



ST. LAWRENCE
COUNTY

Waterfalls Guide

EXPLORE
Our Great Outdoors



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Waterfalls Guide

St. Lawrence County's waterfalls rank right at the top of the list of our natural attractions.

Across the county – the biggest in New York State – are gorgeous waterfalls that for 200 years have been magnets for industry and recreation. Today, no matter what season, you can still experience the beauty of these moving waters.

At many waterfalls there remain hints of the county's history, including remnants of long-gone mills that were among the largest in the state.

And the falls themselves tell of the area's past. Some 15,000 years ago, this region lay beneath a two-mile thick sheet of ice. After the glaciers receded, rivers formed new channels, flowing over rock ledges and creating the waterfalls of today.

Each waterfall in the county has its own "personality." If you don't believe that, make your first stop the Tooley Pond Road section of the south branch of the Grasse River – you'll find seven major waterfalls, all completely different in form as a response to the county's geological history.

THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO EXPLORE

If you love waterfalls, northern New York State is the place for you. From the 1000 Islands region, to the St. Lawrence River Valley, to the Adirondack Park – where there's water, we've got waterfalls.

For a multi-county guide to these natural wonders visit

www.nnywaterfalls.com

WHERE TO STAY, WHERE TO EAT, WHAT TO DO

For everything you need to know to experience the best of St. Lawrence County – from charming B&Bs to unique museums to fairs and festivals – visit **www.northcountryguide.com**. And if you're an angler, make sure to check out our new online guide to regional fishing: **www.fishcap.net** and plan your trip now!



This guide is provided courtesy of the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, with many thanks to David J. Schryver of nnywaterfalls.com for his knowledge and assistance. Photos by Tim Bouchard and Suzanne Casaday.

**For more information call the Chamber at 315-386-4000,
877-228-7810; or email us at slccoc@northnet.org**

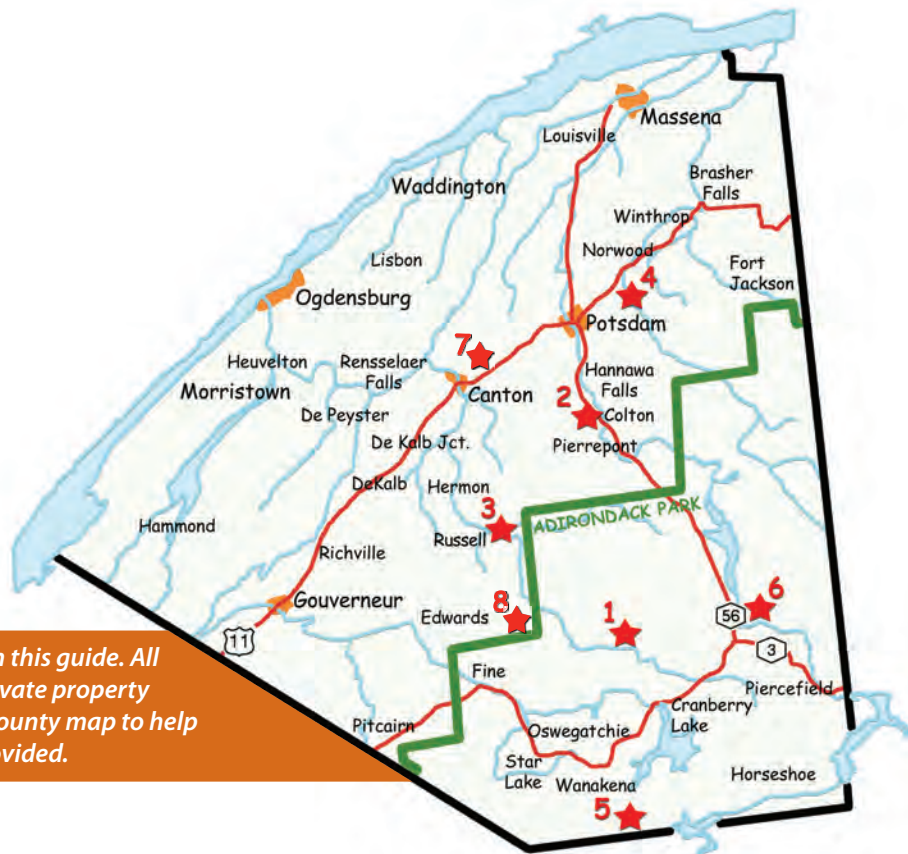


Location Map

Waterfall Check List

- ✓ Allen Falls (4)
- ✓ Basford Falls (1)
- ✓ Bulkhead Falls (1)
- ✓ Cascade Falls (7)
- ✓ Copper Rock Falls (1)
- ✓ Greenwood Falls (8)
- ✓ Harper Falls (3)
- ✓ High Falls (5)
- ✓ Jamestown Falls (6)
- ✓ Lampson Falls (3)
- ✓ Little River Falls (7)
- ✓ Moody Falls (6)
- ✓ Olmstead Pond Loop (5)
- ✓ Plumb Brook Falls (3)
- ✓ Rainbow Falls (1)
- ✓ Sinclair Falls (1)
- ✓ Stone Valley Area (2)
- ✓ Twin Falls (1)

This list is comprised of all the waterfalls mentioned in this guide. All have public access, though please be aware of any private property boundaries. Contact the County Chamber for a free county map to help you locate waterfalls within the generalized maps provided.



Tooley Pond Road

The land along Tooley Pond Road is the Northern River Flow - Tooley Pond Tract, a section of New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) public lands that allows access to this simply amazing place.

It includes a 16-mile section of the south branch of the Grasse River. Along this stretch, seven major waterfalls exist: Rainbow Falls, Bulkhead Falls, Flat Rock Falls (not accessible), Twin Falls, Sinclair Falls, Basford Falls, and Copper Rock Falls. Their characteristics range from the 55-foot drop of Twin Falls to the gentle slopes of Sinclair Falls, a perfect place to picnic.

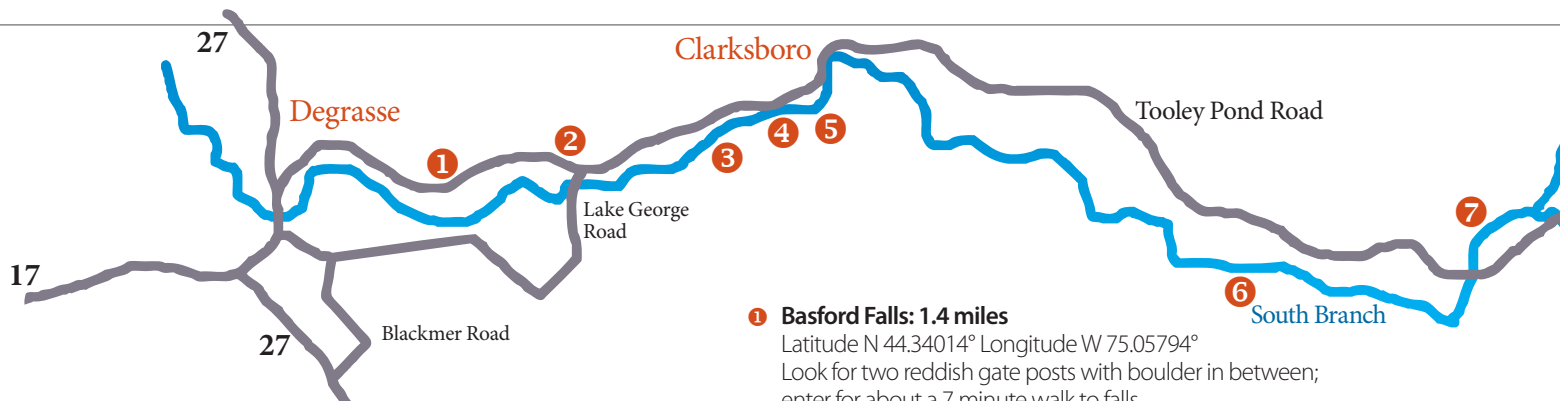
The south branch of the Grasse has excellent kayaking and canoeing with easy carries around the falls, if you don't want to take the express route.

There is also a nice hike up Tooley Pond Mountain at the southern end of the road, and good fishing in the area (check for any special regulations at www.fishcap.net).

Little exploration of the area had taken place until the 1860s when iron was discovered in the region. In 1866 the town of

Clarksboro was established near Twin Falls on the shore of the Grasse River. An iron furnace and water-run sawmill were built to support the town. The foundation of the saw mill – one of the only artifacts remaining of Clarksboro – can still be seen at the top of Twin Falls. Iron was mined in this region until plummeting iron prices closed the mines in the 1950s. Exploring this area reveals the unique history of the county as well as some of the best hidden waters.





Tooley Pond Road

Directions to Tooley Pond Road:

From the south or east: Turn north on Tooley Pond Road from NY Route 3, about a mile west of Cranberry Lake (Right-hand turn).

From the north and west: Tooley Pond Road is located three-quarters of a mile east of Degrasse, along St. Lawrence County Route 27.

Directions to the Falls:

Some of the falls can be seen from the road, while others are a short walk along trails. The mileage below is for starting at the northern end of Tooley Pond Road in Degrasse. There are no parking areas for many of the falls, so one will have to pull to the side of the road as far as possible.

1 Basford Falls: 1.4 miles

Latitude N 44.34014° Longitude W 75.05794°

Look for two reddish gate posts with boulder in between; enter for about a 7 minute walk to falls.

2 Sinclair Falls: 2 miles

Lat N44.33800° Long W75.04594°

Sinclair Falls is located just south of Lake George Road.

There is a small information stop in the parking lot. Note: Easier trail entrance down nearby Lake George Road.

3 Twin Falls: 3.1 miles

Lat N44.33241° Long W75.02694° (rest as is)

4 Stewart Rapids: 3.3 miles

Lat N44.33160° Long W75.02190° (rest as is)

5 Bulkhead Falls: 3.5 miles

Lat N44.33033° Long W75.01822° (rest as is)

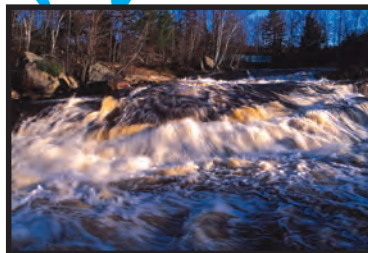
6 Rainbow Falls: 6.1 miles

Lat N44.30660° Long 74.9982°

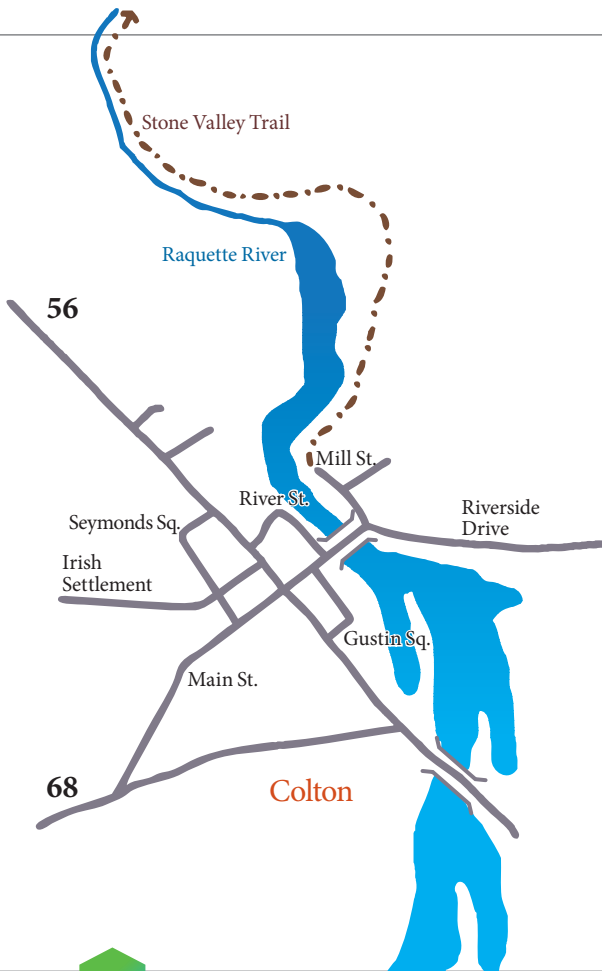
7 Copper Rock Falls: 8.9 miles

Lat N44.28863° Long 74.95970°

Cross bridge; Copper Rock Falls on your left. Five minute walk to falls.



Clockwise from top left: Sinclair Falls, Twin Falls, Rainbow Falls, Bulkhead Falls, Twin Falls, Stewart Rapids.



Stone Valley

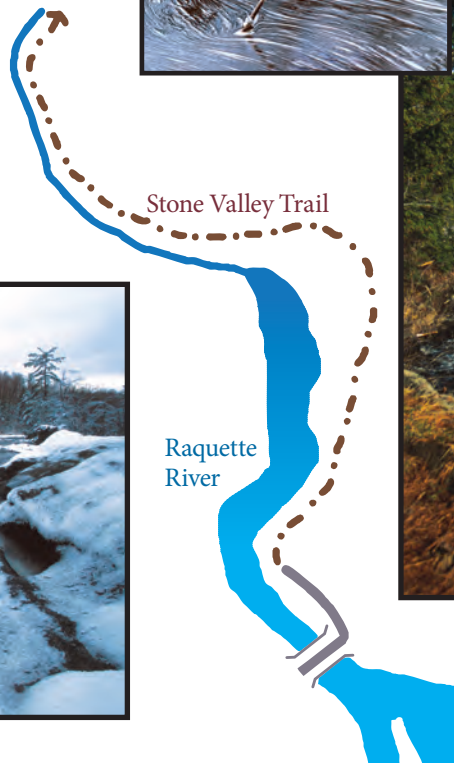
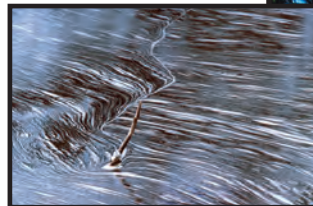
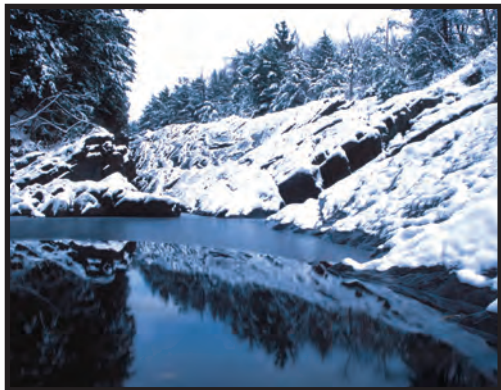
The trail in Stone Valley is one of the most popular nature walks in the North County. Follow the shores of the Raquette River through Colton to find amazing scenery. There are a series of waterfalls that continue for a mile or more along the trail, which extends for two or more miles. Some falls offer swimming holes during the summer months when water is low. During the spring, you can witness the power of the high water from the snow melt in the Adirondacks.

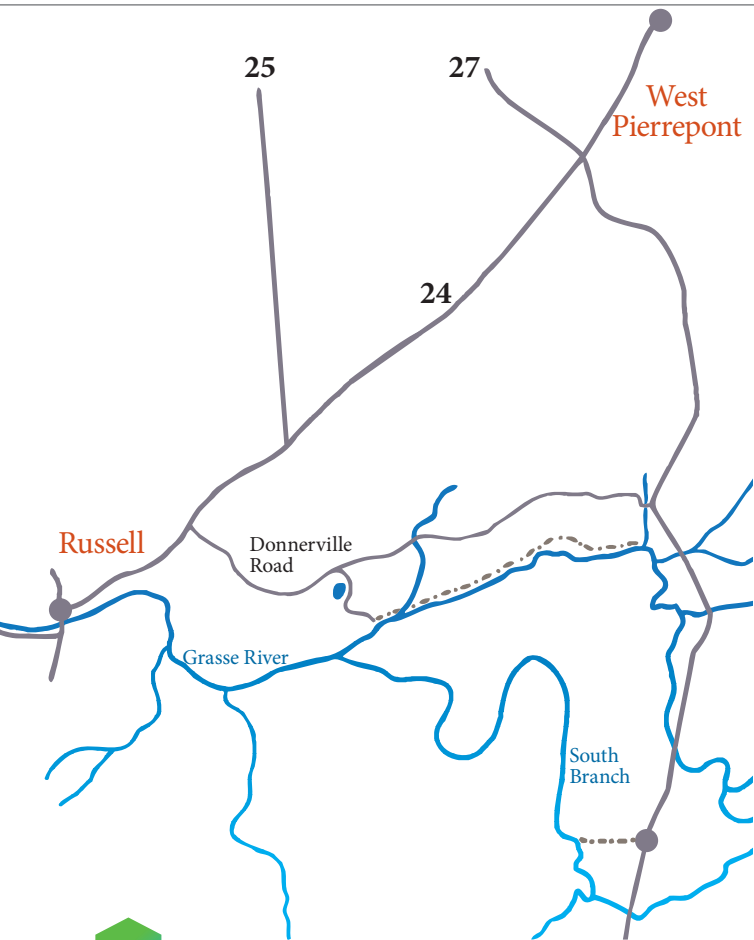
SAFETY FIRST! In winter months expect the beginning of the trail to be slippery and use caution when walking along the river. The river offers experienced kayakers a challenge but canoeists should not consider paddling this section of the river.

A series of signs along the path describe geological features of this area, unique and notable as a connector between the Adirondack Mountains and the St. Lawrence lowlands. Look for the signs posted on trees to learn more.

DIRECTIONS

If coming from the north take a left off of Route 68 onto Main Street in Colton, which is before Colton water tower. Continue down this road until reaching the stop sign. Go across Route 56 (this is the beginning of the directions if coming from any other direction), continuing on Main Street, proceed over the Raquette River. Right after river take next left, onto Mill Street. Follow road for less than .2 miles and the road will dead end. This is the parking area. The trail starts at the end of the road and continues as a path to the waterfalls.





Lampson Falls

Lampson Falls, the most popular waterfall in St. Lawrence County, is most easily accessed at the DeGrasse State Forest on Route 27.

An impressive falls at an estimated 40 feet tall and 100 feet wide, Lampson is shallow and broad-faced, and can have huge amounts of water flowing during peak melt season in the spring. During the summer it becomes a much quieter setting.

At the bottom of the falls a small beach allows for swimming and picnicking. The 15-minute walk into this area is well worth it!

DIRECTIONS • *Latitude N 44.40545° Longitude W 75.06706°*

The access for Lampson Falls is the Grasse River Recreation Area on Route 27 in Clare, just north of DeGrasse. Look for the brown and yellow DEC sign at a gated road. Park on the road side and head down the dirt road.



Harper Falls

Harper Falls is just a few miles southeast on the Grasse River from Lampson Falls. The beauty of these falls is matched only by the beauty of the hike to get to them.

Starting from Donnerville Road and walking up river toward Harper Falls offers a relaxing trek, with very little increase in elevation. The majority of the way you will be following gentle rapids. Look for the two benches along the water's edge for a restful seat.

In the winter access can be difficult due to the dirt road. In the spring look for some of the North Country's earliest wildflowers.



At these falls you can walk to the top, and on that walk you might notice stone walls along the edge of the path. These are the remnants of an old sawmill, in operation when the town of Donnerville was active. Back on the road, look for the Donnerville Cemetery, which dates back to the mid-1800s.

DIRECTIONS • *Latitude N 44.43543° Longitude W 75.07511°*
Donnerville Road is located on Route 24, just north of Russell. This is a dirt road marked with a brown and yellow DEC sign. Follow this dirt road for 1.75 miles and take this right turn. After another mile, you will be at a gate just above the river. Park here and head down to the water. You will find the trail on your left as you face the river. Stay on the trail for about 2 miles, at which point you will have reached the falls. There is another entrance to the falls on the other end of the Donnerville Road. Drive the road from the other directions to the DEC sign and an orange gate, follow the path for about 15 minutes.

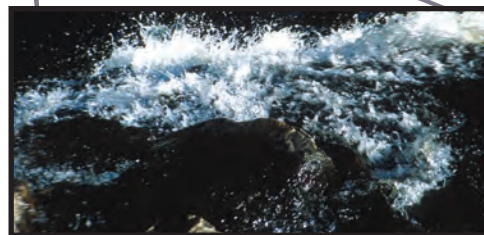
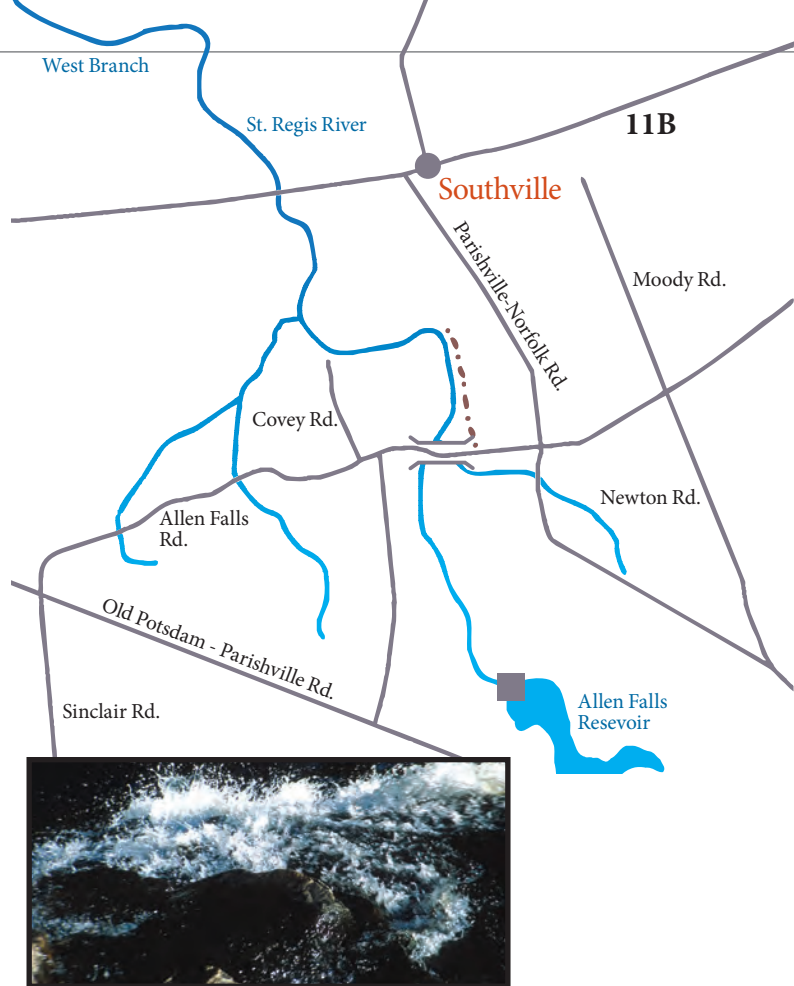
Allen Falls

Allen Falls, with an impressive 35-foot drop, is a local favorite located just outside of Potsdam on the St. Regis River. Day-to-day the character and look of the falls changes depending on the water level, controlled from a nearby reservoir.

Visitors are greeted by a beautiful stand of evergreens and it is only a five-minute walk to the falls.

DIRECTIONS • Latitude N 44.65514° Longitude W 74.85024°

Take the Parishville-Norfolk Road off of 11B and continue to a four-way intersection. Take a right onto Allen Falls Road. In a short distance and you will see a steel deck bridge. There is a small area to park just before the bridge. The trail to the falls is across the street from the parking area.



High Falls

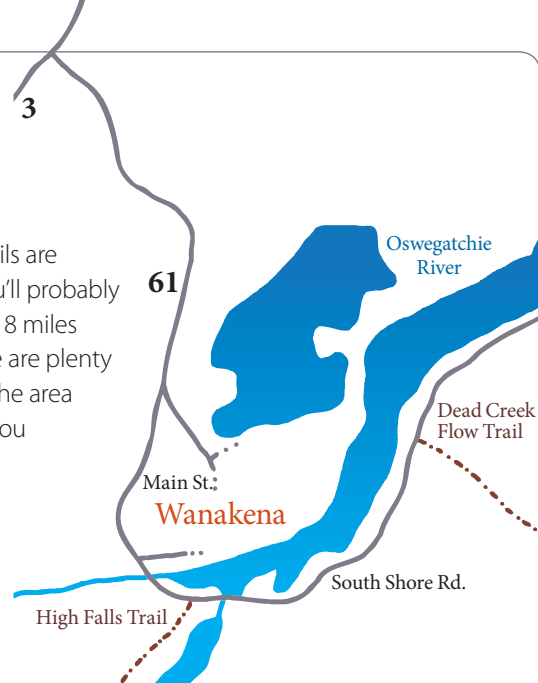


High Falls in the southernmost portion of the county is the most remote and – despite its name – one of our smallest waterfalls. High Falls drops only 15 feet, but gets its name from the fact that it is the biggest drop on that branch of the usually calm and slow-moving Oswegatchie River.

One other thing that makes this spot special: you will encounter one of the oldest forests in the county. While a large portion was lost in a 1995 storm, the trees still standing are ancient, including the oldest pine tree in the county.

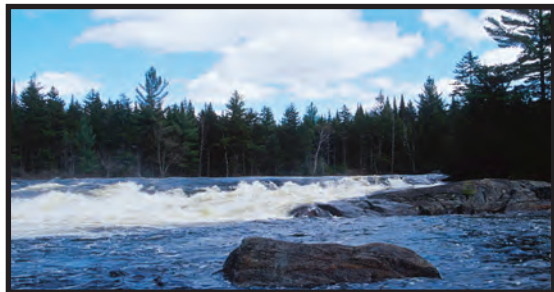
Canoeing is the preferred way to reach the falls. If you hike know that the shortest trail is seven miles one-way and the path is overgrown for the last two miles.

Although the trails are relatively flat, you'll probably be hiking up to 18 miles in one day. There are plenty of campsites in the area and a lean-to if you wish to camp.



DIRECTIONS • *Latitude N 44°04'6.87" Longitude W 74°54'36.25"*
Off Route 3 you will want to take Route 61, towards Wanakena. After a distance of 1.2 miles you will bear right onto Main Street. Drive another .3 miles and bear right once again on South Shore Road. The High Falls Trail head will be in .4 miles. There is parking further down the road. The Dead Creek Flow Trail is .3 miles down the road. Both trails are well marked and there is a large scale map at the start of the Dead Creek Flow Trail.

Jamestown Falls & Moody Falls



These falls offer a beautiful view of the Raquette River, in an area filled with a low elevation boreal forest, full of spruce and fir trees. Until the Stone Valley area in Colton, this is the last remaining section of whitewater on the Raquette and it is popular with paddlers. There are carries around the falls

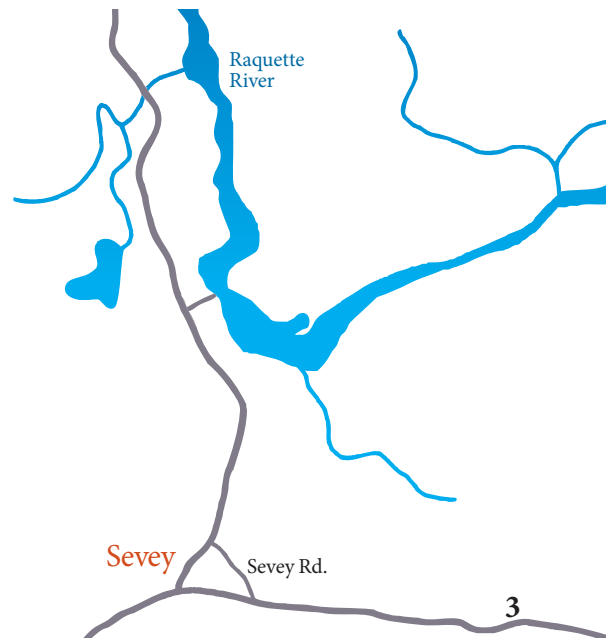
for those who don't want to go over. Both falls can be seen from dirt road access points on DEC land, but a boat is needed for a closer look at Jamestown Falls. Moody Falls is just south and is a 20-foot drop around a bend in the river.

DIRECTIONS Jamestown: Latitude N 44°19'31.20" Longitude W 74°43'0.87"

Moody: Latitude N 44°18'40.68" Longitude W 74°42'56.01"

The access road for Jamestown Falls is 2.4 miles north of the Sevey Corners, the intersection between Routes 3 and 56. If you see Ham's Inn you have gone too far north. The road is dirt and just after a small stream passes under Highway 56. You may drive down the road or make the ten-minute walk. Looking up river you will see Jamestown Falls.

Moody Falls is harder to find; it is approximately 1.5 miles north of Sevey Corners. There is an unmarked trail on DEC land, which leads down to the water and Moody Falls.



SPECIAL NOTE: There is private land along the Raquette River between Jamestown Falls and Moody Falls. Please respect private property.

Greenwood Falls



Another popular local spot, these falls are actually a series of drops on Greenwood Creek. Located at the back of the Greenwood Creek State Park picnic area, the falls are technically outside the boundary of the Adirondack Park but in this area you have the feeling of deep forest. There is a short hike over a trail of moderate difficulty.

The picnic area has tables and fireplaces, although there is no overnight camping.

DIRECTIONS

Latitude N 44°12'19.512"/44.20542°

Longitude W 75°11'48.66"/75.19685°

Follow NYS Route 3 east, go through hamlet of Pitcairn then look for St. Lawrence County Route 23 on the left. The Greenwood Road will be exactly one mile from this point. (Traveling from the east on Route 3, look for NYS Route 58, go past that and in a short distance you will cross the boundary of the Adirondack Park. The Greenwood Road is the first left after that.)

Other Falls in the County

St. Lawrence County has many more waterfalls than this guide is able to cover.

Here are a few, with their closest towns. Most of these falls are smaller (less than 15 feet) and unnamed. These are peaceful and beautiful places: most have nature trails and some are under bridges along major roads. There also are camping areas near some of the rivers.



To find these falls you may have to search a little, but it will be well worth the effort!

Cascade Falls, Canton
Greenwood Creek, Fine
Little River, Canton
Plumb Brook, Russell
Olmstead Pond Loop, Wanakena

Contact the St. Lawrence County Chamber for more information and a county map.



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