ale Works in Grafton, a dog- and family-friendly brewery, where leashed and well-behaved dogs are welcome both inside and on the patio. "To us that means you can even bring the family dog while you hang out. We have brews for the parents, house-made soda for the kids and spent grain dog treats for the pups."

If you're looking for a winter beer garden experience with your furry friend, a number of breweries and wineries are keeping their outdoor areas open and welcome pups on their patios. In Port Washington, animal-friendly Inventors Brew Pub's patio is open year-round with heaters. One customer even enjoyed a brew on the patio with his baby goat! In Cedarburg dogs are welcome on the patio and in the heated tent at Rebellion Brewing.

Looking to do a little shopping with Fido? Suburban Motors Harley Davidson in Thiensville is a great place to start — not only are they dog friendly inside and out, they have a whole line of Harley Davidson pet supplies and gear. Anyone who comes in with their fur baby and makes a purchase from the pet line can have their picture taken and Suburban Harley will showcase it on their social media (#wagwednesday) and in their e-newsletter.

Cedarburg is also a fun place to browse with your dog — they are welcome in a number of the establishments up and down the shopping district. The Shinery moonshine sampling house and gift shop is so dog-friendly they named their house whiskey Boon Dog, and Pagoda Fine Jewelry is quick to pull out treats for your little buddy!

Port Washington is also a great place to shop with your dogs — they are welcome in a number of shops, including Sherper's outdoor retail store, the Shoppes of Port Washington cooperative store (which offers dozens of unique small businesses all in one building) and the clothing store ZING Boutique. Wine lovers will enjoy browsing Vines To Cellar winery and retail shop with their pooch. And of course most pet supplies stores allow pets.

For more information, visit these partners' websites or Facebook pages, or look for the dog icon near their listings at ozaukee-tourism.com or in our annual Tourism Guide. On behalf of the Ozaukee County Tourism Council, thank you for helping to make Ozaukee County a wonderful place for all to live, work and visit!

prohibit them from a lot of places (service dogs being an exception), but a number of Ozaukee County business owners recognize that dogs are family members too, and welcome them with

open arms.

Buechler Farms in Belgium, a seasonal family farm and event venue, welcomes dogs for their fun family-friendly events, fall pumpkin farm and winter