

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.



STONE VALLEY

LOCATION MAP AND WATERFALL CHECK LIST

This list is comprised of all the waterfalls mentioned in this guide. Contact the St. Lawrence County Chamber for a county map to help you locate the waterfalls within the generalized maps provided.

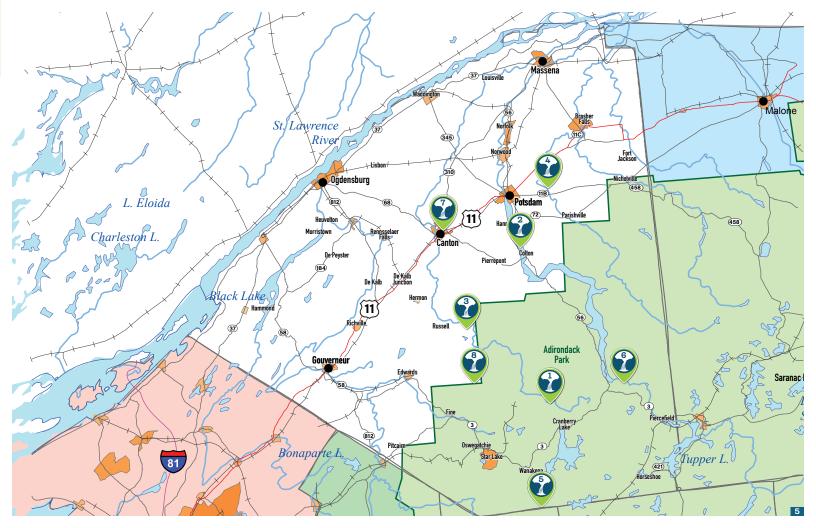
All waterfalls have public access, though please be aware of any private property boundaries. LOCA

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GPS coordinates: 44.5025662, -75.1709563

Follow the Leave No **Trace Principles** in order to enjoy our trails safely, while protecting the natural resource for generations to come; plan ahead and prepare, travel and camp on durable surfaces, dispose of waste properly, leave what you find, minimize campfire impacts, respect wildlife and be considerate of other visitors. Learn more on www.LNT.org

| ATION | WATERFALL NAME | PAGE | VISITED | LOCATION | WATERFALL NAME | PAGE | VISITED |
|-------|---|------|---------|----------|---|------|---------|
| - | Basford Falls GPS coordinates: 44.342978, -75.053375 | 7 | 72 | | Plumb Brook Falls. GPS coordinates: 44.397812, -75.149720 | | |
| | Sinclair Falls GPS coordinates: 44.337814, -75.045459 | 7 | | | Allens Falls GPS coordinates: 44.653333, -74.851200 | | |
| | Twin Falls. GPS coordinates: 44.33241, -75.02694 | 7 | | | High Falls GPS coordinates: 44.068668, -74.910242 | 20 | |
| | Bulkhead Falls GPS coordinates: 44.33033, -75.01822 | 8 | | | Olmstead Pond Loop GPS coordinates start at: 44.132077, -74.92 | | |
| | Rainbow Falls GPS coordinates: 44.307289, -74.994178 | 9 | | | Jamestown Falls GPS coordinates: 44.3253392,-74.7209496 | | |
| | Copper Rock Falls GPS coordinates: 44.285975, -74.960061 | 9 | | | Moody Falls GPS coordinates: 44.3117279,-74.7198382 | | |
| | Stone Valley Area | | | | Cascade Falls GPS coordinates: 44.595898, -75.175283 | | |
| | Lampson Falls GPS coordinates: 44.405270, -75.061578 | | | | Little River Falls GPS coordinates: 44.540042, -75.128349 | | |
| | Harper Falls GPS coordinates: 44.441549, -75.069148 | | | | Greenwood Falls GPS coordinates: 44.205146, -75.195588 | | |
| | Harts Falls | | | | | | |



WATERFALL CRAWL



Earn your Waterfall Crawl badge!

St. Lawrence County's Great 8 Waterfall Crawl is family friendly, easy access and beautiful year-round. Sneakers (or snowshoes!), a water bottle, snacks and your camera will ensure an exciting light adventure, whether you are just starting to explore trails, or you have a love for new outdoor experiences. The eight trails on the challenge invite you to visit waterfalls in the foothills of the northwest Adirondacks, as the mountains start to fall towards the St. Lawrence River Valley. The interactive trails site STLCtrails.com allows you to plan, pull up trailhead directions and log your trails to earn your Great 8 Challenge Badge patch or sticker.

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TOOLEY POND ROAD

An amazing place to explore.

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 waterrun 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. ★ Basford Falls HIKE MILES 0.7 miles, round trip
★ GPS COORDINATES 44.342978, -75.053375
TRAILHEAD
1.4 miles from the DeGrasse end

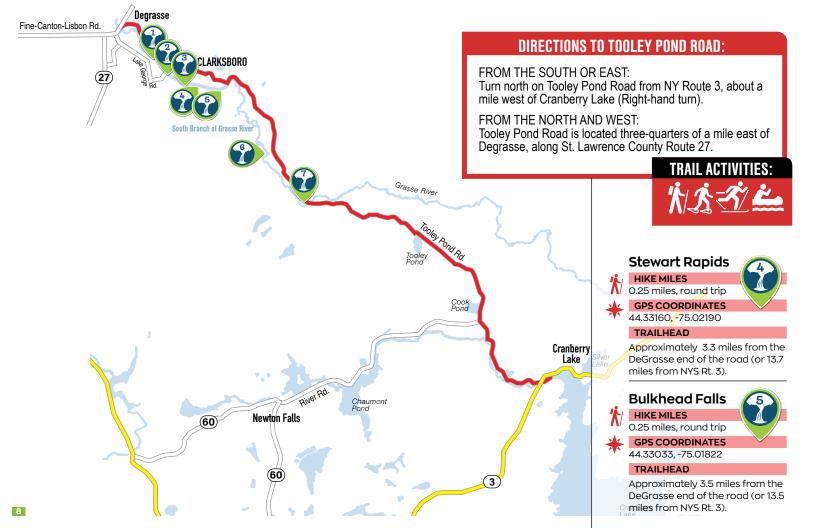
of the Tooley pond road (or approximately 15.6 miles from NYS Rt. 3).



Approximately 2 miles from the DeGrasse end of the Tooley Pond Rd. (or 15.1 miles from NYS Rt. 3). Look for the intersection of the Tooley Pond Rd and the Lake George Rd., the parking area and falls will be on your left (SW).



Approximately 3.1 miles from the Degrasse end of the road (or 14 miles from NYS Rt. 3).



Rainbow Falls

HIKE MILES

0.7 miles, round trip

GPS COORDINATES

44.307289, -74.994178

TRAILHEAD

The trailhead is 6.1 miles from the Degrasse end of the road (or 10.9 miles from NYS Rt 3)

6



HIKE MILES



GPS COORDINATES

44.285975, -74.960061

TRAILHEAD

8.9 miles from the DeGrasse end of the road, (or 8.2 miles from NYS Rt. 3).

Some of the falls can be seen from the road, while others are a short walk along trails. 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



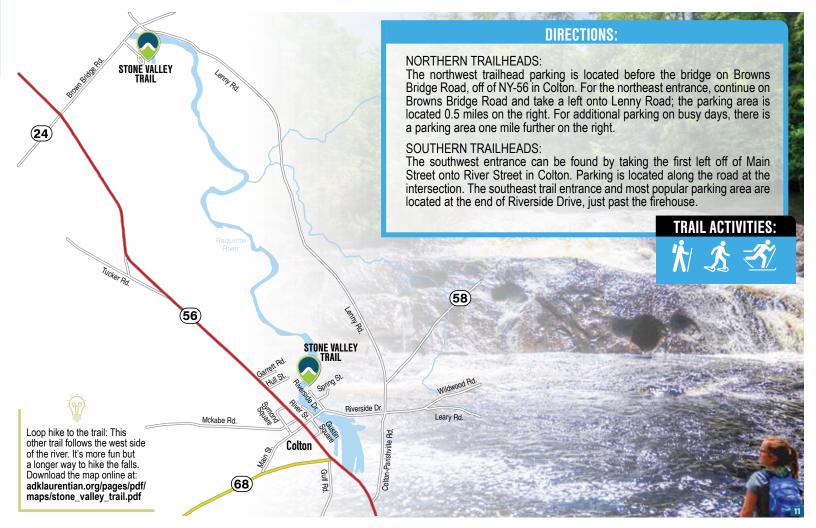
STONE VALLEY

Most popular nature walk.

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.

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.

To learn more about the history of the Stone Valley Trail, visit: hikingthetrailtoyesterday.wordpress. com/2017/11/05/3275/ 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.



LAMPSON FALLS

Most popular waterfall in St. Lawrence County.

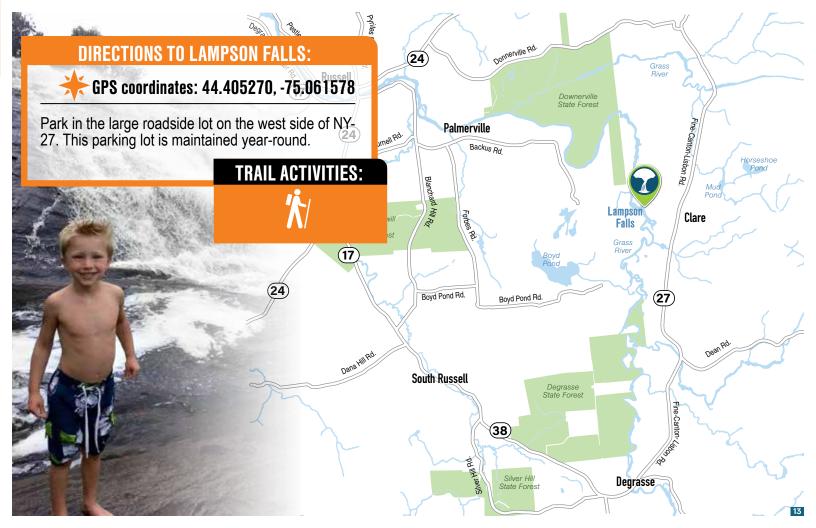
The Lampson Falls Trail provides relatively easy access to one of the largest and most popular waterfalls in the North Country. These impressive falls drop 100 feet over a smooth rock face into a large, swirling pool at the bottom.

From the trailhead on NY-27, the trail extends for 0.5 miles along a wide and flat path to the top of the falls. Though unpaved, this first section of the trail accommodates wheelchairs.

Continuing past the top of the falls, the trail narrows and drops steeply down to the beach below the falls, then continues over a rocky outcrop opposite the waterfall. In summer, many people stop here to pick blueberries, sunbathe, and admire the falls from the rocks.

To extend the hike into a longer loop-hike, look for yellow trail markers on the trees that will lead you further downstream along the banks of the river. This section can be overgrown in the summer, but offers scenic views of the Grasse River. After about one mile of walking along the river, near the remnants of an old bridge, the trail turns right and continues gradually uphill on the old Lampson Falls Logging Road. After another mile the old logging road returns to the Lampson Falls Trail just above the falls.





HARPER FALLS



The Harper's Falls Trail travels 0.6 miles to the edge of a 60-foot waterfall on the North Branch of the Grasse River. The upper falls is a series of small cascades, which channel into a narrow chute for the final drop. Old stone walls next to the waterfall are remnants of an old mill once located at this site.

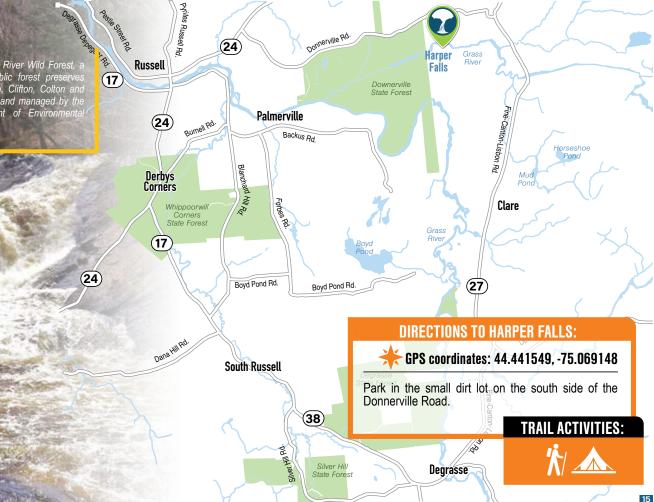
Beautiful falls and hike.

Starting from the trailhead off Donnerville Road (sometimes spelled Downerville), the trail descends through a mixed deciduous and hemlock forest to cross two small bridges. The trail then climbs briefly before making its final descent to the falls. Look for signs of beaver and porcupine activity along the trail.

A lovely designated campsite is located next to the falls, perfect for a quick overnight backpacking trip.

For those looking for a longer hike, the trail continues west along the river, leaving the Adirondack Park boundary and entering Donnerville State Forest. Many trails spur from the river trail, and the area is a popular mountain bike destination.

This trail is part of the Grass River Wild Forest, 54,000-acre collection of public forest preserves located in the towns of Clare, Clifton, Colton and Fine in St. Lawrence County and managed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

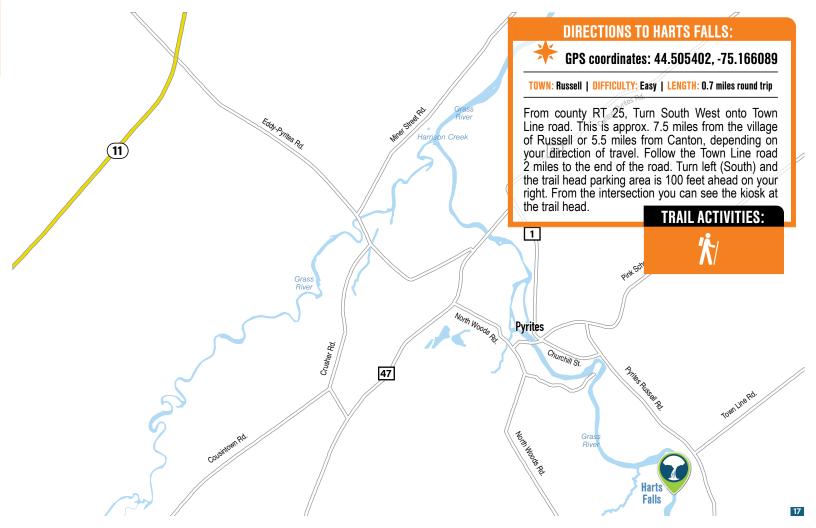


HARTS FALLS PRESERVE

Year round family friendly trail.

This a family friendly trail that brings you to a great waterfall. The trail is fairly level and is suitable for year around use, including snowshoes & cross-country skiing. There are some wet spots along the trail, but there have been recent improvements made to navigate these. At the falls you will find many glacial potholes in the flat rocks. Downstream from the falls are the remnants of mill that once stood here. The falls were named after a Mr. Hart who built the mill here after his time as a solider in the Civil War. Looking downstream you can see the where a raceway was blasted into the bed rock to supply water to the mill. There is a nice shaded picnic area overlooking the falls. If visiting in winter, be careful of slippervice near the falls.





ALLENS FALLS

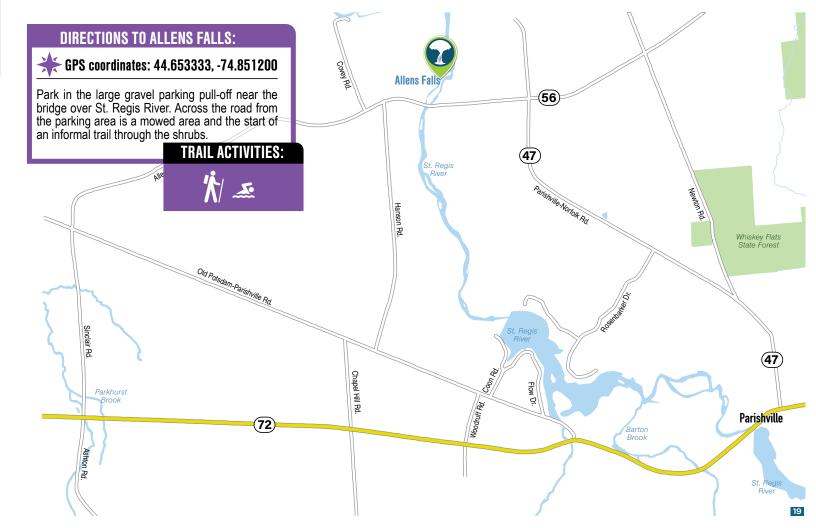
An impressive 35-foot drop.



From the mowed area, follow a well-worn path across a small stream and through an area of blown down trees. On the left, there is a side trail that follows a dry creek bed leading to a view of the upper falls. Continue straight to reach a different view of the waterfall and another steeper path to the full view of the waterfall and a swimming hole.

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

SLIPPERY ROCKS: This trail includes rocks and/or staircases which are slippery when wet. Please exercise caution and keep children and pets under close supervision.



HIGH FALLS

Surrounded by the oldest forest in the county.

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.

Be cautious of attempting this as a day hike, especially in wintery conditions.



While a large portion of the forest 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 oneway and the path is overgrown for the last two miles.

Although the trails are relatively flat, the High Falls Loop consists of more than 15 miles of difficult trail and is designated as a two or three day overnight excursion. There are plenty of campsites in the area and a lean-to if you wish to camp. This description of the route assumes a counterclockwise direction of travel:

From the CL50/High Falls Trailhead, the route follows a flat railroad grade with wet sections due to beaver activity. The trail passes a view of the Oswegatchie River in the distance through the trees before coming to High Rock after 3.8 miles. High Rock has a scenic overlook of the river and there are DEC primitive campsites in the vicinity.

Past High Rock, the High Falls Trail continues to follow the now eastward curve of the Oswegatchie, passing a junction with the Sand Pond Trail, and continuing left and east toward High Falls. 4.6 miles from High Rock the High Falls Trail reaches a junction with the New Plains Trail. The High Falls Trail turns south here and continues for 0.5 miles before ending at the Falls. This is close to the halfway point and is a popular camping spot on the trail with primitive tent sites situated up and down the river.

Returning from High Falls, the High Falls Loop turns onto the New Plains Trail and continues northeast for 2.7 miles to its junction with the Cowhorn Junction Trail. This trail leads east toward Cat Mountain and it is here that the CL50 route departs from the High Falls Loop.

To finish the High Falls Loop, hikers continue north to stay on the New Plains Trail which follows a flat course with several slight downhill sections and passes by the 0.25-mile spur trail to Janacks Landing. A lean-to and primitive tent sites at Janacks Landing provide a quiet rest on the shores of Cranberry Lake.

Past the spur to Janacks Landing, the trail becomes the Dead Creek Trail. The Dead Creek Trail follows an old railroad grade for 2.8 miles before coming out on South Shore Road at the Dead Creek Trailhead. It is a 0.5-mile road walk back to the High Falls Trailhead.

The High Falls Loop may be hiked clockwise or counter-clockwise, beginning at the Dead Creek Trailhead and ending at the High Falls Trailhead or vice-versa. The High Falls Trailhead is also a primary access point to the Cranberry Lake 50 (CL50) route and half of the High Falls Loop is along the CL50 route.

DIRECTIONS TO HIGH FALLS:

🗧 GPS coordinates: 44.068668, -74.910242

HIGH FALLS TRAILHEAD:

From NY-3 outside of Wanakena, turn south onto CR-61/Main Street, drive for 1.2 miles, and take the bridge across the Oswegatchie river. Continue straight onto South Shore Road for 0.25 miles before coming to the trailhead parking on the right. From the parking area walk back up South Shore Road for a few hundred feet and turn left onto a dead-end drive. The trailhead is located at the end of this drive, 0.1 miles from South Shore Road.

DEAD CREEK TRAILHEAD:

Located 0.5 miles east of the High Falls Trailhead parking on South Shore Road. There is a small parking lot adjacent to the trailhead.

TRAIL ACTIVITIES:





JAMESTOWN FALLS & MOODY FALLS

View the Raquette River.

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

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 TO JAMESTOWN FALLS:

🗧 GPS coordinates: 44.3253392,-74.7209496

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.

DIRECTIONS TO MOODY FALLS:

GPS coordinates: 44.3117279,-74.71983826

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.

TRAIL ACTIVITIES:

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Dead Creek Rd

Windfall

Jamestown Falls

Raquette Boreal

lild Forest

56

Sevev

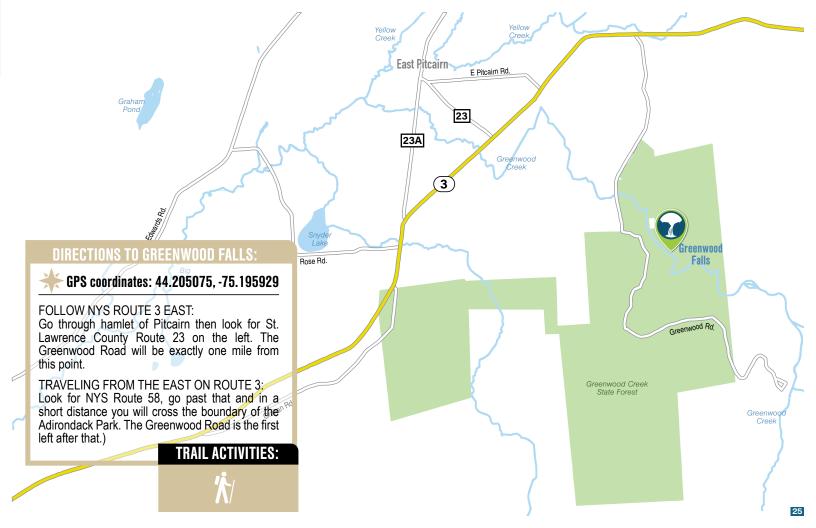
GREENWOOD FALLS

Feel the deep forest.

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 is well maintained and has tables and fireplaces, although there is no overnight camping. The nature trail loop has a few primitive campsites available on a first come first serve basis.

> Greenwood Creek offers some fantastic Brook Trout fishing opportunities



OTHER FALLS IN THE COUNTY

South Shore Road.

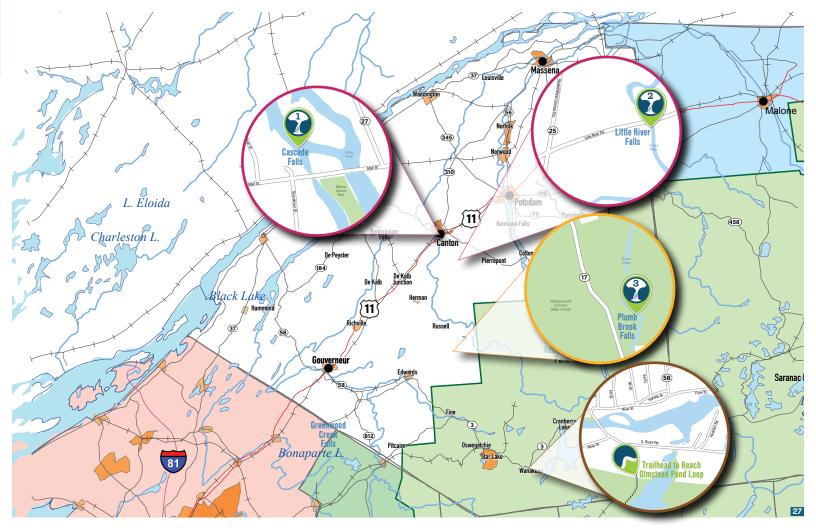
St. Lawrence County has many more waterfalls than this guide is able to cover. Here are a few, with their closest towns. Most of these falls are smaller (less then 15 feet) and unnamed. These are peaceful and beautiful places: most have nature trails and some are under bridges along major roads. There are also 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!

> LOCATION **GPS COORDINATES** NAME CASCADE FALLS Canton 44.595898, -75.175283 **DIRECTIONS:** US-11 crosses the Grasse River just west of the downtown section of Canton. There is an island at this point and the entrance of Heritage Park will be on the north side of the road. LITTLE RIVER FALLS Canton 44.540042, -75.128349 DIRECTIONS: From US-11 in downtown Canton, turn on Park Street and proceed past St. Lawrence University. Park Street becomes CR-27. The first intersection is a four-way stop. Take a right on CR-25. Look for the second intersection which will be about a two mile drive. Take a left onto Little River Road. The falls will be in a few hundred vards, under the bridge at the base of this hill. **PLUMB BROOK FALLS** Russell 44.397812, -75.149720 DIRECTIONS: The hamlets of Russell and Edwards are joined by CR-24. Near the Russell end you will see CR-17. One-half mile from this corner is the access road to Plumb Brook Falls, which is marked as the "Plumb Brook Fishing Access Site." **OLMSTEAD POND LOOP** Wanakena 44.132077. -74.923199 DIRECTIONS: The trail starts at the High Falls trailhead in Wanakena, and passes three ponds: Olmstead, Simmons, and Spectacle. From NY-3 outside of Wanakena, turn south onto CR-61/Main Street, drive for 1.2 miles, and take the bridge across the Oswegatchie river. Continue straight onto South Shore Road for 0.25 miles before coming to the trailhead parking on the right. From the parking area walk back up South Shore Road for a few hundred feet and turn left onto a dead-end drive. The trailhead is located at the end of this drive, 0.1 miles from

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



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RED SANDSTONE TRAIL



Four-season trail along the Raquette River.

The Red Sandstone trail, maintained by the Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, offers great views of the Raquette River through varying terrain. Beginning at the South entrance, the trail follows the Raquette River rapids and passes a quarry and dam before meeting a junction at 1.5 miles. At the junction is the parking area for the north entrance of the trail. The trail continues north, turning to the right and crossing a stairway over the aqueduct pipeline. The trail on the other side of pipe hugs the shoreline closely as it travels north.

The trail forks near the entrance to Sugar Island, bearing right, the trail continues on a loop around Sugar Island with an option to take a left for a shorter loop, or continue straight for a longer circumnavigation of the island.

There are interpretive signs provided by the Adirondack Mountain Club throughout the trail which detail the history of the Raquette River and the local area. This is a great trail for all ages and can be used for a short midday outing, or half a day of exploration.

The trails on Sugar Island are open year-round and offer over two miles of cross-country skiing in the winter.

DIRECTIONS TO RED SANDSTONE TRAIL:

SOUTHERN ACCESS:

Parking is available on the east side of Mill Street across the street from the Hannawa Falls Fire Department

NORTHERN ACCESS:

Parking is available at the end of the dirt access road off of County Road 138 ("Back Hannawa Road") across from Sweeney Road.

TRAIL ACTIVITIES:





HERITAGE PARK /CASCADE FALLS



Nature and history.

The Heritage Park trail loops around Coakley and Falls Islands in downtown Canton. The trail is well maintained and is marked by information boards on the industrial history of Canton and the local flora and fauna. Unmarked offshoots from the main trail open up to rocks and views along the Grasse River and Cascade Falls. The trail will pass remnants of an old industrial site and cross a short boardwalk before leading back to the initial footbridge.

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The Heritage Park trail is a 0.3 miles loop with easy walking surfaces including: pavement/cement, dirt/forest floor, gravel/crushed stone, grass and woodchips. Pets are permitted.

DIRECTIONS TO HERITAGE PARK:

Parking for Heritage Park can be found off of the bridge on RT. 11 in Downtown Canton. Heritage Park is clearly marked with a sign and a gazebo can be seen from the road. The trailhead can be found at the back end of the parking lot across the footbridge.

TRAIL ACTIVITIES:



SO MUCH TO EXPLORE

VisitSTLC.com: 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.
STLCtrails.com: Explore the Great 8 Trail Challenges



•Earn Badges •Complete Challenges •Make Memories

fishcap.net: Check out the online guide to regional fishing.

nnywaterfalls.com: A multi-county guide to waterfalls.

DigTheFalls.com: The Adirondack 50 Falls Challenge is an opportunity to explore waterfalls across the entire Adirondack Park, with several in St. Lawrence County that can be visited in one day! follow #ADK50Falls



This guide is provided courtesy of the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, with many thanks to David J. Schryver of **nnywaterfalls.com** and William Hill from Hiking the Trail to Yesterday for their knowledge and assistance. Photos by Adam Hill, William Hill, Tim Bouchard, Suzanne Casaday, Adam Hill and David J. Schryver.

For more information call the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce at: VisitSTLC.com | 1-877-228-7810 | info@slcchamber.org

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