

- Griffin Falls, Wells, continued-

Difficulty Level: Easy  
Rte 8/ Turnoff GPS: 43.4704125N, 74.2247728W  
Parking Area GPS: 43.4736066N, 74.2234590W  
Date/Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

**Falls on the West Branch of the Sacandaga River and Cold Brook Falls, (Whitehouse) Wells:**

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. These Falls on the West Brach cascade through a narrow gorge of the West Branch of the Sacandaga River that are over 400 feet tall in spots!

**Location: 9.5 miles W of Wells:** Just south of Wells, turn off Rte 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 .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 ft.) on the West Branch at approximately 2.5 miles. The second smaller falls (8 ft) is located several hundred yards up the river from the first, but cannot be seen due to the rough topography of the walls.  
**Difficulty (Both Falls):** Difficult  
**Trailhead GPS:** 43.3723213N, 74.4315859W.  
**Falls GPS:** 43.3764500N, 74.4729300W  
Date/Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following and mail back this brochure or a copy to our office. Upon verification, we will send you a patch recognizing your achievement. You must have a total of 12 points or greater.

Easy—1 Point                      Easy/Moderate—2 Points  
Moderate—3 Points              Difficult—4 Points  
To get your waterfall patch you must earn a total of 12 points.  
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TOTAL POINTS: \_\_\_\_\_

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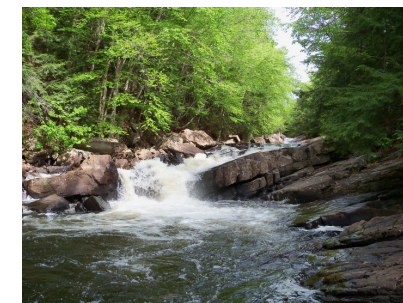
This is a sampling, not a comprehensive list of Waterfalls in Hamilton County. For more detailed descriptions, including maps, please consider buying one of the many fine waterfall field guides available. When you have been to a particular water fall, please fill in the date and time and a sentence or two about your journey. Total your points for your trips, based on the degree of difficulty associated with each hike. When you have a total of 12 points or more, mail your pamphlet back to:  
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Lake Pleasant, NY 12108  
We will then send you a commemorative **Hamilton County waterfall patch** as a token of your accomplishment.

**Bray House Falls (a.k.a. The Potholers), Arietta** This especially interesting section of East Canada Creek has a series of waterfalls, chutes and potholes that drop over 15 feet. The bubbling waters and pebbles have worn deep depressions in the rock stream bed. The area is a beautiful spot for a picnic and is easily accessed via a short walk upstream.  
**Location: 10.5 miles SW of Piseco Lake:** From Speculator head west on Rte 8 and drive 12.2 miles to route 10, and make a left heading south. Drive another 1.2 miles and make the first right onto Powley Road (dirt road), 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 N. bank of the stream and head east, going downstream, until you get to where the Brayhouse Brook enters the East Canada Creek. Head left, and travel upstream for 0.1 mile to the falls.  
**Trailhead GPS:** 43.2747754N, 74.6642548W  
**Difficulty Level:** Easy  
**Date/Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Falls on Outlet from Buckhorn Lake, Arietta:**  
This small cascading waterfall is formed from a small stream that begins at the outlet of Buckhorn Lake. The hike in to the falls follows along the famous Northville-Lake Placid trail, and is approximately 1.3 miles (one-way) with a slight elevation gain as you travel towards the falls. Buckhorn Lake, also known as “Fiddler’s Pond”, is a birders 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 Northville-Lake Placid trail 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 (a bushwhack) from the wooden foot bridge for 0.2 mile, you will be able to get a wonderful scenic view of Buckhorn Lake.  
**Difficulty Level:** Easy/Moderate  
**Trail Head GPS:** 43.4288857N, 74.4960501W  
**Date/Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**West Stony Creek Falls, Benson:** This fairly level walk takes you along an old dirt road for 1.5 miles (one way) to a small 4 ft cascade on a medium size stream along the Northville-Placid Trail at it’s southern end. It is located downstream from a rustic log footbridge that crosses West Stony Creek. Although small in size, the waterfalls and surrounding area is very picturesque and worth the trip.  
**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Location: 10.2 miles SW of Wells or 9.5 miles NW of Northville:** From Northville, take Rte 30 N for 3.2 miles to County Rt. 6 (Benson Road) or from Wells take Rte 30 S for 12.4 miles. Turn W 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 NLP Trail and continue NW 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 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:** There are a series of 3 waterfalls along the Groff Creek, all of which take some extra effort to get into position to see the falls. The first 2 are more difficult to get to than the 3rd.  
**Location: 5.5 miles South of Wells:** Take Rt. 30 for 3.2 miles N. of Northville, and make a left onto County Rt. 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 ft in height, 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.  
**Trail Head GPS:** (End of Road): 43.3123337N, 74.2559280W,  
**Difficulty Level:** Difficult  
**Date/Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_



Austin Falls, Wells

### Squaw Brook Falls, Indian Lake:

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 SW of Indian Lake:** Drive S. on Rte 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. The land surrounding the falls is private, so please don't trespass.  
**Difficulty Level:** Easy  
**FALLS GPS:** 43.7407841N, 74.2952104W  
**Date/Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Cascade Falls, Inlet:

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 NE of downtown Inlet:** Drive N out of Inlet on Rte 28 towards Old Forge for approximately 2.1 miles to Big Moose Road on the right, just past the Eagle Bay sign. Make a R onto Big Moose Road and drive 1.4 miles to the trail head. Park off to the right side of the road. Follow the trailhead NE 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 point:** 43.7783138N, 74.8256812W  
**Difficulty Level:** Moderate  
**Date/Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Limekiln Falls:

On this walk you'll find a series of easy dropping falls flowing along the trail which is surrounded by a dark Cedar & Hemlock forest. The falls are 15 feet wide, and travel for almost a 1/2 mile.  
**Location: 2.0 miles S of downtown Inlet:** Head south on 28 from Inlet for .8 miles, and make a R (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 R for 1.0 mile around the old beaver vly, until the trail bears R 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.



**Auger Falls, Wells**

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

**Difficulty Level:** Easy/Moderate

**Date/Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Buttermilk Falls, Long Lake:

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 SW 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 SW onto North Point Road, and follow it 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.  
**Difficulty Level:** Easy  
**Parking Area GPS:** 43.9141626N, 74.4830220W  
**Date/Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Death Falls (a.k.a. Secret Falls), Raquette Lake:

This falls, located on a tributary into Death Stream, cascades 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 Rte 28.  
**Location: 3.2 miles E. 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), that 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, walking through it to the trail continuing on 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.  
**Difficulty:** Easy  
**Trail Head GPS:** 43.8136148N, 74.5953824W  
**Date/Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Christine Falls, Speculator:

Christine Falls is easily assessable from Rte 30 just E 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 wonderful local swimming hole.  
**Location: 3.0 miles E of Speculator:** From the intersection of Rte 30 & Rte 8 in Speculator, drive south on Rte 30 for 3.1 miles, passing Old Rte 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.  
**Difficulty:** Easy  
**Falls GPS:** (pull-off on N side of Rte 30) 43.5128021N, 74.3085344W  
**Date/Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dug Mountain Brook Falls, Speculator:** This falls is 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 further upstream to the east.

**Location: 7.0 miles NE of Speculator:** From Speculator, drive N. on Rte 30 for 12 miles to the DEC Indian Lake Islands boat launch on the R. Paddle 2 miles across the lake and veer around "Long Island" to the R, heading SW 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 & table on the shore, and you'll see a small 4 ft. waterfall. Follow the N. side of the stream for .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 NE 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 N on Rte 30, and look for the Jessup River, crossing under Rte 30 over a bridge. Park on the side of the road, and paddle downstream on the eastern side of Rte 30 towards Indian Lake. Look for Dug Mountain Brook entering Indian Lake on your right.

**Difficulty:** Difficult

**Indian Lake Islands boat launch GPS:**

43.6520743N, 74.3880910W

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

43.5959927N, 74.3911204W

**Rte 30/Jessup River Put In GPS:** 43.5824503N, 74.4063647W

**Date/Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Whiskey Brook Falls, Speculator:

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 N of Speculator:** From the intersection of Route 8 and Route 30 in Speculator drive 2.2 miles N. on Route 30 and look off to the right for the stream which flows under Rte 30 through a large culvert. Pull off to the right, park, and follow the southern bank of the creek upstream for 50 feet where you will see the falls.  
**Difficulty Level:** Easy  
**Falls GPS:** 43.52668 / 74.38611  
**Date/Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Auger Falls, Wells:

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 N. of Wells.** From Wells, drive N on Rte 30 to the junction of Rte 30 & Rte 8. Continue another 1.7 miles on Rte 30 & turn right into a dirt parking area. Park and walk back towards Rte 30, and follow the old dirt road to the left which parallels Rte 30. At the end of the road, look for the DEC register, marking the beginning of the trail. Follow the colored DEC trail markers for 0.3 mile to the top of the falls. You'll hear the roar of the falls shortly after you start the hike.  
**Difficulty Level:** Easy/Moderate  
**Trail Head GPS:** 43.4668776N, 74.2510587W

**Date/Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Austin Falls, Wells:

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 N. of Wells:** Drive north from Wells on Route 30 to the intersection of Rte 30 & 8. Continue another 6.5 miles and make a right onto Old Route 30, an unimproved road, and drive for exactly 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 slow! The falls are off to the right, can be heard from the road, and are reached with an easy 50 ft. walk down to the falls. The surrounding banks of the stream are very slippery, so use caution when walking alongside the falls.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Trail Head GPS:** 43.4999600N, 74.2785800W

**Date/Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_

### East Jimmy Creek Falls, Wells:

Jimmy Creek contains 2 lovely, small waterfalls and both are a short walk in from Rte. 8. This falls is very picturesque for its 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 NE of Wells:** From Wells go north on Rte 30 for 3.5 miles until you come to the intersection of Rt. 30 & 8. Turn right onto Rt. 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 Rte 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.

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

**GPS Trailhead on Rte 8:** 43.4534000N, 74.2335936W

**Date/Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Griffin Falls, Wells:

The falls area consists of several drops, large blocks, many potholes, and an 8 foot cascading waterfalls on the East Branch of the Sacandaga River. A small swimming hole sits at the base of the falls.  
**Location: 6.0 miles NE of Wells:** From Wells, proceed N. on Rt. 30 for 3.5 miles. Turn right onto Rt. 8 and drive northeast for roughly 2.5 miles. Turn left onto a seasonal road (opposite a pull-off on the R. 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.

**\*continued on next page \***