



# PET FRIENDLY

Hi. I'm Nikki. My people call me a spoiled-rotten dog, but I don't think I'm spoiled. I just love to have fun here in Folsom, and there are lots of things for a dog to do here. **Let's get started!**

**T**rails. Folsom has more than 52 miles of beautiful paved trails for cyclists and pedestrians, and many of them meander through greenbelts and wooded areas and along streams. And with all the wildlife, there are always lots of things for a dog to smell as we walk along. One of my favorites is the Humbug-Willow Creek trail system, which meanders through 15 miles in the middle of town.

We're also next to the American River Bike Trail, with sections on each side of Lake Natoma, so there's always a new adventure around every corner and lots of new things to see. Two things to note: steer clear of the wild turkeys. Those are some big birds! And like the signs say, tell your owner to keep you on a leash and walk you on his left, facing traffic. That's a lot safer for dogs and cyclists alike. Your

people can get a nice trails map at City Hall, 48 Natoma Street, or download a PDF at [www.folsom.ca.us](http://www.folsom.ca.us)

If your owner doesn't feel like a nice hike, you can go to one of my favorite places - Fido Field, our very own dog park, which has separate fenced areas for small and large dogs, as well as shade and seating for your people. The dogs are really friendly but I don't pay too much attention to them. I come here to fetch! If it's been raining your people can call 817-2767 to see if the park is open. It's located at 1780 Creekside Drive, right next to one of the trails.

Water. If you're like me, you love the water, and with two lakes and a river, there are plenty of places for a dog to get wet. Two great places to go are Folsom Point, which provides access to Folsom Lake,

and Negro Bar, a broad picnic area along Lake Natoma. While dogs aren't allowed on the swimming beaches at either, it's not difficult to find a private splash spot (and a spot in the shade) along 80 miles of trails and almost as many miles of shoreline.

Dogs love dirt and mud, but some or our people don't. So when the city's Aquatic Center closes for the year, usually around October 1, they open it up for dogs to swim and frolic in the Activity Pool. Last year they opened the Instructional Pool, too, to give us a chance to dive and swim. It costs \$10 per dog, but the humans are free! It's at 1200 Riley Street.

But if your people need to give you a quick bath after being in the lake, one good place is sBarkles, a do-it-yourself dog wash at 850 E. Bidwell Street.

Dog-friendly places. After all that ex-



ercise, dogs and their people need to eat, drink, and rest, and fortunately there are lots of dog-friendly restaurants in Folsom – many close to the trails and water. Some of my favorites are the Waffle Experience, 13405 Folsom Blvd.; several restaurants in Historic Folsom, including Karen's Bakery and Café, 705 Gold Lake Drive, the Folsom Bar & Grille in the same complex, and the Sutter Street Grill, 811 Sutter Street (they even have water bowls!); and several loca-

tions near Folsom Lake and the Folsom bike trail, including Folsom Tap House, 25005 Blue Ravine Rd. Your people can find lots of other places at <http://visitfolsom.com/category/businesses-for-visitors/dining/> and then hitting Tags, then Pet-Friendly.

Folsom is a great place for dogs like me who are lucky enough to live here, but it's a great place to visit as well. And if you see me out and about, wag your tail! ■



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