

# CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES

are favorite places for dogs and their owners.

There's plenty of room, a lot to smell and a variety of people and "critters" to visit.  
What could make your dog happier!

## SO...WHY DOES MY DOG NEED TO BE ON A LEASH?

There are many reasons, but **safety** has to be the biggest. If you are not in direct physical control of your dog (or someone else is unable to control theirs), it is only a matter of time until a person or pet is injured. A leash requirement is typical at public parks.



## I NEED TO TRAIN MY DOG OFF-LEASH TO POINT OR RETRIEVE.



With that in mind we have established an area at our Middle Fork Preserve that is away from where the general public is invited. It provides a varied terrain and conditions that fit the needs of those who wish to train their dogs off-leash.

For more information on this area, please visit our website at [www.ccfpd.org](http://www.ccfpd.org) or call the Middle Fork Office at 217-595-5432

## MY DOG IS NOT AGGRESSIVE AND WOULD NEVER HURT ANYONE.

Unfortunately, not all dogs may be as well behaved as yours. We (and the other preserve visitors) have no way of knowing if a dog is aggressive or just friendly. Also, some visitors may be intimidated by a dog no matter how socialized it may be. We have had parents with small children who were terrified when a large dog simply ran up to them. Controlling your pets is your responsibility. If you let them run loose and it results in injury, you will be personally liable.



Keeping your dog on a leash will avoid startling unsuspecting bicyclists, hikers and runners. It will also enable you to prevent your dog from coming in contact with harmful plants and animals, or becoming entangled in fences.

A dog on a leash benefits the forest preserve environment. Nesting birds and other wild animals abound in the preserves. Dogs on the loose often disturb nesting sites or cause injury to wildlife while chasing them.

