

# Waterfall Challenge

Visit the cascades listed here to collect 12 or more points and receive a Waterfall Challenge patch. To submit, complete the challenge, fill out the form mail:

**Hamilton County Tourism**  
**P.O. Box 57**  
**Lake Pleasant, NY 12108**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_

**Easy: 1 point**

**Easy/Moderate: 2 points**

**Moderate: 3 points**

**Difficult: 4 points**

To complete the challenge, visit the falls listed here and fill in the date and a brief comment about your journey. Collect a total of 12 or more points to earn your patch!

## BRAY HOUSE FALLS • ARIETTA

### EASY • 1 POINT

Also known as “The Potholers,” this section of East Canada Creek has a series of waterfalls, chutes, and potholes that drop over 15 feet. The area is a beautiful spot for a picnic and is easily accessed via a short walk.

**LOCATION:** 10.5 miles southwest of Piseco Lake. From Speculator, head west on Route 8 and drive 12.2 miles to Route 10, then make a left heading south. Drive 1.2 miles and make the first right onto Powley Road (dirt), which may or may not have a sign. Continue on Powley Road for 10.4 miles and look for Brayhouse Brook, just before passing into Fulton County. Stay on the north bank of the stream and head downstream until you get to where Brayhouse Brook enters East Canada Creek. Head upstream for 0.1 miles to the falls.

**Trailhead GPS:** 43.2747754N, 74.6642548W

**Date/Comment:**

## BUCKHORN LAKE OUTLET • ARIETTA

### EASY/MODERATE • 2 POINTS

This waterfall is on a small stream that is the outlet of Buckhorn Lake. The hike in to the falls follows along the famous Northville-Placid Trail (NPT), and is approximately 1.3 miles one-way, with a slight elevation gain as you travel toward the falls. Buckhorn Lake, also known as “Fiddler’s Pond,” is a birder’s paradise and is home to nesting loons and great blue herons.

**LOCATION:** 8.4 miles west of Speculator. Take Route 8 from Speculator 9 miles west. Watch for the DEC trailhead signs marking the NPT on the left past the Town of Arietta Highway Department, across from Casey’s Corner in Piseco. Follow the blue-blazed trail markers on the trail for 1.3 miles. When you get to a wooden foot bridge, look right and you will see the top of the cascade about 25 feet downstream. Paths on both sides lead to the bottom of the falls. If you follow the creek upstream from the wooden foot bridge, you will be able to get a scenic view of Buckhorn Lake.

**Trailhead GPS:** 43.428885N, 74.4960501W

**Date/Comment:**

## WEST STONY CREEK FALLS • BENSON

### MODERATE • 3 POINTS

A fairly level walk takes you along an old dirt road for 1.5 miles to a small, 4-foot cascade on a medium-sized stream along the Northville-Placid Trail (NPT) at its southern end.

**LOCATION:** 10.2 miles southwest of Wells or 9.5 miles northwest of Northville. From Northville, take Route 30 north for 3.2 miles to County Route 6/Benson Road or from Wells take Route 30 south for 12.4 miles. Turn west onto Benson Road and pass Lapland Lake Ski Center at 5.2 miles. Continue on and at 5.8 miles the road forks after an iron bridge; stay to the right following the signs for the NPT Trail and continue northwest for 0.6 mile. Turn left onto a dirt road (Godfrey Road) and continue for another 0.5 mile. The parking area is on the right. Walk on the road for 1.2 miles to the northwest. As the dirt road ends, you will be at the North Branch of West Stony Creek. Follow a blue-blazed tote road northwest for 0.3 mile, you will soon come to the falls, which are just downstream from a large log footbridge that crosses over the creek.

**Trailhead GPS:** 43.2551443N, 74.3469554W

**Date/Comment:**

## GROFF CREEK FALLS • HOPE

### DIFFICULT • 4 POINTS

There are a series of 3 waterfalls along the Groff Creek, all of which take some extra effort to see. The first 2 are more difficult to get to than the 3rd.

**LOCATION:** 5.5 miles south of Wells: Take Route 30 for 3.2 miles north of Northville, and make a left onto County Route 6 (Benson Road) towards Benson. Make an immediate right onto River Road, and drive north for 4.6 miles until the drivable road stops. From here, it is a 1.8 mile hike to the top of the series of 3 waterfalls. The first waterfall, 30 feet high, can be heard at approximately 1.6 miles from the trailhead. Scramble down to the stream to view the falls. Follow the stream further upstream to reach the other 2 waterfalls; both require a hike downhill to see them.

**Trailhead GPS** (End of road): 43.3123337N, 74.2559280W

**Date/Comment:**

## TENANT CREEK FALLS • HOPE

### EASY/MODERATE • 2 POINTS

Also known as “Hope Falls,” this 40-to-50-foot-high 50 foot high falls forms at a very sharp bend in Tenant Creek. The first falls consists of a series of slippery, low sloping drops and cascades that end into a refreshing plunge pool at its base. There are two other smaller falls farther upstream (2 miles) from Tenant Creek Falls that are also worth the effort. The area surrounding the falls is the site of the former village of Hope Falls, which was once a thriving community of tanneries and mills that disappeared in the early 1900s.

**LOCATION:** 6.5 miles southeast of Wells. Drive north on Route 30 from Northville to make a left onto Benson Road (County Route 6), on the left side of Route 30. Continue another 3.4 miles and make a right onto Creek Road. If you pass the Hope Town Hall, you’ve gone too far. For travel from the north, drive south on Route 30 from the bridge in Wells for 9.0 miles and make a left onto Creek Road. Follow Creek Road for 2.7 miles to cross East Stony Creek, and make a left turn after the bridge (at 2.9 miles) onto Hope Falls Road. Follow Hope Falls Road (East Stony Creek Road), which will parallel Stony Creek

to the end, where the hard surface will eventually turn into a dirt road. Don’t make any turns off Hope Falls Road. You can also follow the DEC signs for Wilcox Lake. The total distance to the parking area from Route 30 is 7.9 miles. From the parking area, follow a trail north along East Stony Creek until you see a footbridge over Tenant Creek. Take the trail before the bridge to the right and walk on the trail along the stream for 0.5 miles to reach the falls. If you would like to view the 2 other waterfalls on the creek, follow along the south side of the creek for another 1.5-2 miles to reach them.

**Trailhead GPS:** 43.3508616N, 74.1836712W

**Date/Comment:**

## SQUAW BROOK FALLS • INDIAN LAKE

### EASY • 1 POINT

Squaw Brook Falls is a small roadside falls located in a small rocky gorge formed on the Squaw Brook (the falls is on private property).

**LOCATION:** 3.2 miles southwest of Indian Lake. Drive south on Route 30 from Indian Lake for 3.4 miles to a small bridge. The falls lies between the road and Indian Lake, to the east of the road. You can view the falls and gorge from the bridge. Land surrounding the falls is private, no trespassing please.

**Falls GPS:** 43.7407841N, 74.2952104W

**Date/Comment:**

## CASCADE FALLS • INLET

### MODERATE • 3 POINTS

Cascade Falls is a relatively “thin” falls, 12 to 15 inches in width, that drop over 40 feet into a beautiful shade pool.

**LOCATION:** 3.0 miles northeast of downtown Inlet. Drive north out of Inlet on Route 28 towards Old Forge for approximately 2.1 miles to Big Moose Road on the right, just past the Eagle Bay sign. Make a right onto Big Moose Road and drive 1.4 miles to the trailhead. Park off to the right side of the road. Follow the trailhead northeast along a flat and easy tote road for a bit over 2 miles, and look for the falls past the end of the lake on the left.

**Trailhead GPS:** 43.7783138N, 74.8256812W

**Date/Comment:**

## 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 dark cedar and hemlock forest. The falls are 15 feet wide, and travel for almost a 1/2 mile.

**LOCATION:** 2.0 miles south of downtown Inlet. Head south on Route 28 from Inlet for 0.8 miles, and make a right, at the golf course, heading south onto Limekiln Road. Drive for another 1.8 miles to the Limekiln Lake DEC Campground entrance. The trail starts at campsite #87. Travel across the large open field to find a register box at the old fish barrier dam, where the self-guided nature trail starts. Travel to the right for 1.0 mile around the old beaver valley, until the trail bears right after a series of bridges. Follow the outlet for Limekiln Lake for about 0.75 mile as the trail crosses the brook several times and you’ll come to the start of the falls, which continues for another 1/2 mile. There is a day-use fee to enter the campground.

**DEC Campground entrance:** 43.7220437, 74.7921920W

**Date/Comment:**

## 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 feet. An interesting elevation phenomenon occurs making the river appear to be elevated above the surrounding bedrock.

**LOCATION:** 5 miles southwest of Long Lake. From Long Lake, take NYS Route 28/30 south for 3 miles to North Point Road, or north 7.7 miles from the hamlet of Blue Mountain Lake. There will be a sign here that says “Buttermilk Falls.” Turn southwest onto North Point Road, and follow the road for 2.1 miles. Look for sign on the right for the falls, where there will be a parking area and a short path leading to the falls.

**Parking Area GPS:** 43.9141626N, 74.4830220W

**Date/Comment:**

## DEATH FALLS • RAQUETTE LAKE

### EASY • 1 POINT

Also known as “Secret Falls,” this cascade is located on a tributary into Death Stream, and drops almost 70 feet over a broad faced cliff. Although the best viewing is during high water, this easily assessable falls takes only 5+ minutes to walk to. You will start hearing the falls shortly after leaving Route 28.

**LOCATION:** 3.2 miles east of Village of Raquette Lake. This trail starts on the south side of Route 28, near the southern shore of Raquette Lake. Look for a yellow gate 10 miles west of the village of Blue Mountain Lake or 3.6 miles east of Sagamore Road (in Raquette Lake), which marks the start of the short path. Parking is sparse here, but you can park nearby at the Golden Beach State campground on Raquette Lake that will require a day use fee. From the barrier, walk on a perfectly flat trail to a grass clearing and cross to the other side. The trail is a straight shot to the falls through a wet area that you might want to avoid, and is just 0.2 miles from the road.

**Trailhead GPS:** 43.8136148N, 74.5953824W

**Date/Comment:**

## CHRISTINE FALLS • SPECULATOR

### EASY • 1 POINT

This falls is easily accessible from Route 30 just east of Speculator. The falls are located slightly downstream from the power generation dam on the Sacandaga River. There are 2 small waterfalls, dropping approximately 20 feet to a great local swimming hole.

**LOCATION:** 3.0 miles E of Speculator. From the intersection of Route 30 and Route 8 in Speculator, drive south on Route 30 for 3.1 miles, passing Old Route 30 on your left. Continue on another 0.3 miles around a short bend in the road and look for the parking area for the falls on the left side of the road. Park and walk down the slope to the waterfalls.

**Falls GPS:** 43.5128021N, 74.3085344W

**Date/Comment:**

## OK SLIP FALLS • INDIAN LAKE

### DIFFICULT • 4 POINTS

This is one of the highest waterfalls in the Adirondack Park. In the summer of 2014, a new trail to the falls opened making this hidden gem accessible to the public. The trail to OK Slip Falls is 3 miles long. Adding the 0.2 miles walk from the parking

## WATERFALL CHALLENGE CONTINUED:

area makes the round trip distance 6.4 miles. The falls has a beautiful 200-foot drop into a gorge.

**LOCATION:** The parking area for OK Slip Falls is located 7.5 miles east of the intersection of Routes 30 and 28 in Indian Lake on the south side of Route 28. There is a wooden sign for the Hudson Gorge Wilderness Area at the parking lot. If you are traveling from the east, the parking area is located 4.4 miles west after crossing the second railroad bed in North River along Route 28 as the highway leads up and 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 highway for 0.2 miles, and then cross the road.

**Parking Area GPS:** 43. 46.296 N, 74. 07.849W

**Date/Comment:**

## DUG MOUNTAIN BROOK FALLS • SPECULATOR

### DIFFICULT • 4 POINTS

Located on the south end of Indian Lake, 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, 40-foot falls farther upstream to the east.

**LOCATION:** 7.0 miles northeast of Speculator. From Speculator, drive north on Route 30 for 12 miles to the DEC Indian Lake Islands boat launch on the right. Paddle 2 miles across the lake and veer around "Long Island" to the right, heading southwest into the narrow part of the lake. Follow for 5.5 miles to the end of the lake, and take out where the Dug Mountain Brook enters the lake. Where the stream enters the lake, there is a picnic area and table on the shore, and you'll see a small, 4-foot waterfall. Follow the north side of the stream for 0.4 miles to get to the base of the larger falls. Alternative route: You may access the falls via a shorter, 2.5 mile paddle along the Jessup river, 6.0 miles northeast of Speculator. This river is very narrow, and in low water can be difficult to navigate. From the 4 corners in Speculator, drive 6.4 miles 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 towards Indian Lake. Look for Dug Mountain Brook entering Indian Lake on your right.

**Indian Lake Islands boat launch GPS:**

43.6520743N, 74.3880910W

**Dug Mtn Brook on Indian Lake landing GPS:**

43.5959927N, 74.3911204W

**Route 30/Jessup River Put In GPS:** 43.5824503N,

74.4063647W

**Date/Comment:**

## WHISKEY BROOK FALLS • SPECULATOR

### EASY • 1 POINT

This very small and easily assessable gem sits right along the eastern (right) side of the road. The falls is 5-6 feet tall and is surrounded by large boulders.

**Location:** 2.0 miles north of Speculator. From the intersection of Route 8 and Route 30 in Speculator, drive 2.2 miles north on Route 30 and look off to the right for the stream which flows under Route 30 through a large culvert. Pull off to that right, park, and follow the southern bank of the creek upstream for 50 feet where you will see the falls.

**Falls GPS:** 43.52668N, 74.38611W

**Date/Comment:**

## AUGER FALLS • WELLS

### EASY/MODERATE • 2 POINTS

This 40 foot falls is at the beginning of a series of drops, plunges and cascades totaling over 100 feet though this narrow gorge lined with Hemlocks on the Sacandaga River. Many potholes can be seen along the edge of the gorge when the water level is low. Please be careful around the falls area, as the banks are steep and slippery.

**LOCATION:** 5.0 miles north of Wells. From Wells, drive north on Route 30 to the junction of Route 30 and Route 8. Continue another 1.7 miles on Route 30 and turn right into a dirt parking area. Park and walk back towards Route 30, and follow the old dirt road to the left which parallels Route 30. At the end of the road, look for the DEC register, marking the beginning of the falls. You'll hear the the falls shortly after you start the hike.

**Trail Head GPS:** 43.4668776N, 74.2510587W

**Date/Comment:**

## AUSTIN FALLS • WELLS

### EASY • 1 POINT

Austin Falls is a long, sliding waterfall, surrounded by beautiful rock formations, and does not require a long hike to reach. The river is calm above the falls, but as the sides of the stream narrow and the elevation drops 40 feet in a couple of hundred yards over a rocky base, the water accelerates rapidly and create, a spectacular water show. A large rock near the base of the falls hurls the water several feet into the air like a natural fountain.

**LOCATION:** 7.0 miles north of Wells. Drive north from Wells on Route 30 to the intersection of Route 30 and 8. Continue another 6.5 miles and make a right onto Old Route 30, an unimproved road, then drive 2.7 miles and pull off to the side of the road to park. The road is paved, but very bumpy, so use caution and drive slowly! The falls are off to the right, can be heard from the road, and are reached with an easy, 50 foot walk down to the falls. The surrounding banks of the stream are very slippery, so use caution when walking alongside the falls.

**Trailhead GPS:** 43.4999600N, 74.2785800W

**Date/Comment:**

## EAST JIMMY CREEK FALLS • WELLS

### EASY • 1 POINT

Jimmy Creek contains 2 lovely, small waterfalls and both are a short walk in from Route 8. These falls are very picturesque for their small size, and less than 200 yards from the road. You'll find a series of small drops and flows upstream from the main falls that are also worth looking for. The first waterfall is near the beginning of the hike. The second is just upstream and towers 10 feet over the surrounding area, plunging into a small swimming hole at its base.

**LOCATION:** 4.5 miles northeast of Wells. From Wells, go north on Route 30 for 3.5 miles until you come to the intersection of Route 30 and 8. Turn right onto Route 8 and proceed 1.2 miles. You will reach a point where parking areas are visible on both sides of the road, with the stream crossing under Route 8 through a culvert. Park on the right and take the path along the south side of the stream. The hike up to the 2nd falls is just a few hundred yards upstream.

**Trailhead GPS:** 43.4534000N, 74.2335936W

**Date/Comment:**

## GRIFFIN FALLS • WELLS

### EASY • 1 POINT

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

**LOCATION:** 6.0 miles northeast of Wells. From Wells, proceed north on Route 30 for 3.5 miles. Turn right onto Route 8 and drive northeast for roughly 2.5 miles. Turn left onto a seasonal road (opposite a pull-off on the right side of the road) and drive 0.2 miles, crossing the East Branch of the Sacandaga River. Park just past the bridge in the clearing. Follow the path paralleling the west side of the river, going downstream to reach the falls.

**Route 8/Turnoff GPS:** 43.4704125N, 74.2247728W

**Parking Area GPS:** 43.4736066N, 74.2234590W

**Date/Comment:**

## WEST BRANCH OF THE SACANDAGA RIVER AND COLD BROOK FALLS • WELLS

### DIFFICULT • 4 POINTS

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

**LOCATION:** 9.5 miles west of Wells. Just south of Wells, turn off Route 30 to the right and drive onto Algonquin Road past the dam for 0.7 mile to West River Road. Continue for approximately 8.3 miles on West River Road to a large clearing, where the road ends. The trail starts in the woods, and parallels the river along most of the way. From the trailhead, hike approximately 0.6 miles, where the path takes a left. Follow the path and cross Hamilton Lake Stream at 1.2 miles, which will be difficult in high water. Continue and cross Cold Brook at 1.8/1.9 miles, where you can see Cold Brook Falls upstream. Follow the river on the north bank until you see the first waterfalls (10-12 feet) on the West Branch at approximately 2.5 miles. The 2nd, smaller falls (8 foot) is located several hundred yards up river from the first, but cannot be seen due to the rough topography of the walls.

**Trailhead GPS:** 43.3723213N, 74.4315859W

**Falls GPS:** 43.3764500N, 74.4729300W

**Date/Comment:**

For more information on waterfalls  
in Hamilton County, go to  
[www.AdirondackExperience.com](http://www.AdirondackExperience.com)

Hamilton County Tourism

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# Adirondacks Experience It!



# Waterfall CHALLENGE



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