

Waterfalls (continued...)

Whiskey Brook Falls - Speculator Easy • 1 point

This 5-6' tall gem is easily accessed, surrounded by boulders, and sits along the eastern side of the road.

Location: From the intersection of Route 8 and Route 30 in Speculator, drive 2.2 mi. north on Route 30 and look off to the right for the stream that flows under the road. Pull off to the right, park, and follow the southern bank of the creek upstream for 50', where you'll see the falls.

Date Completed:

Auger Falls - Wells Easy/Moderate • 2 points

This 40' falls is at the beginning of a series of cascades through a narrow gorge on the Sacandaga River. Many potholes can be seen along the edge of the gorge when the water is low. The banks are steep and slippery; be careful.

Location: From Wells, drive north on Route 30 to the junction of Route 30 and Route 8. Continue another 1.7 mi. on Route 30 and turn right into a parking area. Walk back toward Route 30, then follow a dirt road to the left. At the end of the road, look for the trail register. You'll hear the falls shortly after you start.

Date Completed:

Austin Falls - Wells Easy • 1 point

This is a long, sliding waterfall surrounded by beautiful rock formations. As the sides of the stream narrow, the elevation drops 40' in a couple hundred yards over a rocky base. A large rock near the base of the falls hurls water into the air.

Location: Drive north from Wells on Route 30 to the intersection of Route 30 and 8. Continue another 6.5 mi. and make a right onto Old Route 30, an unimproved road, then drive 2.7 mi. and park roadside. The road is paved but bumpy! The falls are to the right, can be heard from the road, and are reached with a 50' walk. The stream banks are slippery, use caution.

Date Completed:



East Jimmy Creek Falls - Wells Easy • 1 point

These two small falls are less than 200 yards from Route 8. A series of small drops upstream from the main falls are worth looking for. The first waterfall is near the beginning of the hike, the second is just upstream and plunges into a swimming hole.

Location: From Wells, go north on Route 30 for 3.5 mi. to the intersection of Route 30 and 8. Turn right onto Route 8 for 1.2 mi. You will reach a point with parking areas on both sides of the road, with the stream crossing under Route 8. Park on the right and take the path along the south side of the stream. The hike to the second falls is a few hundred yards upstream.

Date Completed:

Griffin Falls - Wells Easy • 1 point

This falls consists of several drops, large blocks, potholes, and an 8' cascading waterfall on the East Branch of the Sacandaga River. A small swimming hole sits at the base.

Location: From Wells, head north on Route 30 for 3.5 mi. Turn right on Route 8 and drive northeast for 2.5 mi. Turn left onto a seasonal road and drive 0.2 mi., crossing the East Branch of the Sacandaga River. Park in the clearing past the bridge. Follow the path on the west side of the river, going downstream to reach the falls.

Date Completed:

West Branch of the Sacandaga River and Cold Brook Falls - Wells Difficult • 4 points

This is a 2.5 mi. hike to the West Branch Gorge, and should only be done mid-summer when water levels are low. The West Branch of the Sacandaga River cascades through a narrow gorge that is over 400' tall in spots!

Location: Just south of Wells, take Route 30 and turn right on Algonquin Rd for 0.7 mi. past the dam to West River Rd. Continue for about 8.3 mi. to a large clearing, where the road ends. From the trailhead, hike 0.6 mi., where the path takes a left. Follow the path and cross Hamilton Lake Stream at 1.2 mi. (difficult in high water). Continue and cross Cold Brook at 1.8 mi., where you can see Cold Brook Falls upstream. Follow the river on the north bank until you see the first falls on the West Branch at around 2.5 mi. The second falls is several hundred yards upriver from the first, but can't be seen due to rough topography.

Date Completed:

Splash into fun with the Waterfall Challenge



Get Your Patch!

Visit the cascades listed here to collect 12 or more points and receive a Waterfall Challenge patch. Be sure to document the date and fill out a comment for each waterfall.

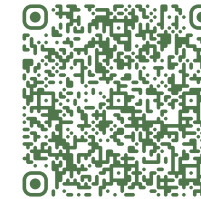
Easy: 1 point
Moderate: 3 points

Easy/Moderate: 2 points
Difficult: 4 points

Please keep in mind that waterfalls are best seen from the base and along the trails. Climbing up or down them is dangerous and not recommended!

Challenge Complete: Register Online

When you've completed the challenge, register online by scanning this QR code. Any donation will go directly to local trail improvements in Hamilton County.



Scan to register!

Visit ExperienceOurAdirondacks.com

Learn more about Hamilton County waterfalls, hikes, attractions, paddles, lodging, and travel!

Contact Us

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Waterfall Challenge



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19 Waterfalls

Bray House Falls - Arietta **Easy • 1 point**

A.k.a. “The Potholers,” this section of East Canada Creek has a series of waterfalls, chutes, and potholes dropping over 15’, accessed by a short walk.

Location: From Speculator, head west on Route 8 for 12.2 mi. to Route 10, then turn left. Drive 1.2 mi. and make the first right onto Powley Rd. (dirt road - might not have sign). Continue for 10.4 mi. and look for Brayhouse Brook. Stay on the north bank and head downstream until you get to where it enters East Canada Creek. Head upstream 0.1 mi. to the falls.

Date Completed:

Buckhorn Lake Outlet - Arietta **Easy/Moderate • 2 points**

This waterfall is on the outlet of Buckhorn Lake. The hike follows the Northville-Placid Trail (NPT) for 1.3 mi. Buckhorn Lake, a.k.a. “Fiddler’s Pond,” is great for birding.

Location: Take Route 8 west from Speculator and watch for the NPT trailhead signs on the left. Follow the trail for 1.3 mi. At the footbridge, look right and you will see the top of the cascade about 25’ downstream. Paths on both sides lead to the bottom. Follow the creek back upstream to see Buckhorn Lake.

Date Completed:

West Stony Creek Falls - Benson **Moderate • 3 points**

A fairly level, 1.5 mi. walk along an old dirt road to a 4’ cascade at the southern end of the Northville-Placid Trail (NPT).

Location: From Northville take Route 30 north for 3.2 mi., then turn onto Benson Rd. At 5.8 mi., bear right to stay on Benson Rd. at the fork after the bridge, following signs for the NPT. Continue for 0.6 mi., then turn left on Godfrey Rd. (dirt road) and continue for 0.5 mi. The parking area is on the right. Walk the road for 1.2 mi. As the road ends, you will be at the North Branch of West Stony Creek. Follow a blue-blazed tote road northwest for 0.3 mi. to the falls.

Date Completed:

Groff Creek Falls - Hope **Difficult • 4 points**

A series of three waterfalls along Groff Creek, all of which take extra effort to see. The first two are more difficult to get to than the third.

Location: Take Route 30 for 11.7 mi. south from Wells or for 3.2 mi. north from Northville. Turn onto Benson Rd. and make a right onto River Rd. Drive north for 4.6 mi. until the drivable road stops. From here, it is a 1.8 mi. hike to the falls. Follow the stream farther up from the first falls to reach the other two waterfalls; both require a hike downhill.

Date Completed:

Tenant Creek Falls - Hope **Easy/Moderate • 2 points**

A.k.a. “Hope Falls,” this waterfall forms at a creek bend. The first falls is a series of sloping drops and cascades ending in a pool. The surrounding area is the site of the former village of Hope Falls, a once thriving community of tanneries and mills that disappeared in the early 1900s.

Location: From Northville, take Route 30 north 4.0 mi. and turn right on Old Northville Rd. After 1.4 mi. turn left on Hope Falls Rd. Continue for 7.0 mi., where the parking area is on the right. Follow the trail 0.8 mi. to a stream crossing, with the first falls at 0.9 mi. Passing the falls, the trail continues to the second falls at 2.0 mi. and the third at 2.1 mi.

Date Completed:

OK Slip Falls - Indian Lake **Difficult • 4 points**

This is one of the highest waterfalls in the Adirondacks. A hike of OK Slip Falls is 6.4 mi. round trip, including the walk from the parking area. The falls has a stunning 200’ drop into a gorge.

Location: The parking area is located 7.5 mi. east of the intersection of Routes 30 and 28 in Indian Lake on the south side of Route 28. If you are traveling from the east, the parking area is located 4.4 mi. west after crossing the second railroad bed in North River along Route 28 as the highway leads away from the Hudson River. The trailhead is located on the north side of Route 28 west of the parking area. Hikers will walk along the road for 0.2 mi. and then cross the road.

Date Completed:

Squaw Brook Falls - Indian Lake **Easy • 1 point**

A small, roadside falls located in a rocky gorge on Squaw Brook. The falls are on private property and should be observed from the road.

Location: Take Route 30 south from Indian Lake for 3.5 mi. to a small bridge. The falls is on the east side of the road.

Date Completed:

Cascade Falls - Inlet **Moderate • 3 points**

Cascade Falls is a pretty, 12-15” ribbon of water that drops over 40’ into a beautiful shade pool.

Location: Drive north out of Inlet on Route 28 toward Old Forge for approximately 2.1 mi. and turn right on Big Moose Rd., just past the Eagle Bay sign. Drive 1.4 mi. to the trailhead and park on the right side of the road. From the trailhead, follow a footpath southeast to the intersection with a tote road at about 0.3 mi. Turn left to head northeast. Follow the tote road, bearing right at the fork at 0.9 mi., until a clearing at 2.7 mi. A trail on the right leads to the falls.

Date Completed:

Limekiln Falls - Inlet **Easy/Moderate • 2 points**

On this walk you’ll find a series of easy-dropping falls flowing along the trail, which is surrounded by a forest of cedar and hemlock. The falls are 15’ wide and almost 0.5 mi. long.

Location: Head south on Route 28 from Inlet for 1.0 mi. and make a right at the golf course, heading south on Limekiln Rd. Drive for 1.8 mi. to Limekiln Lake Campground. The trail starts at campsite #87. Travel across the open field to find a register at the old fish barrier dam, where the self-guided nature trail starts. Travel to the right for 1.0 mi., until the trail bears right after a series of bridges. Follow the outlet for Limekiln Lake for about 0.75 mi. as the trail crosses the brook several times and you’ll come to the start of the falls, which continues for another 0.5 mi. There is a day-use fee for the campground.

Date Completed:

Buttermilk Falls - Long Lake **Easy • 1 point**

The falls are a series of short and wide cascades on the Raquette River totaling more than 40’. The river appears to be elevated above the surrounding bedrock, an interesting optical illusion.

Location: From Long Lake, take Route 28/30 south for 3.0 mi. to North Point Rd., or north 7.7 mi. from Blue Mountain Lake. Turn onto North Point Rd. and follow it for 2.1 mi. Look for a sign on the right, where there is a parking area and a path to the falls.

Date Completed:

Death Falls - Raquette Lake **Easy • 1 point**

Also known as “Secret Falls,” this cascade is on a tributary into Death Stream, and drops almost 70’ over a cliff. This is a short walk, and best viewed at high water.

Location: Trail starts on the south side of Route 28, near the southern shore of Raquette Lake. A yellow gate marks the path’s start about 10.0 mi. west of Blue Mountain Lake or 3.6 mi. east of Sagamore Rd. in Raquette Lake. Parking is sparse, but you can park at Golden Beach State Campground. From the gate, walk on a flat trail to a clearing and cross to the other side. The trail goes straight through a wet area to the falls, 0.2 mi. from the road.

Date Completed:

Christine Falls - Speculator **Easy • 1 point**

Easily accessed from Route 30, east of Speculator, and slightly downstream from the dam on the Sacandaga River. These two waterfalls drop around 20’ to a local swimming hole.

Location: From the intersection of Route 30 and Route 8 in Speculator, drive south on Route 30 for 3.1 mi., passing Old Route 30 on your left. Continue another 0.3 mi. around a bend and look for the parking area on the left. Walk down the slope to the falls.

Date Completed:

Dug Mountain Brook Falls - Speculator **Difficult • 4 points**

Located on the south end of Indian Lake, and best reached by canoe from the Indian Lake Islands DEC boat launch. There is a small falls where the brook enters the lake, and a larger falls upstream.

Location: From Speculator, drive north 12.5 mi. on Route 30 to the Indian Lake Islands launch. Paddle 2.0 mi. across the lake, go around Long Island, and head southwest. Continue for 5.5 mi. to the end of the lake, and take out where Dug Mountain Brook enters — you’ll see a picnic area and a small waterfall. Follow the north side of the stream for 0.4 mi. to the larger falls. Alternate route: A 2.5 mi. paddle along the Jessup River, 6 mi. northeast of Speculator. In low water, the narrow river can be difficult to navigate. From Speculator, drive 6.4 mi. north on Route 30 and look for the Jessup River. Park on the side of the road and paddle downstream on the eastern side of Route 30. Look for Dug Mountain Brook entering Indian Lake on your right.

Date Completed: