Service Animal Policy

Individuals with disabilities are welcome to be accompanied by their service animals in all Washington County Parks.

A service animal is defined as
- A dog or miniature horse*;
- Trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.

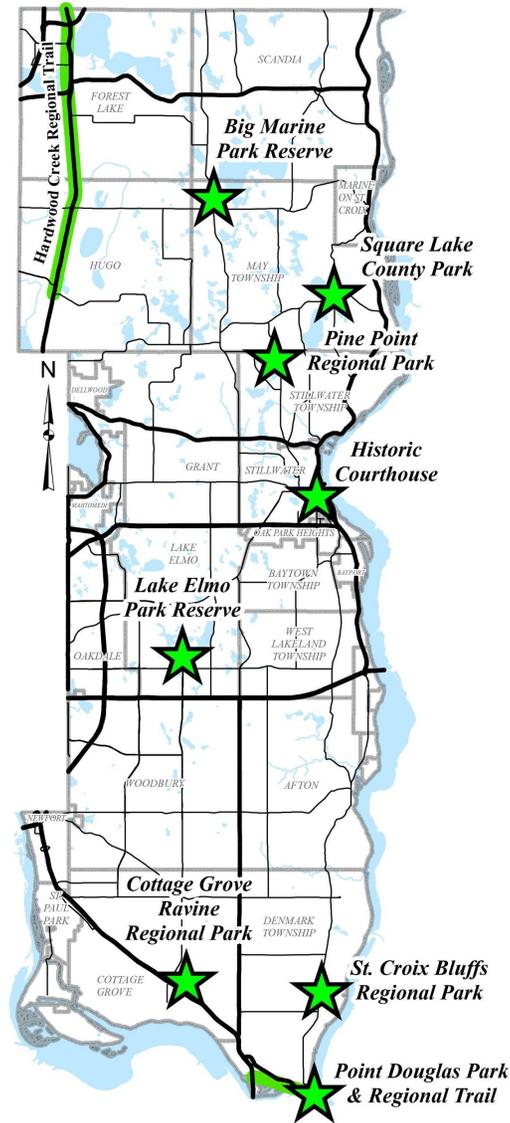The following are NOT considered to be service animals:
- Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained;
- A dog whose mere presence is a crime deterrent;
- A dog who only provides emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship.
- A doctor's note does not qualify a dog to be a service animal.

When can a service animal be removed?*
- A service animal can be removed if it is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it;
- The animal is not housebroken.

Impersonating a service animal is illegal in MN.
- In public places, only service animals are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act or the Minnesota Human Rights Act.
- Pretending your animal is a service animal interferes with the independence and lawful rights of people with disabilities.
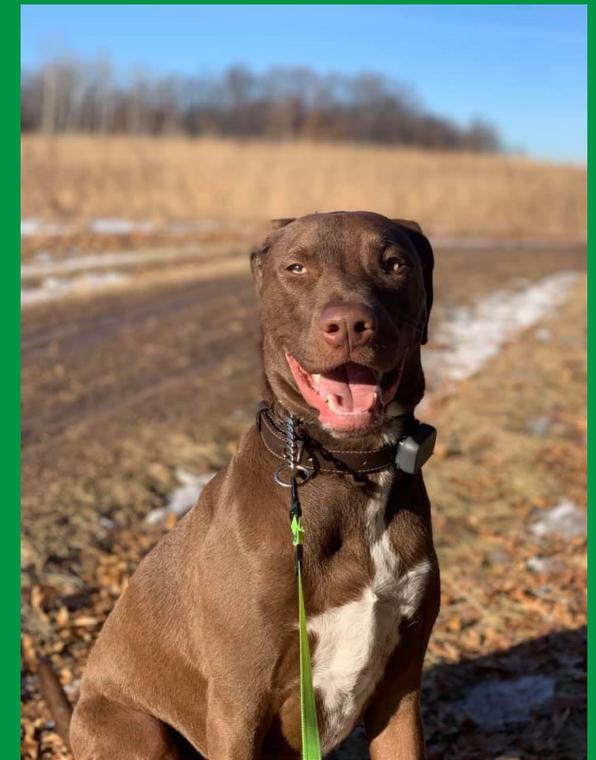
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Pets in our Parks

Washington County

Pet Safety Tips

Responsible pet ownership is key!

Prepare your pet - Dogs must be on a 6' leash or shorter at all times. Be mindful of older dogs and choose trails that are appropriate for your pet.

Beware of ticks - Ticks found outdoors. After every visit in a park, rub your dog down being sure to check their ears and between toes

Beware of the temperature - Hot or cold, be sure your pet is ready. Be sure there is clean, fresh water available for your dog and never leave a pet unattended in a car.

Watch your dog at all times - New spaces can be overwhelming for a young or untrained dog. Make sure your pet is used to seeing other people, dogs, or horses on the trail. Horses can be easily fright-ened and it is important to keep your dog under control.

Be prepared - Just like you, your pet will enjoy having something when you both get hungry or thirsty. Bring along plenty of water and a light snack for when you take a rest.

Stay safe around wildlife - Respect wildlife by keeping a safe distance and keeping your dog leashed. Interacting with wildlife can result in injury to wildlife, your dog, or yourself.

Recommended Trails

Bring your friend to check out a Washington County Park or regional trail. Take a walk through the woods or an open prairie on one of our many tails. Remember that they are not allowed in beaches or picnic areas.

Leashed pets are allowed at the following Washington County Parks and trails:

Leashed Pets Allowed	
	Square Lake Park
✕	St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park
✕	Point Douglas Regional Trail
	Point Douglas Park
✕	Pine Point Regional Park
✕	Lake Elmo Park Reserve
	Historic Courthouse
✕	Hardwood Creek Regional Trail
✕	Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park
✕	Big Marine Park Reserve

Pet Policies

Keep your pet on a leash at all times
- Washington County Parks requires leashes. Leashing your pet keeps them safe from chasing wildlife, getting lost or hurt.

Pets are not allowed in the campgrounds
- Pets are family members, but they are not allowed to camp with you in Washington County Parks. They are only allowed on park trails. Bring them along on your next hike through our parks.

Pick up after your pet
- No one wants to be surprised on their hike. Pack extra bags and be sure to dispose of waste properly.

Know your parks
- Check that the park allows dogs before visiting. Some parks don't allow dogs and you don't want a surprise when you arrive.

Must be under control of the handler
- Some of our guests may be allergic or afraid of your dog. Please respect other park users space.

Visit your vet
- Be sure your dog is up-to-date on vaccinations to protect them. Fleas, ticks, and waterborne pathogens can cause illnesses to your pet. Avoid stagnant water.