

Waterfalls of Northern Ohio

Dan Styer



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For my mother, who loves waterfalls

The Ohio territory consists of “fine, rich, level land, well-timbered with large walnut, ash, sugar trees, cherry trees, &c. It is well watered with a great number of little streams or rivulets, and full of beautiful natural meadows, covered with wild rye, blue grass, and clover, and abounds with turkeys, deer, elk, and most sorts of game, particularly buffaloes, thirty or forty of which are frequently seen feeding in one meadow. In short, it wants nothing but cultivation to make it a most delightful country.”

— Journal of Christopher Gist, 17 February 1751

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Introduction

Ohio doesn't get the respect it deserves.

Ohio is a state of deep woods, flower-spangled prairies, intimate and mysterious gorges, vibrant neighborhoods, delightful restaurants, and sophisticated music, but you'd never know this from driving through on the turnpike. When my job brought me to Ohio twenty-five years ago, I cursed my fortune and wished that I'd gone instead to Colorado. But I've discovered the delights of this state, and now I delight in showing them off to others. Often I surprise even the natives of this state when I show one of them a sublime gorge or a prancing waterfall, only a few miles from his birthplace, that he has been ignorant of for fifty years. This book is my way of sharing my delight with you.

Waterfall seasons: A good time to visit waterfalls (and the best time to look for undiscovered waterfalls) is in April, when streams flow strongly and trees are leafless, so you can peer deep into the woods to look for falling water. It's also easier to hear distant falls in a leafless woods, and to pick out the particular quality of sound that marks each individual waterfall. Summer brings less water but verdant settings, and the pleasures of cool mist on a hot day. Waterfalls that are pure frothing exuberance in the manic torrents of spring can become more delicate and expressive in the weaker flows of summer. In the fall colored leaves set off the white of foaming water. Winter brings solitude and the spectacle of cliffs festooned with icicles. It is in the early spring, according to John Muir, that "the snow is melting into music," and once that's finished we enjoy again the full streams, long views, and rich waterfall voices of April.

Waterfall types: One of the delights of waterfalls is their individuality. I will often describe them by the steepness of the rock over which the water flows: From greatest slope to least, I use the terms overhang falls, plunge falls (or vertical falls), buttermilk falls, cascade, and rapids. But reality has a way of making the terms insignificant. What should one call a waterfall that plunges over an overhang but then strikes and cascades down a pile of talus? I call it a place worth visiting.

Waterfall senses: Human beings are visual creatures, and it's natural for us to visit a waterfall and concentrate on its appearance. I encourage you to allow waterfalls to excite your other senses. Close your eyes and listen to each waterfall's distinctive voice. Feel its cool mist against your cheek. Inhale the odor of fresh water crashing against rock. (I cannot, in this age of *Giardia* and water pollution, recommend that you taste the falling water.) While you're focusing on your non-visual senses, you might as a bonus hear a woodpecker or smell an apple tree in bloom. A short trip to a waterfall might, if you exercise all of your senses and your mind as well, become an event that you will cherish for your entire life.

Waterfall archeology: We go to waterfalls today in search of the beauty and solace of nature. One hundred years ago, men went to waterfalls in search of the power to be drawn from falling water. Some of the waterfalls listed here are in pristine natural areas.

Others are dotted with the remains of mills, factories, and electrical generating plants. You may consider the remains of old human activity to be trashy eyesores, or you may consider them to be historical relics as mesmerizing as the falls themselves. That's your choice.

Waterfall photography: I hope that the final version of this book will contain a section about photography, including digital photography, written by a knowledgeable expert. For now, I'll tell you my one tip for point-and-shoot digital cameras, and that is to take every photo four times: once in "night scene" mode, once in "landscape" mode, once in "sports action" mode, and once in "candlelight" mode. Sometimes one mode will provide superior photographs, sometimes another will, and there is no way to predict beforehand which it will be.

Finding new waterfalls: The same techniques used by me to find the waterfalls described in this book can be used by you to find waterfalls not described in this book. I scrutinized published hiking, canoeing, nature, and outdoor recreation guides – not only the ones in print, but also those long forgotten. I looked in professional geology guidebooks. I chatted with hunters, anglers, birders, farmers, mountain bikers, and other locals. (I used to chat with gas station attendants, but that breed has now all but vanished.)

Historical and genealogical works are a surprisingly rich source of information about waterfalls: for example, I located Jerusalem Falls in Logan County through the improbably titled book *History of Logan County and Ohio: containing a history of the state of Ohio, from its earliest settlement to the present time, embracing its topography, geological, physical and climatic features; its agricultural, stock-growing, rail road interests, etc.; a history of Logan County, giving an account of its aboriginal inhabitants, early settlement by the whites, pioneer incidents, its growth, its improvements, organization of the court, its judicial and political history, its business and industries, churches, schools, etc.; biographical sketches; portraits of some of the early settlers and prominent men, etc.*, edited by W.H. Perrin and J.H. Battle (O.L. Baskin, Chicago, 1880). In perusing such sources be sure to look not only for references to waterfalls and cascades and cataracts, but also to gorges, gullies, ravines, cliffs, ledges, rock shelters, and recess caves. Some of these sources are available through the Internet, others can be found only in the musty and mysterious genealogy/local history rooms in the backs of most local libraries.

Town names can provide clues. I try to visit every town with "Falls" in its name. Sometimes, as in my visit to Chagrin Falls, I hit pay dirt. More often, as in my visit to Newton Falls, I find a dam. My surmise is that these towns were established around a natural waterfall that provided power to a water mill, but when the stream flow proved unreliable a dam was built, flooding the waterfall that gave birth (and name) to the town.

I scan topographic maps, looking for places where the thin blue line of a stream crosses the crowded brown contours of a cliff. The Bedrock Geologic Map of Ohio (Ernie R. Slucher, principal compiler, Ohio Geological Survey, Columbus, OH, 2006) is both

beautiful and information-packed. Where the maroon of “Allegheny and Pottsville Groups” meets the grey of “Logan and Cuyahoga Formations” you will often find cliffs of Sharon Conglomerate, and when streams cross that boundary there will be gorges and waterfalls. The federal Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) records the names and sometimes the locations of some waterfalls.

Waterfall geology: In geology, an “underfit valley” is one that was carved by one powerful entity but which is now occupied by a different, and much weaker, stream. The classic example is Yosemite Valley: it was carved by a great glacier that filled the valley from side to side. After the glacier’s demise the modest Merced River flowed into the valley that had already been cleft by the glacier. It’s easy to tell that this river did not itself carve Yosemite Valley, because the Merced doesn’t even reach from one side of the valley to the other: instead it meanders back and forth between the valley walls.

Because of the power of the carving entity, underfit valleys tend to have steep sides, and hence the tributaries to underfit streams tend to have waterfalls. Yosemite Valley is again a case in point: The main valley was carved deep by the glacier. The tributary streams came into being after the glacier melted away and haven’t had time to carve down the cliffs, so they have to tumble over them.

The rivers of northeastern Ohio — the Ashtabula, the Grand, the Chagrin, the Cuyahoga, the Vermilion — are all underfit streams. Their valleys were carved not by the modest streams that run through them today, but by great torrents from melting ice-age glaciers. Because these valleys were carved into shale and sandstone rather than into granite, northeastern Ohio’s waterfalls are neither as tall nor as spectacular as Yosemite’s. Nevertheless they have their own intimate and familiar beauty.

What is northern Ohio? This book treats waterfalls north of Interstate Route 70 (from Wheeling, West Virginia, to Columbus, Ohio) and northeast of US Route 33 (from Columbus, Ohio, to Fort Wayne, Indiana). There are some beautiful waterfalls in the western Ohio wedge north of I-70 and southwest of US-33, but these falls, part of the Niagara Escarpment, are geologically and geographically linked to southern Ohio falls.

Maps. This book contains no maps. Instead, I have established a Google Maps web page locating all of the waterfalls in this book, and a few more. If you search for “Waterfalls of Northern Ohio Dan Styer” you will find a link to this Google Map. Using this map, you can get directions from your own home to a particular waterfall, or from one waterfall to the next forming a tour.

Waterfall descriptions: Keep these points in mind while reading the descriptions in this book: Remarks about wheelchair accessibility apply also to kids in strollers. All waterfalls have variable flow, but those described as “intermittent” are likely to dry up completely during the summer. Hike distances are round trip. Most driving directions start from an initial point and give cumulative mileages from that point. The terms “right bank” and “left bank” mean right or left when facing downstream. Latitude and longitude are given in the NAD83/WGS84 datum and are listed to the nearest 0.0001

degree, corresponding to an accuracy of better than 40 feet. A waterfall with latitude 41.2768° and longitude 81.5385° can be found on the World Wide Web as

`http://mapper.acme.com/?ll=41.2768,-81.5385&z=15`

or by going to Google Maps at

`http://maps.google.com/`

and typing `41.2768 -81.5385` into the search bar.

Favorites

Tallest: It's thin and it's intermittent, but *wow* is it tall: Rainbow Falls, page 99.

Widest: Short, but impressively broad and powerful: Bear Rapids, page 123.

Most Sublime: Expressing the harmony, dignity, and power of nature: Blue Hen Falls, page 138.

Most Intimate: Holding you like an embrace: Swift Hollow Falls, page 109.

Most Romantic: Far enough from parking for privacy, close enough to parking that you'll be clean and fresh when you get there: Ansel's Cave Falls, page 43. Runners-up (all great sites, but a little too popular for my romantic tastes): Bridal Veil Falls, page 16; Grand Rapids (especially from the right bank), page 124; and Hayden Falls, page 178.

Most Unusual History: Mill Creek Falls, page 14; Munroe Falls, page 149; and the Engulfed Waterfall, page 175.

Natural Arches: Cat's Den Natural Bridge, page 24; at Swift Hollow, page 109; Camp Christopher Natural Bridge, page 141; Beaver Creek Natural Bridge, page 165; Woodbury Natural Bridge, page 173.

Best for Children: Not just for looking at, but for splashing in and climbing on: the first of the Falls on Sulphur Springs, page 22.

Best for Wheelchair Users and Children in Strollers: Waterfalls inspire not only the rugged outdoor set, but also the very old, the very young, and the injured: Brandywine Falls in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, page 132. Runner-up: East Cascade Falls in Elyria, page 105.

Best Urban Falls: There are graffiti. There are wild mink. There is trash washed down from upstream. There are trees and wildflowers. There are buildings huddled nearby, threatening to fall into the gorge. There are beautiful rock formations. It's West Cascade Falls near the heart of downtown Elyria, page 107.

Best Suburban Falls: Surrounded by condos and apartments, but nevertheless green and enticing, this waterfall must bring daily delight to its fortunate near neighbors: Greenwood Falls, page 130.

Cleveland and East

Mill Creek Falls

A buttermilk falls within the city of Cleveland.



Height: 48 feet

Hike distance: 240 yards

Watercourse: Mill Creek

Rock formation: Cleveland Shale

Garfield Park Reservation, Old Newburgh neighborhood, Cleveland, Cuyahoga County
(Cleveland Metroparks)

Wheelchair accessible.

Parking latitude: 41.4443°

Parking longitude: 81.6260°

Falls latitude: 41.4451°

Falls longitude: 81.6254°

From Interstate 77, interchange 159A, drive east on Harvard Avenue. At 1.1 miles from the intersection you will pass underneath a railroad bridge. At 1.4 miles, just before a second railroad bridge, turn right onto Ohio Route 14, Broadway Avenue. At 1.7 miles take the first right off of Broadway onto Warner Road (one way), then pass over Mill

Creek on a bridge and make the first right (a sharp right), into the Mill Creek Falls Neighborhood History Center (Brilla House). Park at the History Center lot at mile 1.9.

Walk north from parking and then right to the observation deck at the brink of the falls. For a frontal view, walk north from parking and then left to an observation site (200 yards round trip).

This waterfall is also called the “Cataract Falls on Mill Creek.” Exhibits within the History Center explain that in the early 1800s the town of Newburgh, which grew up surrounding Mill Creek Falls and exploiting its power, was larger than the small waterfront community of Cleveland. Other exhibits show how in the early 1900s the original path of Mill Creek was diverted to make room for the railroad. When the creek was moved, the waterfall moved too!

Nearby: A bike trail leads 1.1 miles southeast to Garfield Park.

Two miles north of the falls, at 3649 East 65th Street just off Broadway, is the magnificent Shrine Church of Saint Stanislaus.

On Harvard Avenue 1.4 miles west of Interstate 77 is the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail. (From I-77, bear left at 1.1 miles.) This multi-use trail will eventually stretch 100 miles from downtown Cleveland south through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the center of Akron to New Philadelphia. The fascinating segment here features everything from wildlife habitat to aluminum foundries. Wayside exhibits make a strong case that World War II was fought and won, not only on the shores of Normandy and the slopes of Iwo Jima, but also within these factories on the banks of the Cuyahoga River.

To reach Bridal Veil Falls, continue driving south on Warner Road. Take a left onto Canal Road, then a left onto Tinkers Creek Road.

Bridal Veil Falls

An impressive cascade in a stunning park. According to *Cleveland Scene* magazine, Cleveland's "best place for a kiss" in 2004. Experiment to see whether that's still true!



Height: 40 feet

Hike distance: 600 yards

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Deer Lick Creek

Rock formation: Bedford Shale

Bedford Reservation, Walton Hills, Cuyahoga County
(Cleveland Metroparks)

Parking latitude: 41.3715°

Parking longitude: 81.5488°

Falls latitude: 41.3734°

Falls longitude: 81.5494°

From the intersection of Dunham Road and Gorge Parkway in Walton Hills, Ohio, drive east on Gorge Parkway. At mile 1.0 Overlook Lane comes in on the right, and at mile 1.2 the Tinkers Creek Gorge Scenic Overlook is to your left. At mile 2.2 park in the lot on the right (south) side of Gorge Parkway.

Walk cross Gorge Parkway and continue north on the trail. You will step down 60 stair steps and cross a stream on a bridge before coming to the Bridal Veil Falls overlook platform. Return as you came.

Nearby: Continue walking on the Bridle Trail through woods and ravines. After about two miles the trail again touches the Gorge Parkway at Tinker's Creek Gorge Scenic Overlook. The view is stunning, especially in the fall.

There are many more waterfalls in Bedford Reservation — on a wet spring day you'll find one around every turn. Rather than tell you exactly where each waterfall is, I'll just encourage you to walk through the park, both on and off the trails, and find them for yourself. You might object that it's not efficient for you to spend time wandering aimlessly, but I disagree. An hour wandering aimlessly in Bedford Reservation is an hour added to your life, not an hour subtracted from it.

To reach the Great Falls of Tinkers Creek, continue driving east on Gorge Parkway. When the parkway ends at Egbert Road, turn left.

Great Falls of Tinkers Creek

Wide overhang waterfall in a valley now wild but once full of industry.



Height: 15 feet

Hike distance: 800 yards

Watercourse: Tinkers Creek

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone atop Bedford Shale

Bedford Reservation, Bedford, Cuyahoga County

(Cleveland Metroparks)

Wheelchair accessible.

Parking latitude: 41.3855°

Parking longitude: 81.5341°

Falls latitude: 41.3835°

Falls longitude: 81.5324°

From the intersection of Egbert Road/Hawthorn Parkway and Union Street south of central Bedford, drive northwest (downhill) on Union Street. At mile 0.2 Union Street takes a beautiful stone bridge over Tinkers Creek. Just beyond this bridge, turn left onto Taylor Street. Follow Taylor Street until it ends at mile 0.4. Turn left onto Willis Street. A sign here announces the entrance to Viaduct Park, a region of Bedford Reservation. At mile 0.5 Willis Street terminates in a parking lot.

Walk south on the concrete walkway. After 50 yards the concrete turns to asphalt and begins sloping downward and to the left. Follow the trail a total of 400 yards to the Great Fall. Signs describe and side trails lead to the ruins of Daniel Benedict's 1821 saw mill, Luther Willis's 1825 grist mill, the 1891 hydroelectric generating station of The People's Electric Light Company, and other features.

Nearby: To reach Squaw Rock Falls, drive back to Egbert Road then go east on Hawthorn Parkway.

Squaw Rock Falls

Serene tributary falls in an impressive setting.



Height: 50 feet

Hike distance: 0.6 mile

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of the Aurora Branch of the Chagrin River

Parking latitude: 41.4168°

Parking longitude: 81.4151°

Falls latitude: 41.4136°

South Chagrin Reservation, Bentleyville, Cuyahoga County
(Cleveland Metroparks)

Intermittent.

From the intersection of US Route 422 and Ohio Route 91 (S.O.M. Center Road), drive north on Route 91 for 1.3 miles and turn right (east) onto Hawthorn Parkway. This parkway terminates at mile 2.8 at the Squaw Rock Picnic Area, where you should park.

From the northeast (lower left) corner of the parking lot, follow the wide graveled trail east. After 80 yards the trail goes down 68 rock steps and reaches the Aurora Branch of the Chagrin River at the ten-foot tall “Double Decker Falls.” This is an impressive fall but it is not your destination. Continue along the trail, walking south on the west bank of

the Chagrin River. In 150 yards you'll see a tributary stream falling over Berea Sandstone to your right. This tall waterfall is not your destination either. Continue for another 150 yards. To your left is Squaw Rock, a large piece of Berea Sandstone carved into a relief sculpture of an Indian woman, a snake, and other figures by blacksmith Henry Church in 1885. And to your right is the thin and elegant Squaw Rock Falls.

You could turn around here, but I recommend that you instead continue in the direction you're going. You'll pass overhanging cliffs of Berea Sandstone, climb 128 rock steps, and double back to see the tops of the two waterfalls you've already seen before arriving back at the parking lot.

Note: Before South Chagrin Reservation was a public park, it was a boy scout camp. You might enjoy the stories of this camp related by my grandfather-in-law, Freeman Champney, in his 1979 memoir *Growing Up Rational*.

Nearby: South Chagrin Reservation holds several broad but shallow falls of the Aurora Branch of the Chagrin River over Bedford Shale. The most impressive is Double Decker Falls (latitude 41.4160°, longitude 81.4142°) described above. Two more are best viewed from the Quarry Rock Picnic Area at the southeast corner of the park (latitude 41.4107°, longitude 81.4126° and latitude 41.4103°, longitude 81.4138°). In the northeast corner of the park is a fall of the Chagrin River best viewed from the Miles Road Bridge (latitude 41.4229°, longitude 81.4153°).

To reach the Falls on Sulphur Springs, drive back up Hawthorn Parkway and take the first right onto Sulphur Springs Drive.

Falls on Sulphur Springs

Five large falls plus cascades along half a mile of the creek called “Sulphur Springs.” A great site for families, because the area offers everything from splashing in gentle falls to climbing up to view dramatic falls.



Height: 5 to 15 feet

Hike distance: zero to one mile

Watercourse: Sulphur Springs

Rock formation: Bedford Shale

South Chagrin Reservation, Bentleyville, Cuyahoga County
(Cleveland Metroparks)

First waterfall is wheelchair accessible.

First latitude: 41.4211°

First longitude: 81.4241°

Last latitude: 41.4256°

Last longitude: 81.4174°

From the intersection of US Route 422 and Ohio Route 91 (S.O.M. Center Road), drive north on Route 91 for 1.3 miles and turn right (east) onto Hawthorn Parkway. At mile 2.4 turn left onto Sulphur Springs Drive, then at mile 2.8 turn left into Sulphur Springs Picnic Area. Park in the lot at mile 3.1.

From the lot you can see the first waterfall, a five-foot buttermilk falls. If you walk down the creekside, you’ll find a slide waterfall, an S-curve with overhanging cliffs, a plunge falls, old-growth woods, tributary falls, and finally a ten-foot buttermilk falls dropping directly into the Chagrin River.

Nearby: Paralleling Sulphur Springs Drive is a multipurpose trail that leads southwest for 26 miles to pass near the Great Falls of Tinkers Creek, Bridal Veil Falls, Greenwood Falls, Brandywine Falls, and Munroe Falls on the Cuyahoga River.

Closer at hand, walk upstream on a trail for 400 yards, bear right, cross the stream, walk 100 (??) more yards, turn right, walk 400 more yards to a stunning old-growth oak forest at the top of the hill.

To reach Wiley Creek Falls, drive north on Sulphur Springs Drive and then on Chagrin River Road.

Wiley Creek Falls

Side view of a buttermilk falls.



Height: 20 feet

Hike distance: 16 yards

Watercourse: Wiley Creek

Rock formation: Bedford Shale

Moreland Hills, Cuyahoga County

Parking latitude: 41.4335°

Parking longitude: 81.4229°

Falls latitude: 41.4334°

Falls longitude: 81.4232°

From the intersection of Miles Road and Chagrin River Road in Bentleyville, drive north on Chagrin River Road. At mile 0.5 turn left (west) onto Jackson Road. At mile 0.8, park on the right side of the road just beyond a green fire hydrant and just before 38125 Jackson Road. If you reach Giles Road you've gone too far.

Walk across the road and peer down into the ravine for a side view of the falls.

Nearby: To reach Chagrin Falls, drive north on Chagrin River Road then turn right onto Chagrin Boulevard.

Chagrin Falls

Big waterfall in the center of a historical village, surrounded by shops, restaurants, galleries, and theaters. The people of this town love the waterfall so much that a sketch of it graces their village seal.



Height: 25 feet

Hike distance: zero

Watercourse: Chagrin River

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone atop Bedford Shale

Village of Chagrin Falls, Cuyahoga County

Upper observation deck is wheelchair accessible.

Parking latitude: 41.4303°

Parking longitude: 81.3925°

Falls latitude: 41.4312°

Falls longitude: 81.3923°



From Pepper Pike or Moreland Hills or Chagrin River Road, drive southeast on Chagrin Boulevard. When you enter the Village of Chagrin Falls, this road changes name to Orange Street. At the first traffic signal within the Village turn right onto Main Street. In 100 yards you pass over the Chagrin River on a bridge. Immediately beyond the bridge, on the right, is the Chagrin Falls Popcorn Shop. Immediately beyond the shop is a traffic signal (Bell Street comes in on the left). And immediately beyond the signal an unsigned one-way street leads right to public parking. (If you miss this entrance to the parking lot — an easy thing to do — then take the next three right turns to reach the same lot at a more prominent entrance.)

The north end of this parking lot abuts the falls. There is a viewing platform, a placard, and 53 steps going down into the gorge.

Nearby: The Popcorn Shop, precariously placed at the very brink of the falls, sells also ice cream, coffee, and candy. I recommend the Fireside Book Shop at 29 North Franklin Street, four shops south of the falls.

Walk upstream on the north bank of the Chagrin, about 0.4 mile, through Riverside Park and past a low-head dam, then along sidewalk-less Mill Street, to find another small waterfall backed by another low-head dam. The building to the left adjacent to the dam once held the Ivex Paper Mill. This is the last of many mills that once lined the Chagrin River here, turning the power of falling water into the wealth that fueled this town's growth.

Drive south on Main Street. At mile 0.6 beyond the waterfall you pass into Bainbridge Township of Geauga County, and the road changes name to Chagrin Road. At mile 1.7, at the beginning of a wide power-line swath, Cat's Den Road turns off to the right. Follow this road for 100 yards, to a bridge at the far edge of the power-line swath. To the left you'll see a small waterfall at the head of a tiny gorge cut into Sharon Conglomerate. The bridge you are on is not a typical road bridge ... it is the Cat's Den Natural Bridge! (latitude 41.4115°, longitude 81.3721°)



Cat's Den Natural Bridge

To reach Bear's Gully and Dean's Fall, drive west on Chagrin Boulevard and then north on Chagrin River Road.

Bear's Gully

A cluster of buttermilk falls in two gorges.



Height: up to 50 feet

Hike distance: 0.9 mile

Watercourse: unnamed tributaries of Chagrin River

Rock formation: Bedford Shale

Jones/Griesinger Preserve, Gates Mills, Cuyahoga County
(Gates Mills Land Conservancy)

Parking latitude: 41.5187°

Parking longitude: 81.4242°

Falls latitude: 41.5167°

Falls longitude: 81.4201°

Start in the village of Gates Mills, where Ohio Route 174 (Chagrin River Road) bridges the Chagrin River. From this bridge, drive west on Old Mill Road up out of the Chagrin River valley. At 1.1 miles Old Mill Road terminates: make a left and then an immediate right onto Gates Mills Boulevard (which is one way). At 1.2 miles turn left onto a gravel road marked only as "Park Closes at Dusk," then drive to a baseball field and park in the lot at 1.4 miles.

Walk 130 yards diagonally across the ball fields, then continue walking in the same direction into the woods. After 40 yards through the woods, you come out on Gates Mills

Boulevard. Walk across this road, then across a narrow grass strip, then across Berkshire Road. Turn right on the east verge of Berkshire Road and walk 220 yards to the far side of a bridge. On the left is a fence marked "Gates Mills Land Conservancy." Pass through the gap in the fence and walk into the woods. (You will be tempted to park your car in the wide space between the road and the fence here, but I advise against it. Roadside parking is illegal in Gates Mills, and the police in this orderly community have little to do other than ticket roadside parkers.)

Follow an informal trail into the woods following the rim of the right fork of Bear's Gully. In 130 yards you reach a small picnic shelter. After 20 more yards there is a viewpoint looking back up the right fork to a waterfall beneath the Berkshire Road bridge. You might think this is your destination, but no: continue walking along the rim. Soon you'll notice the left fork of Bear's Gully on your right, and the two forks close in until, 160 yards beyond the viewpoint, you arrive at the point where the two forks merge and the ground falls off precipitously on three sides. Turn around, and up the left fork you'll see a tall cascading fall. Once again you might think this is your destination, but once again you'd be wrong. Walk up the rim of the left fork for about 80 yards and you'll reach the gem of this waterfall collection, a 20-foot fall jumping over layer after layer of rock like a wedding cake. This property was donated to the Gates Mills Land Conservancy by the sisters Mrs. W.P. Jones and Bobby Griesinger. After admiring this fall and its plunge pool, and mentally thanking these two donors, make your way back to your car.

Nearby: Just south of the Chagrin River Bridge in Gates Mills (at latitude 41.5167°, longitude 81.4012°) a cute little tributary fall (visible from the Chagrin River Road in leafless seasons) drops right into the Chagrin River.

To reach Dean's Fall, drive back east on Old Mill Road.

Dean's Fall

Scarcely visible fall at the head of a spectacular gorge.



Height: 50 feet

Hike distance: 10 to 30 yards

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Chagrin River

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone

Chester Township, Geauga County

Parking latitude: 41.5196°

Parking longitude: 81.3906°

Falls latitude: 41.5208°

Falls longitude: 81.3901°

The falls and gorge are spectacular, but on private property. Go in a leafless season to get even a sketchy view from public roads.

Start in the village of Gates Mills, where Ohio Route 174 (Chagrin River Road) bridges the Chagrin River. (Notice the pedestrian bridge just to the north, which, from 1899 to 1925, carried the Cleveland and Eastern Traction Company's electric interurban trolley over the Chagrin.) From the road bridge, drive east on Old Mill Road up out of the Chagrin River valley. At 0.8 mile County Line Road comes in from the right (south). Park at the side of the road in this vicinity.

Walk to the north side of the road. In leafless seasons you'll be treated to a tantalizing glimpse of Dean's Gully, a gorge with walls up to 100 feet high, 30 feet of which are sheer cliffs of Berea Sandstone. At the head of the gorge, just barely visible behind branches to your right, is Dean's Fall.

Nearby: To reach Buttermilk Falls, drive back down Old Mill Road, then north on Chagrin River Road.

Oak Falls

Waterfall within a small old growth forest.



Height: 15 feet

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Chagrin River

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone atop Bedford Shale

Gates Mills, Cuyahoga County

Falls latitude: 41.5323°

Falls longitude: 81.3976°

Ask for permission to visit at 1060 County Line Road, Gates Mills, Ohio.

Buttermilk Falls

A fall into a narrow cleft.



Height: 30 feet

Hike distance: 150 yards

Watercourse: Buttermilk Creek

Rock formation: Cleveland Shale

North Chagrin Reservation, Mayfield, Cuyahoga County
(Cleveland Metroparks)

Wheelchair accessible.

Parking latitude: 41.5653°

Parking longitude: 81.4348°

Falls latitude: 41.5653°

Falls longitude: 81.4352°

From the intersection of US Route 322 and Ohio Route 174, Chagrin River Road, in Gates Mills, drive north on Chagrin River Road. At mile 2.5 turn left into North Chagrin Reservation on Ox Lane. At mile 3.7 Ox Lane terminates at Buttermilk Falls Parkway. Drive straight across the Parkway and park at the area marked “Buttermilk Falls Scenic Overlook.”

Walk right on the paved trail to a viewing platform.

Nearby: Step across the parkway and walk west on the south rim of the Buttermilk Creek Gorge. This so-called “Hickory Fox Loop Trail” is marked with squirrel icons. The entire loop trail is 1.6 miles long, but if you walk just the first 250 yards you will see (in leafless seasons) three waterfalls down in the gorge to your left.

Drive south on Buttermilk Falls Parkway for 0.5 mile until it terminates at the A.B. Williams Memorial Forest Trailhead. Follow the rugged 1.25 mile Sylvan Loop Trail through the Williams Forest, one of this country’s largest undisturbed mature beech-maple forests.

You can rent the Louis Penfield House (Frank Lloyd Wright, architect) situated on 30 wooded acres (through which pass the Chagrin River) in nearby Willoughby Hills, Ohio. See

<http://www.penfieldhouse.com/>

To reach Euclid Creek Falls, drive north on Buttermilk Falls Parkway until it ends, then west on US Route 6.

Euclid Falls

Overhang waterfall at the head of an unexpected urban gorge.



Height: 20 feet

Hike distance: 90 yards

Watercourse: Euclid Creek

Rock formation: Bedford Shale

South Euclid, Cuyahoga County

Parking latitude: 41.5337°

Parking longitude: 81.5194°

Falls latitude: 41.5333°

Falls longitude: 81.5190°

From the intersection of US Route 6 and Highland Road in Euclid, drive south on Highland Road. At mile 0.3 turn right onto Euclid Creek Parkway, and drive up this gorge. (For a side trip, at mile 2.3 turn left into Kelly Picnic Area, then walk upstream 90 yards to a double slide waterfall at latitude 41.5380°, longitude 81.5212°.) At mile 2.7, just before the parkway terminates at East Green Road, park at the side of the road on the left.

Continue south, walking on the verge of the Parkway and East Green Road. You are now out of the park so confine your wanderings to the edge of the road. The waterfall is down in the woods to your left. In leafless seasons there's a good view from a rock 45 yards

from parking, but during the summer you might have to content yourself with just listening to the falls.

Nearby: There are little rapids and cascades all up and down Euclid Creek within Euclid Creek Reservation. Notice also the beautiful CCC stonework of the picnic pavilions.

To reach Lake View Cemetery Falls, continue south to the end of Euclid Creek Parkway. Turn right on Green Road then left on Monticello Boulevard.

Lake View Cemetery Falls

Waterfall in a notable garden cemetery.



Height: 20 feet

Hike distance: zero

Watercourse: Dugway Creek

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone atop Bedford Shale
Cleveland Heights, Cuyahoga County

Intermittent; Wheelchair accessible.

Viewing latitude: 41.5099°

Viewing longitude: 81.5861°

Falls latitude: 41.5104°

Falls longitude: 81.5845°

From the intersection Monticello Boulevard and Mayfield Road (US Route 322) in the center of Cleveland Heights, drive west on Mayfield Road. At mile 0.5, cross Coventry Road. At mile 1.0 turn right into Lake View Cemetery, then take an immediate right onto Quarry Road. Just after mile 1.1 you'll drive over a bridge with (in leafless seasons) a view of the waterfall upstream to your right.

Nearby: Lake View Cemetery is one of America's finest in the “rural cemetery movement” tradition of Romantic park-like garden cemeteries. I particularly recommend the Wade Chapel, with Tiffany murals and stained-glass window, and the view of Cleveland and Lake Erie from the balcony of the Garfield Monument.

Two vibrant urban communities, with restaurants, galleries, and bookshops, are nearby. The first is Little Italy, located on Mayfield Road 0.5 miles west of the Lake View Cemetery entrance. The second is the Coventry Road area of Cleveland Heights which you passed while driving in. (On Coventry Road I particularly recommend the Malaysian cooking at “Pacific East” restaurant.)

Doan Brook

A half-mile-long series of cascades in a decaying yet enticing urban park.



Height: 4 feet

Hike distance: 300 yards or more

Watercourse: Doan Brook

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone

Ambler Park, Cleveland, Cuyahoga County
(City of Cleveland Parks and Recreation)

Falls latitude: 41.4948°

Falls longitude: 81.6006°

Find roadside parking on Chestnut Hills Drive, within the Ambler Heights Historic District of Cleveland Heights.

Walk south to the intersection of Martin Luther King Drive, Chestnut Hills Drive, and North Park Boulevard. Walk south on the sidewalk on the left side of MLK. At 33 yards from the intersection you'll notice an informal trail leading left into the woods. Follow that trail over Doan Brook and then upstream along its left bank. The cascade is about 150 yards from the road intersection.

This is, in my view, the finest cascade along Doan Brook, but there is a whole string of them. If you walk further southeast, upstream, you'll find a particularly nice spot at latitude 41.4939°, longitude 81.5966° with a cascade, a huge oak, a gnarled yellow birch growing bonsai-like from the top of a rock, and a cucumber magnolia tree leaning out over the cascade, with the corner of a park-side mansion visible to the south. You'll also notice that this now ill-maintained trail follows along rock staircases of exquisite craftsmanship. This must have once been a very elegant park indeed, and I can easily imagine families dressed in Victorian finery coming here for an after-church stroll.

Downstream, northwest of Martin Luther King Drive, exploration will take you to more once-fine but now-decaying rockwork, and to other cascades. At latitude 41.4949°, longitude 81.6041° is a five-foot cascade over Bedford Shale, and 60 yards downstream from this (at latitude 41.4954°, longitude 81.6045°) is an artificial four-foot waterfall built with the fine craftsmanship characteristic of the entire park.

Nearby: This waterfall is near the University Circle area of Cleveland. The smorgasbord of cultural opportunities here could occupy you for a lifetime: Case Western Reserve University (check out the Lewis Building, designed by Frank Gehry), the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Severance Hall (home of the Cleveland Orchestra), the Cleveland Botanical Gardens, and more. But if I had to recommend just one opportunity, it would have to be the Asian collection at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Shaker Mill Waterfall

At the head of a steep-walled gorge, this waterfall formerly powered a Shaker gristmill.



Height: 20 feet

Hike distance: 150 yards

Watercourse: Doan Brook

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone

Shaker Lakes Park, Shaker Heights, Cuyahoga County

Parking latitude: 41.5099°

Parking longitude: 81.5861°

Falls latitude: 41.4919°

Falls longitude: 81.5900°

Find roadside parking on Kemper Road, south of its terminus on Fairhill Road.

Walk north on Kemper Road, across Fairhill Road into the park. Keep strolling in the same direction and you will see the falls through the trees.

Nearby: South 400 yards on Kemper Road is Larchmere Boulevard, home to an enticing assortment of galleries, restaurants, and bookshops. I particularly recommend the Flying Cranes Café, with American, Japanese, and English specialties, and Loganberry Books.

Stoney Brook Falls

The most scenic point in the scenic Penitentiary Glen.



Height: 10 feet

Hike distance: 0.8 mile

Watercourse: Stoney Brook

Rock formation: Chagrin Shale

Penitentiary Glen Reservation, Kirtland, Lake County
(Lake County Metroparks)

Parking latitude: 41.6122°

Parking longitude: 81.3323°

Falls latitude: 41.6106°

Falls longitude: 81.3373°

From Interstate 90, intersection 193, drive south on Ohio Route 306. At the traffic signal at mile 1.0 turn left onto Ohio Route 615. Very soon, at mile 1.1, turn right at another traffic signal onto Kirtland-Chardon Road. At mile 3.1 turn right into Penitentiary Glen Reservation, and park in the northwest corner of the parking lot – the corner most distant from the entrance.

Walk downhill on a paved trail. After 60 yards turn left off the paved trail toward the Gorge Rim Loop Trail. At the trail intersection 100 yards later, go straight on the Gorge Rim Loop. Follow this trail for 450 yards through mature oak and hemlock along the rim

of Penitentiary Glen, until a side trail to the left appears. Follow this trail down 141 steps into the gorge to Stoney Brook Falls, set within a beech grove. Return as you came.

Falls in Stebbins Gulch

Waterfalls, forests, overhanging cliffs ... a gem.



Height: Three major waterfalls of 20 to 50 feet
Chardon, Geauga County
(A natural area of the Holden Arboretum.)

There are many wonderful gorges in Ohio — Brandywine Creek, Hell Hollow, the Vermilion River Gorge — and many wonderful overhanging rock shelters — Ash Cave, Canter's Cave, Ritchie Ledges. But Stebbins Gulch holds the most impressive case of rock shelters overhanging a gorge.

Visit by guided hike (fee) usually on the first weekend of each month. For a schedule visit <http://www.holdenarb.org> or call (440) 946-4400.

Jenks Creek Falls

Buttermilk falls. On private property, but worth viewing even from the roadside.



Height: 35 feet

Hike distance: zero

Watercourse: Jenks Creek, a tributary of Big Creek

Rock formation: Chagrin Shale
Chardon, Geauga County

Parking latitude: 41.6273°

Parking longitude: 81.2009°

Falls latitude: 41.6273°

Falls longitude: 81.2005°

From Ohio Route 608 southeast of Concord, turn right (southwest) on Winchell Road. When you cross the border from Lake County to Geauga County, the road name changes from Winchell to Clark. At mile 1.6, turn left onto Robinson Road. At mile 2.1, you can see the falls on your left. (This falls is sometimes called Griswold Hollow Falls.)

Nearby: Just to the south, the Big Creek Park (Geauga Park District), with six miles of trail, repays a visit with woods, wildflowers, and cascades. This park's "Cascade Trail" is, however, disappointing in that the cascade is man-made and electric powered.

Cascade Falls

Falls on the wall of a steep gorge, amidst deep woods and unusual architecture.

Height: 60 feet

Hike distance: zero

Watercourse: East Creek, a tributary of Big Creek

Rock formation: Chagrin Shale

Concord Township, Lake County

Viewing latitude: 41.6734°

Viewing longitude: 81.1859°

Falls latitude: 41.6730°

Falls longitude: 81.1830°

This waterfall is spectacular but on private property. To get even a glimpse, visit during a leafless season.

From Interstate 90, interchange 200, drive south on Ohio Route 44. At mile 0.2 turn left (north) onto Auburn Road. At mile 0.5 turn right (east) onto Concord-Hambden Road. At mile 2.5 turn left (northeast) onto Williams Road. This road descends through a beautiful woods. At the bottom of the slope, at mile 3.4, turn right onto Cascade Road. Cascade Road follows the left bank of Big Creek through a surprising gorge. If the trees are leafless, you will see several tributary waterfalls. At mile 4.4 reach a bridge over Big Creek.

From this bridge you have a good view upstream to a falls on Big Creek, but the real treat is downstream. There you will see (particularly if the trees are leafless) East Creek plunge over Cascade Falls directly into Big Creek.

Waterfalls of Big Creek

The six roadside waterfalls of the Big Creek watershed in Lake County make this a great area for an automobile tour, particularly during leafless seasons. (You may wish to continue your tour east into the Paine Creek watershed, where there are four roadside waterfalls described later.)

Each waterfall described here is in the Chagrin Shale. The entire tour is wheelchair accessible.

Fay Falls

Visible from Fay Road, driving west across the bridge.

Falls latitude: 41.6873° Falls longitude: 81.2235°

Williams Falls

Visible from Williams Road, driving northeast uphill, on your left.

Falls latitude: 41.6849° Falls longitude: 81.1992°

Falls

Visible upstream (south) from the Cascade Road bridge.

(Cascade Falls is visible downstream from this same bridge.)

Falls latitude: 41.6730° Falls longitude: 81.1875°

Falls

Visible upstream (south) from the Girdled Road bridge.

Falls latitude: 41.6680° Falls longitude: 81.1836°

East Creek Falls

Visible upstream (east) from Callow Road.

Falls latitude: 41.6739° Falls longitude: 81.1680°

Aylworth Creek Falls

Visible upstream (east) from Callow Road.

Falls latitude: 41.6547° Falls longitude: 81.1683°

Paine Falls

Impressively wide and powerful.



Height: 25 feet

Hike distance: 300 yards

Watercourse: Paine Creek

Rock formation: Chagrin Shale

Paine Falls Park, Leroy Township, Lake County
(Lake County Metroparks)

Parking latitude: 41.7177°

Parking longitude: 81.1441°

Falls latitude: 41.7169°

Falls longitude: 81.1435°

From Interstate 90, interchange 205, drive south on Vrooman Road for 0.5 mile to Carter Road. Turn left and drive east on Carter Road. At mile 2.5 turn left (north) onto Paine Road. At mile 3.0 turn left (west) into Paine Falls Park. Parking is 200 yards from the entrance.

When trees are leafless, the falls is visible from the parking lot. Otherwise, take the 300 yard loop trail (with many steps) that starts from the west end of the parking lot.

This easily accessible waterfall would make a nice rest stop for drivers on Interstate 90.
The park even has restrooms!

Waterfalls of Paine Creek

The four roadside waterfalls of the Paine Creek watershed in Lake County make this a great area for an automobile tour, particularly during leafless seasons. (You may wish to continue your tour west into the Big Creek watershed, where there are six roadside waterfalls described previously.)

Each waterfall described here is in the Chagrin Shale. The entire tour is wheelchair accessible.

Upper Bates Creek Falls

Visible upstream (south) from the Ohio Route 86 bridge.

Falls latitude: 41.6576°

Falls longitude: 81.1202°

Middle Bates Creek Falls

Lip of falls is visible downstream (north) from the Ohio Route 86 bridge.

Falls latitude: 41.6588°

Falls longitude: 81.1198°

Lower Bates Creek Falls

Visible upstream (south) from the Leroy–Thompson Road bridge.

(The right bank also has an overhanging cliff, a tributary falls, and beech and hemlock trees.)

Falls latitude: 41.6606°

Falls longitude: 81.1175°

Rugged Falls

Visible upstream (south) from Leroy–Thompson Road.

Falls latitude: 41.6750°

Falls longitude: 81.1064°

Angel's Fall

Graceful and remote.



Height: 10 feet

Hike distance: 1.8 miles

Watercourse: Paine Creek

Rock formation: Chagrin Shale

Hell Hollow Wilderness Area, Leroy Township, Lake County

(Lake County Metroparks)

Parking latitude: 41.6891°

Parking longitude: 81.1169°

Falls latitude: 41.6987°

Falls longitude: 81.1244°

This hike involves the ford of a stream: wear shoes that can get wet, and stash a fresh dry pair of socks in your car to change into after you're done.

From Interstate 90, interchange 205, drive south on Vrooman Road. At mile 1.5 turn left and drive east on Ohio Route 86. At mile 5.1 bear left (northeast) onto Leroy–Thompson Road. (At mile 5.3, just before you cross Bates Creek, you will see Lower Bates Creek Falls on your right. At mile 6.4 Rugged Falls is on your right.) At mile 7.3 turn sharp left (west) onto Leroy Center Road. At mile 8.4 turn right (north) into the Hell Hollow Wilderness Area. The access road ends at a parking lot at mile 8.5.

From the parking lot, hike north on Beechwood Loop Trail. (The left branch is more scenic and slightly shorter than the right branch.) After 0.25 mile, walk down 262 steps to the valley floor, then walk downstream on an poorly-defined trail on the right bank of Paine Creek. This is a beautiful clear creek over blue-gray shale. There are many cascades, but the biggest fall is 0.9 mile from the parking lot. For best viewing, ford Paine Creek immediately above the falls, and view from the left bank immediately below the falls.

Secret Falls



Height: 40 feet	Parking latitude: 41.6891°
Hike distance: 3.4 miles	Parking longitude: 81.1169°
Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Paine Creek	Falls latitude: 41.7069°
Rock formation: Chagrin Shale	Falls longitude: 81.1258°

Hell Hollow Wilderness Area, Leroy Township, Lake County
(Lake County Metroparks)
Intermittent.

Hike to Angel's Fall as described above (and note the advice about shoes and socks in that description), then continue hiking down the left bank of Paine Creek. There is no trail. At any convenient point, ford Paine Creek back to the right bank. I did it just below the 4-foot-high Horseshoe Falls (latitude 41.7002°, longitude 81.1262°) which plunges into a deep pool. On your left you'll find Tributary Falls (latitude 41.7012°, longitude 81.1279°). Continue downstream. About 0.7 mile beyond Angel's Fall, Paine Creek runs into a 100-foot-tall gray rock wall and turns left. At this point, a tributary enters from the right. Follow that tributary upstream 200 yards to Secret Falls.

Hidden Valley Falls

A buttermilk falls in a setting as delightful as its name suggests.



Height: 25 feet

Hike distance: 1.2 miles

Watercourse: Griswold Creek

Rock formation: Chagrin Shale

Hidden Valley Park, Madison, Lake County
(Lake County Metroparks)

Parking latitude: 41.7413°

Parking longitude: 81.0493°

Falls latitude: 41.7366°

Falls longitude: 81.0582°

From Interstate 90, interchange 212, drive south on Ohio Route 528. In 1.2 miles, the road goes over the Grand River on a high bridge. Soon thereafter, at mile 1.4, turn right onto Klasen Road, down into the Grand River gorge, and at mile 1.6 turn left into Hidden Valley Park and park in the lot.

From the parking lot walk west on the broad easy graveled trail along the south bank of the Grand River. In half a mile the trail ends at a fence. Jump over the fence and continue on an ill-maintained, steep, muddy trail. In about a hundred yards the trail goes over a small hogback ridge and comes out on Hidden Valley and its waterfall.

Hogback Ridge Falls

A gentle slide over blue-gray shale in a deep gorge.



Height: 10 feet

Hike distance: 1.0 mile

Watercourse: Mill Creek

Rock formation: Chagrin Shale

Hogback Ridge Park, Madison, Lake County

(Lake County Metroparks)

Parking latitude: 41.7439°

Parking longitude: 81.0307°

Falls latitude: 41.7443°

Falls longitude: 81.0227°

From Interstate 90, interchange 212, drive south on Ohio Route 528. In 1.2 miles, the road goes over the Grand River on a high bridge. At mile 1.6 turn left (east) onto Griswold Road. At mile 2.4 turn left (north) onto Emerson Road. This road ends at the Hogback Ridge Park parking area at mile 2.9.

From the parking lot, hike east on the Hemlock Ridge Trail boardwalk. After 0.3 mile, turn right onto Bluebell Valley Path, go down 138 steps, and walk 0.2 mile further to the waterfall.

Nearby: Drive back to Ohio Route 528 and then continue south. After 0.1 mile, turn left on Ledge Road, which immediately turns right to continue south. At mile 3.1 notice “the Thompson Ledges” on your right. Turn right on Thompson Road, and at mile 3.4 you’ll reach Thompson Ledges Township Park on your left. (In Geauga County; Sharon Conglomerate.)

Twin Ledge Falls

Two successive falls: shallow but wide.



Height: each fall is 3 feet tall

Hike distance: zero to 150 yards

Watercourse: Rock Creek

Rock formation: Chagrin Shale

Rock Creek Rotary Park, Rock Creek, Ashtabula County

Parking latitude: 41.6586°

Parking longitude: 80.8608°

Falls latitude: 41.6577°

Falls longitude: 80.8603°

From Interstate 90, interchange 223, drive south on Ohio Route 45. At mile 8.8 pass a stoplight in the center of the town of Rock Creek. At mile 8.9 (just north of the road bridge over Rock Creek) turn left into the Rock Creek Rotary Park and park.

Alternatively, from the intersection of US Route 6 and Ohio Route 45 in Rome, drive north on Ohio Route 45. Turn right into Rock Creek Rotary Park at 3.7 miles.

The falls are visible to your right from the parking lot, but if you want a better view walk upstream (east) across the lawn.

Nearby: Ashtabula County is famous for covered bridges as well as waterfalls. The nearest is Riverdale Road Covered Bridge, an 1874 structure stretching 120 feet over the Grand River. From the Rotary Park, drive 0.9 mile north on Ohio 45, then turn left on Riverdale Road and drive 0.8 mile west.

The Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival is held at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds in Jefferson, Ohio, on the second full weekend of each October.

Cedarquist Falls

A slender buttermilk waterfall in a deep maple woods.



Height: 30 feet
Hike distance: 800 yards
Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Ashtabula River
Rock formation: Chagrin Shale
Cedarquist Park, Ashtabula, Ashtabula County
(Ashtabula Township Park Commission)

Parking latitude: 41.8762°
Parking longitude: 80.7855°
Falls latitude: 41.8788°
Falls longitude: 80.7872°

From Interstate 90, interchange 228, drive north on Ohio Route 11. Bridge the 150 foot deep gulf of the Ashtabula River at 1.7 miles. At 3.4 miles exit Route 11 and turn left (west) on US Route 20. At a traffic signal immediately before a bridge (4.2 miles) turn right onto Schenley Avenue. Then take the first left, onto Harmon Hill Road (4.5 miles). At the bottom of the hill (4.6 miles) turn right into Cedarquist Park. The gravel road splits at 4.8 miles: take the left branch into the woods. Park on the left at 4.9 mile, at a sign for “Indian Trails Park.”

Walking, continue north into the woods for 340 yards. There the trail splits. Take the right branch and walk 60 more yards to the base of the waterfall.

Lulu Falls

Buttermilk falls deep in a pathless woods.



Height: 25 feet

Hike distance: 0.4 mile

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Conneaut Creek

Rock formation: Chagrin Shale

Kingsville, Ashtabula County

Parking latitude: 41.8899°

Parking longitude: 80.6645°

Falls latitude: 41.8873°

Falls longitude: 80.6643°

From Interstate 90, interchange 235, drive north on Ohio Route 84. In 0.2 mile turn right (northeast) on Cemetery Road. Pass Lulu Falls Cemetery on your right and continue until, at mile 0.8, Cemetery Road ends at South Ridge Road. (Straight ahead at the north verge of South Ridge Road, latitude 41.8914°, longitude 80.6698°, is Kingsville Fall and the site of an old stone mill. Unfortunately the falls face north, and from the road you do too, so you can't get a good view of it.) Turn right on South Ridge Road, drive 50 yards, then turn right again onto Kingsbury Road. Follow Kingsbury Road and park by the side of the road at mile 1.1, where the road dead-ends at a bridge.

Walking, follow that stream upstream (south) about 400 yards. There is no trail. The left bank of the creek is usually easier to follow.

Nearby: From the intersection of South Ridge Road and Ohio Route 193 in the center of Kingsville (about half a mile west of Kingsbury Road), drive north 1.3 mile on Ohio Route 193 to the Covered Bridge Pizza Parlor on the left at 6541 South Main Street, North Kingsville. The pizza parlor structure is recycled from the Forman Road Covered Bridge that was constructed in 1862 and dismantled in 1972.

Welton Falls

A delicate and easily accessible buttermilk falls. You can see everything from the road, so this is a good site for handicapped visitors.



Height: 15 feet

Hike distance: zero

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Conneaut Creek

Rock formation: Chagrin Shale

Conneaut, Ashtabula County

Intermittent.

Latitude: 41.9351°

Longitude: 80.5618°

From Interstate 90, interchange 241, drive north on Ohio Route 7. At mile 1.5 turn right onto Welton Road. (This is the second right.) At mile 1.6, Welton Road curves left. Park at the curve: the falls is on your right.

Silken Falls

Powerful buttermilk falls above a hemlock gorge.



Height: 40 feet

Hike distance: 60 yards

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Conneaut Creek

Rock formation: Chagrin Shale

Monroe Township, Ashtabula County

Parking latitude: 41.8836°

Parking longitude: 80.6187°

Falls latitude: 41.8836°

Falls longitude: 80.6189°

From Interstate 90, interchange 235, take Ohio Route 84 south. In 0.3 mile turn left (east) on Fox Road. At mile 2.8 Fox Road terminates at State Road. Turn left (north) on State and park on the left side of the road at mile 3.0, just before crossing a bridge.

Walk downstream about 30 yards to view the falls.

Nearby: Ashtabula County is famous for covered bridges as well as waterfalls. The nearest one, a 157 foot span constructed in 1983, is just 0.3 mile north on State Road.

Centerville Mills Waterfall

A dramatic overhang.



Height: 20 feet

Hike distance: 400 yards

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Aurora Branch of Chagrin River

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone

Centerville Mills Park, Aurora, Portage County

(A park of Bainbridge Township, Geauga County)

Parking latitude: 41.3475°

Parking longitude: 81.3364°

Falls latitude: 41.3469°

Falls longitude: 81.3378°

From the intersection of US 422 on Ohio Route 306 in Bainbridge, drive south on Route 306. At 2.7 miles turn left (east) onto Crackel Road, then at 2.8 miles park on the right (south) just after the bridge and just before Cascades Drive, near two boulders.

Alternatively, from the intersection of Ohio Routes 306 and 82 in Aurora, drive north on Route 306 for 2.1 miles. Turn right on Crackel Road and then park on the right (south) at 2.2 miles just after the bridge and just before Cascades Drive, near two boulders.

Walk between the two boulders on a graveled path on the east side of the ravine's rim. The waterfall is 200 yards down this trail.

Nearby: The town of Aurora is a quaint historical village. The nearby Geauga Lake and Wildwater Kingdom is an 8-roller-coaster amusement park, with a history stretching back to 1888.

Ansel's Cave Falls

A waterfall among intricately sculpted cliffs.



Height: 10 feet

Hike distance: 1.5 miles

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Pebble Brook

Rock formation: Sharon Conglomerate

The West Woods Reservation, Newbury, Geauga County
(Gauga Park District)

Intermittent.

Parking latitude: 41.4560°

Parking longitude: 81.3015°

Falls latitude: 41.4609°

Falls longitude: 81.2958°

From the intersection of Ohio Routes 87 and 306 in Russell, drive east on Route 87. During leafless seasons, you'll see some Sharon Conglomerate rock outcroppings on your left. At mile 1.8 turn right into the West Woods Reservation. Park at mile 2.4 where the road ends at a parking lot.

Hike the Ansel's Cave Trail east. This loop has a number of unexpected twists and turns, but is very well marked: just follow the signs.

This waterfall never flows strongly, but the rock formations are intricate enough that that they're worth visiting even when there's no water flowing at all!

Note: The 1893 novel *Ansel's Cave* by Albert Gallatin Riddle involves this locale. So does the 2000 children's novel *The Secret in the West Woods* by Mary C. Ryan and Jennie E. Lynch.

Nearby: Driving, continue 0.3 mile further east on Ohio Route 87 and view, to the south, the geodesic dome at the world headquarters of ASM International, the Materials Information Society. (The acronym derives from the society's former name American Society for Metals.)

Affelder Falls



Height: 20 feet

Hike distance: about 4 miles

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Silver Creek

Falls latitude: 41.4562°

Rock formation: Sharon Conglomerate

Falls longitude: 81.3291°

The West Woods Reservation, Russell, Geauga County
(Gauga Park District)

Intermittent.

Drive and park as for Ansel's Cave Falls. Hike the Pioneer Bridle Trail west, then the Affelder Link Trail. Just before this trail ends it fords a stream. Don't ford, but instead walk off the trail (in violation of park regulations) downstream on the right bank. After 430 yards you'll find Affelder Falls.

Harmony Falls



Height: 8 feet
Hike distance: 100 yards
Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Silver Creek
Rock formation: Sharon Conglomerate
Russell, Geauga County
Intermittent.

Parking latitude: 41.4414°
Parking longitude: 81.3124°
Falls latitude: 41.4411°
Falls longitude: 81.3128°

From the intersection of Ohio Routes 87 and 306 in Russell, drive south on Route 306. At mile 1.2 turn left (east) onto Music Street, and at mile 2.6 turn right (south) onto Harmony Falls Lane. Park on the right-hand side of the road at mile 3.0, just before the road passes over a small culvert. You will be across the road from and a few dozen yards north of the house with address 15695 Harmony Falls Lane.

Walk into the woods on the right bank of the little stream that runs through the culvert. There is no trail. In 50 yards you'll encounter the falls. Notice the red maple tree growing directly out of the cliff face just north of the waterfall.

Forty-foot Falls

A plunge into a sandstone amphitheater.



Height: 30 feet
Hike distance: 0.75 mile
Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Eagle Creek
Rock formation: Sharon Conglomerate
Hiram, Portage County
(Near Headwaters Trail, Portage Park District)
Intermittent; Portion wheelchair accessible.

Parking latitude: 41.2763°
Parking longitude: 81.1619°
Falls latitude: 41.2758°
Falls longitude: 81.1559°

From the intersection of US Route 422 and Ohio Route 44, drive south on Ohio 44. At mile 6.1 turn left (east) on Pioneer Trail. At mile 9.4 turn right (south) on Asbury Road. At mile 10.8 the Headwaters Trail, a graveled rails-to-trails conversion, crosses Asbury Road. Park by the side of the road.

Alternatively, from the intersection of Ohio Routes 305 and 82 at the center of Hiram, drive south on Route 82. At mile 0.7 turn right onto Ohio Route 700, and continue traveling south. At mile 1.0 turn right (east) onto Pioneer Trail, and at mile 1.8 turn left (south) onto Asbury Road. At mile 3.1 the Headwaters Trail, a graveled rails-to-trails conversion, crosses Asbury Road. Park by the side of the road.

Walk east on the Headwaters Trail 150 yards and view a modest, ten-foot tall waterfall. (This portion of the hike is wheelchair accessible, although it involves a flat crushed limestone trail less than ideal for wheelchairs.) After admiring these falls, walk 400 yards further. A gravel driveway goes left (north) and a faint foot trail goes right (south). Walk the foot trail for 90 yards to a view of the falls across a spectacular amphitheater. (When I visited on 27 April 2008, I found the yellow Halberd-leaved Violet, *Viola hastata*, in bloom.)

The poet Hart Crane (1899–1932) was born and reared in nearby Garrettsville. Without doubt he traveled to Cleveland (where his father owned a large candy manufacturing plant) on the Erie Railroad whose route has been converted into the Headwaters Trail. Local legend has it that the images of water which pervade his epic poem “The Bridge” (“What laughing chains the water wove and threw!”) were inspired by one or the other or both of these waterfalls.

Nearby: The Headwaters Trail, a rail-to-trail conversion, stretches eight miles from Garrettsville to Mantua.

Garrettsville Falls

Downtown falls.



Height: two falls, each of 10 feet
Hike distance: zero
Watercourse: Eagle Creek
Rock formation: Sharon Conglomerate
Garrettsville, Portage County
Wheelchair accessible.

Parking latitude: 41.2838°
Parking longitude: 81.0969°
Falls latitude: 41.2840°
Falls longitude: 81.0977°

From the intersection of Ohio Routes 88 (North/South Street) and 82 (State/Main Street) in Garrettsville drive southeast for one block on Route 82 (Main Street). The business block is on your right. At the end of the block bear right following Route 82 and take a bridge over Eagle Creek. Park on the bridge on the right side. (If the on-bridge parking is full, drive across the bridge and make the next two right-hand turns into a municipal parking lot.)

The best view of the falls is from the bridge where you're parked. To your right is a former mill building; it is now the Main Street Grille and Brewing Company, a restaurant and ice cream shop. In warm weather you can dine in the rear deck overlooking the falls.

Although the bridge view requires no walking, it's a good idea to take a 300 yard stroll: Walk up the Main Street sidewalk that you just drove past, being sure to notice Waterfall Antiques and Collectibles at 8130 Main Street. Back at the head of the block, at the intersection with South Street, turn left onto a rear boardwalk on piles above Eagle Creek. Follow this boardwalk back to your car.

Nelson Ledges State Park

Two thin, tall falls within a rock maze. Crevasses, box canyons, natural tunnels, ferns, birch trees: this tiny park has them all!



Cascade Falls



Minnehaha Falls

Height: two falls, each of 35 feet
Hike distance: 1 mile (both)
Cascade Falls watercourse: Crystal Creek

Minnehaha Falls watercourse: Sylvan Creek

Rock formation: Sharon Conglomerate
Nelson Ledges State Park, Nelson Township, Portage County

Parking latitude: 41.3290°
Parking longitude: 81.0390°
Falls latitude: 41.3298°
Falls longitude: 81.0411°
Falls latitude: 41.3260°
Falls longitude: 81.0386°

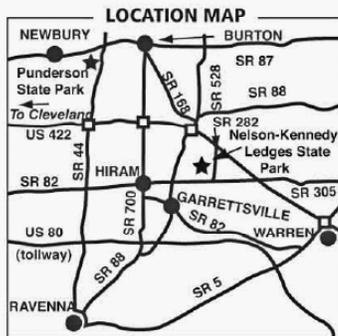
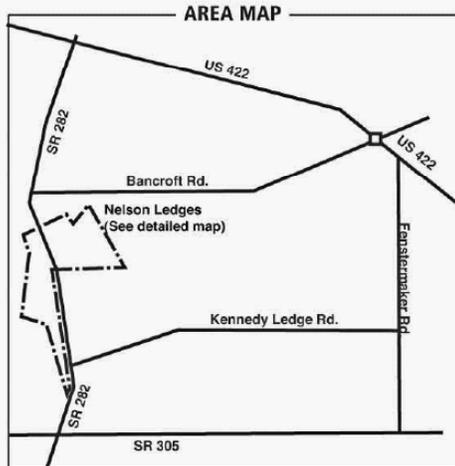
From the intersection of US Route 422 and Ohio Route 282 east of Parkman, drive south on Ohio 282 for 1.7 miles. Park on the left. *Caution!* There is a thriving Amish community in the vicinity, so be prepared to slow down for horse-drawn buggies on the road.

The cliffs and waterfalls are across the road, on the east side. Check the maps at the site. Cascade Falls is easy to find. Minnehaha is harder but worth looking for since it's even more attractive. The name Minnehaha, meaning "laughing waters" in the Dakota language, is appropriate. I recommend that you not stop with the waterfalls but hike all the trails in this small but enticing park.

Nelson-Kennedy Ledges State Park

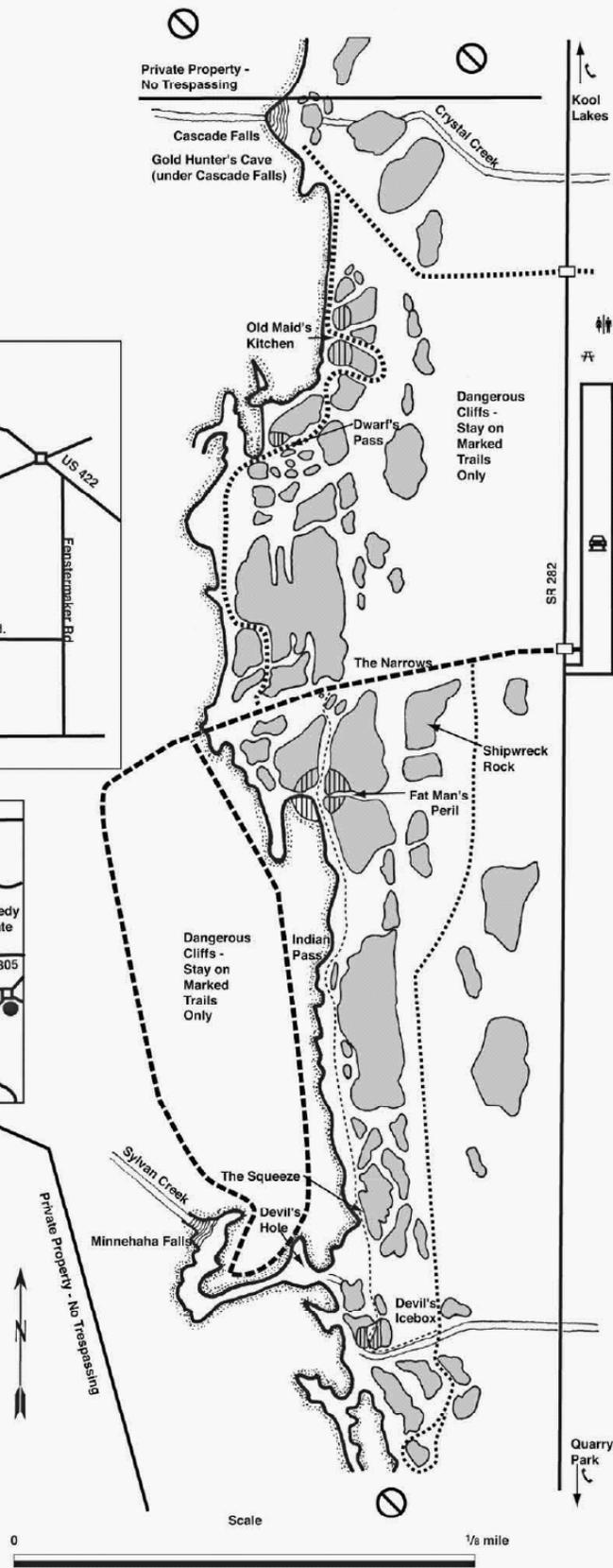
c/o Punderson State Park
 Box 338, 11755 Kinsman Road
 Newbury, Ohio 44065

(440) 564-2279 - Park Office
 (440) 564-7542 - FAX



LEGEND

	Crosswalk
	Parking
	Picnic Area
	Pay Phone
	Latrine
	Indicates a higher elevation/cliffed
	Striped areas indicate undercut rock
	Trails:
	White: Easy
	Red: Difficult
	Yellow: Moderate
	Blue: Moderate
	No Trail



Rev. 10/05

Welton's Gully



Height: 5 feet
Hike distance: about one mile
Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Cuyahoga River
Rock formation: Sharon Conglomerate
Burton, Geauga County
(Gauga Park District)

Parking latitude: 41.4852°
Parking longitude: 81.1091°
Falls latitude: 41.4874°
Falls longitude: 81.1122°

Of all the beautiful places I discovered while preparing this book, this one is my favorite.

At the center of the village of Burton, Ohio, is not a town square but a town oval. Start from the northern end of the oval and drive north on Cheshire Street. After one block, 0.1 mile, turn right on Goodwin Avenue. Outside of town, this street takes on the name Burton-Windsor Road. At mile 1.0, notice a beautiful stone house on your left. At mile 2.2, park on the right (south) side of Burton-Windsor Road in the public hunting area lot.

Walk across Burton-Windsor Road then turn right. Walk about 50 yards, then bear left off the road and walk about 40 yards toward the Maple View Mennonite Church. At this point you'll see a small creek in the woods. Follow it left (northwest) upstream. There is no trail – you will need to wade in the creek. You can walk and wade all the way to Hale Road.

This area was purchased by the Geauga Park District in May 2009, so we may expect changes in both access and regulations. One change is already in place: the name has been gentrified from the historical “Welton’s Gully” to “Welton’s Gorge.”

Warner Hollow

A tantalizing gorge.



Height: 50 feet

Hike distance: 240 yards

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Phelps Creek

Rock formation: Sharon Conglomerate

Windsor Mills, Ashtabula County

Parking latitude: 41.5246°

Parking longitude: 80.9650°

Falls latitude: 41.5245°

Falls longitude: 80.9648°

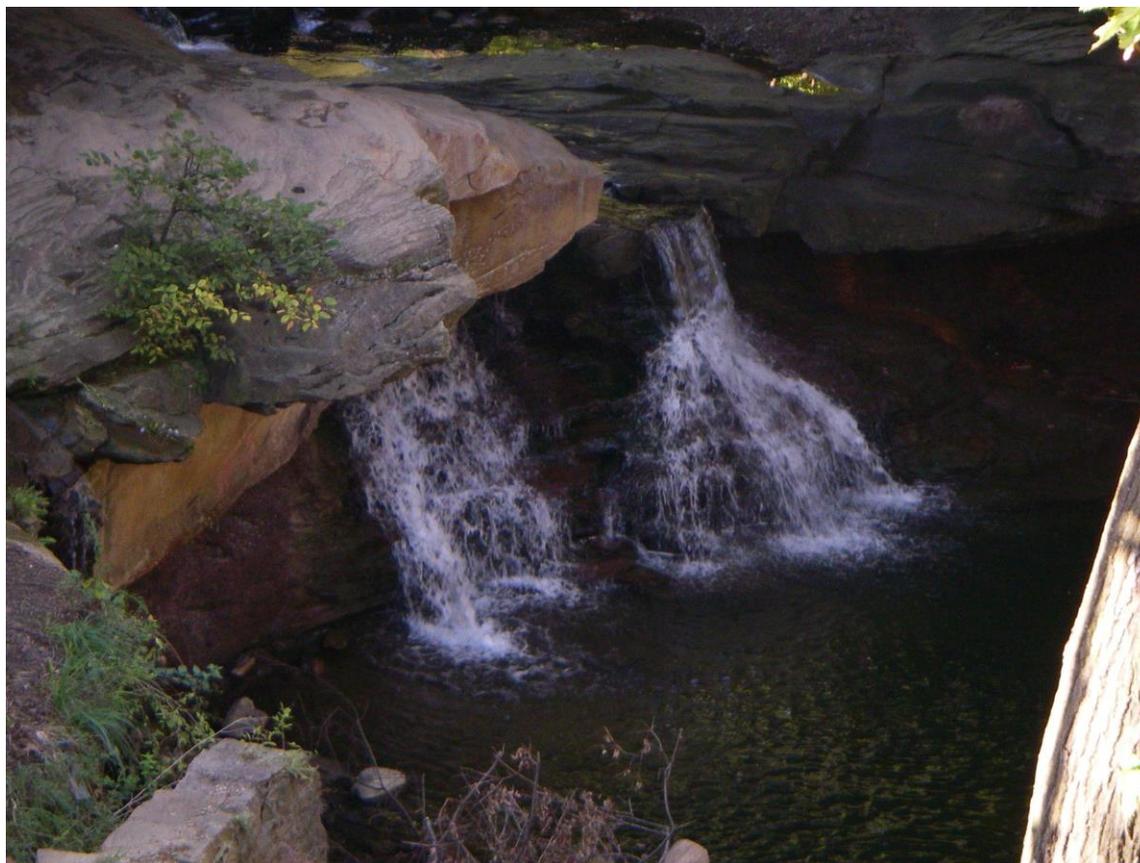
From the intersection of Ohio Route 534 and US Route 322 in Windsor, drive west on US 322. At mile 1.4 turn left onto Warner Hollow Road. At mile 1.6 Warner Hollow Road turns off to the left, but you should continue straight ahead on Covered Bridge Lane and cross Phelps Creek on the Windsor Mills Covered Bridge (built in 1867, reconstructed in 2004.) At mile 1.8 Covered Bridge Lane merges into Wiswell Road. At mile 2.2 park on the left (east) side of the road, just before a small bridge.

Walk east from the road on the left rim of the gorge (no trail). After 120 yards there's a nice view back up the gorge to the waterfall. (There are other waterfalls in this hollow, but I've not yet visited them.)

Cleveland and West

Falls on Chippewa Creek

A powerful fall at the head of a scenic gorge.



Height: 10 feet

Hike distance: zero

Watercourse: Chippewa Creek

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone

Brecksville Reservation, Brecksville, Cuyahoga County
(Cleveland Metroparks)

Wheelchair accessible.

Parking latitude: 41.3199°

Parking longitude: 81.6219°

Falls latitude: 41.3202°

Falls longitude: 81.6217°

From the Brecksville town center at the intersection of Ohio Routes 82 and 21, drive east on Route 82, Chippewa Road, for 0.2 mile. Turn right (south) on Chippewa Parkway into the Brecksville Reservation. Make an immediate left into a parking lot.

Walk to the observation platform at the side of the parking lot. You will see the waterfall underneath the Chippewa Road bridge.

Nearby: There is much to see within Brecksville Reservation, including numerous cascades and small falls, but I particularly recommend the Brecksville Nature Center, a 1939 Works Progress Administration structure of native stone and timber that fits harmoniously into its woodland surroundings. To reach this building, drive southeast on Chippewa Parkway for 0.4 mile.

To reach Deer Lick Cave, drive southeast on Chippewa Parkway and then turn right (southwest) on Valley Parkway.

Deer Lick Cave Falls

A small narrow plunge falls within a scenic gorge.



Height: 7 feet

Hike distance: 360 yards

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Chippewa Creek

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone

Brecksville Reservation, Brecksville, Cuyahoga County
(Cleveland Metroparks)

Parking latitude: 41.3051°

Parking longitude: 81.6091°

Falls latitude: 41.3051°

Falls longitude: 81.6099°

From the intersection of Chippewa Parkway and Valley Parkway, drive 0.9 miles southwest on Valley Parkway. Park on the right (north), at the small lot for Deer Lick Cave.

Alternatively, from the Brecksville town center at the intersection of Ohio Routes 82 and 21, drive south on Route 21, Brecksville Road. After 1.0 mile turn left (east) on Valley Parkway into the Brecksville Reservation. An intersection with Meadows Drive comes at mile 1.9, then drive 100 yards further and park on the left (north), at the small lot for Deer Lick Cave.

Hike north into the woods about 40 yards and then turn left. After 80 more yards turn right and follow 24 rock steps down into the gorge. Just 60 yards from the intersection reach a bridge offering a view of the waterfall a dozen yards upstream. Sixty yards of additional walking brings you to Deer Lick Cave.

Nearby: To reach Upper Chippewa Falls, drive west on Valley Parkway for 1.0 mile and then north on Ohio Route 21, Brecksville Road. To skip ahead to Berea Falls, just drive west on Valley Parkway for 17.6 miles.

Upper Chippewa Falls

Waterfall followed by a long slide.



Height: 10 feet
Hike distance: 200 yards
Watercourse: Chippewa Creek
Rock formation: Berea Sandstone
Brecksville, Cuyahoga County
Wheelchair accessible.

Parking latitude: 41.3213°
Parking longitude: 81.6273°
Falls latitude: 41.3217°
Falls longitude: 81.6273°

From the Brecksville town center at the intersection of Ohio Routes 82 and 21, drive north on Route 21, Brecksville Road, for 140 yards. Turn left into the parking lot of the Brecksville United Methodist Church, and park there.

Walk down from the parking lot to the Brecksville Road sidewalk, turn left, and walk north to the bridge. The falls is visible to the left (west) from the bridge sidewalk.

Nearby: To reach City Hall Waterfall, continue north on Brecksville Road.

City Hall Waterfall



Height: 8 feet

Hike distance: 400 yards

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Cuyahoga River

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone

Grounds of City Hall, City of Independence, Cuyahoga County

Wheelchair accessible.

Parking latitude: 41.3768°

Parking longitude: 81.6409°

Falls latitude: 41.3776°

Falls longitude: 81.6407°

From the Brecksville town center at the intersection of Ohio Routes 82 and 21, drive north on Route 21, Brecksville Road, for 4.0 miles. Turn left (west) onto Selig Drive, then make an immediate right into a parking lot by a gazebo.

From parking, walk back out to Selig Drive. Then walk 70 yards back east down Selig Drive's sidewalk to Brecksville Road. Turn left and walk 130 yards north on Brecksville Road's sidewalk. The waterfall is on your left.

Nearby: To reach Brooklyn Heights Falls and Double Falls, drive north on Brecksville Road, then west on Ohio Route 17, Granger Road.

Brooklyn Heights Falls

Cascade in a wooded ravine by a ball park.



Height: 20 feet

Hike distance: zero to 200 yards

Watercourse: West Creek

Rock formation: Bedford Shale

Brooklyn Heights Village Park, Brooklyn Heights, Cuyahoga County

Wheelchair accessible (see text).

Parking latitude: 41.4134°

Parking longitude: 81.6799°

Falls latitude: 41.4129°

Falls longitude: 81.6807°

From the intersection of Ohio Routes 21 (Brecksville Road) and 17 (Granger Road) drive west on Granger Road. At mile 2.1 turn left on Tuxedo Avenue. At mile 2.3 Tuxedo bears right, but you should continue straight ahead on West Fourth Street. At mile 2.4 enter Brooklyn Heights Village Park and go down a steep slope. At the bottom of the slope (2.6 miles) park in the lot.

Alternatively, from the intersection of Ohio Routes 17 (Brookpark Road) and 176 (Broadview Road), drive south on Broadview Road. At the first traffic light, at 0.2 mile, turn left (east) on Tuxedo Avenue. At 0.9 mile turn right (south) onto West Fourth

Street. At 1.0 mile enter Brooklyn Heights Village Park and go down a steep slope. At the bottom of the slope (1.1 miles) park in the lot.

From the parking lot, you can see the falls to your right (west), upstream. For a closer view walk up the paved trail for 100 yards. (There is a gap of a few yards between the paved parking lot and the paved trail, so during muddy seasons this will not be wheelchair accessible.)

Nearby: To reach Ravine Falls, drive back up West Fourth Street, take the first left onto Tuxedo Avenue, then turn left at the traffic light where Tuxedo Avenue crosses Broadview Road (Ohio Route 176).

Double Falls

Two nearby falls in an unexpected wooded ravine.



Height: 10 feet

Hike distance: 900 yards

Watercourse: West Creek and tributary

Rock formation: Bedford Shale

Brooklyn Heights Village Park, Brooklyn Heights, Cuyahoga County

Wheelchair accessible (see text).

Parking latitude: 41.4134°

Parking longitude: 81.6799°

Falls latitude: 41.4128°

Falls longitude: 81.6838°

Drive and park as for Brooklyn Heights Falls.

From the parking lot, walk upstream along the paved trail to your right (west). (There is a gap of a few yards between the paved parking lot and the paved trail, so during muddy seasons this will not be wheelchair accessible.) After 100 yards, you'll see Brooklyn Heights Falls on your left. Continue and walk an additional 350 yards through a charming ravine to reach a bridge. There is one waterfall (pictured above) on West Creek just upstream. There is another (intermittent) waterfall on a tributary just downstream, right as it enters West Creek. These two are the "Double Falls."

Ravine Falls

A cluster of waterfalls in an urban ravine.



Height: 5 to 20 feet

Hike distance: ?? yards

Watercourse: West Creek and tributary

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone

Parma, Cuyahoga County

Parking latitude: 41.4023°

Parking longitude: 81.7000°

Falls latitude: 41.4020°

Falls longitude: 81.7002°

From the intersection of Ohio Routes 17 (Brookpark Road) and 176 (Broadview Road), drive south on Broadview Road. At 1.0 mile, turn right (west) on Snow Road, at the St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cathedral. At 1.4 miles, pass over sheer-walled, fifty-foot deep ravine of West Creek. (It's worth while parking nearby and walking the bridge's sidewalks to peer into this ravine.) At the far side of the bridge turn left onto South Park Boulevard. At 1.6 miles park on the side of the road.

Walk across the road and find a viewpoint. There is no trail.

West Creek Falls

A little waterfall at the far end of an unconventional park.

Height: ?? feet

Hike distance: 3.5 miles

Watercourse: West Creek

Rock formation: Cuyahoga Formation

West Creek Reservation, Parma, Cuyahoga County
(Cleveland Metroparks)

Parking latitude: 41.3906°

Parking longitude: 81.6963°

Falls latitude: 41.3680°

Falls longitude: 81.6916°

This hike involves the ford of a stream: wear shoes that can get wet, and stash a fresh dry pair of socks in your car to change into after you're done.

From the intersection of Ohio Routes 17 (Brookpark Road) and 176 (Broadview Road), drive south on Broadview Road. At 1.9 mile, turn right (west) onto Ridgewood Drive, at the Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral. At 2.4 miles, turn left into the parking area for West Creek Reservation.

Walk south on the gravel trail. You will observe that this is an unconventional park, containing radio and television broadcast towers as well as woods and streams and meadows. After walking about three-quarters of a mile, turn left off the gravel trail and follow a dirt trail upstream. As you continue upstream, the trail becomes less and less distinct until it is nothing but a deer path. You will need to ford West Creek and probably a tributary of West Creek. But just make your way southward and upstream until you come to a waterfall. Return as you came.

Check of coordinates would be good! (??).

Nearby: To reach Berea Falls, continue driving west on Ridgewood Drive. Turn left (south) on State Road (Ohio Route 94), then right (west) on Pleasant Valley Road, which turns into Bagley Road.

Berea Falls

Wide falls deep in a sandstone gorge. Easily accessible.



Height: 30 feet

Hike distance: 80 yards

Watercourse: East Branch of Rocky River

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone

Rocky River Reservation, Berea, Cuyahoga County
(Cleveland Metroparks)

Wheelchair accessible. (Park at north end of lot to avoid stairs.)

Parking latitude: 41.3781°

Parking longitude: 81.8660°

Falls latitude: 41.3770°

Falls longitude: 81.8654°

From the intersection of Bagley Road and Front Street (Ohio Route 237) in Berea, drive west on Bagley Road for 0.4 mile. Cross a bridge over the East Branch of Rocky River, then immediately turn right (north) on Barrett Road. At mile 0.8 turn right again following Barrett. Drive for 100 yards then turn right again onto Valley Parkway. In another 80 yards park on your right at the lot marked “Berea Falls Scenic Overlook.”

Walk from your car to the observation platform.

Upper Olmsted Falls

Wide and regular.



Height: 15 feet

Hike distance: 10 yards

Watercourse: West Branch of Rocky River

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone

Olmsted Falls, Cuyahoga County

Wheelchair accessible.

Parking latitude: 41.3745°

Parking longitude: 81.9009°

Falls latitude: 41.3744°

Falls longitude: 81.9003°

At the intersection of Ohio Route 252 (Columbia Road) and Bagley Road, the Mill River Shopping Plaza is to the northeast and “Saint Mary of the Falls” Catholic Church is to the southwest. Drive into the shopping plaza. At the far north of the parking lot — behind the Falls Family Restaurant — is an overlook platform with a view down to the falls. (The view is sometimes obscured by tree leaves.)

Nearby: From the intersection of Columbia Road and Bagley Roads, drive east for 0.4 mile to Treehugger’s Café at 1330 Bagley Road (in the Powerhouse Gym building).

Olmsted Falls

A slide followed by a plunge, at the center of a historical village.



Height: 25 feet

Hike distance: 100 yards

Watercourse: Plum Creek

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone

Olmsted Falls, Cuyahoga County

Somewhat wheelchair accessible — a chair user will see most but not all of the sights, and will have to negotiate ledges up to three inches tall.

Parking latitude: 41.3773°

Parking longitude: 81.9015°

Falls latitude: 41.3774°

Falls longitude: 81.9022°

From the intersection of Ohio Route 252 (Columbia Road) and Bagley Road in the center of Olmsted Falls, drive north on Route 252. In 0.2 mile, soon after the railroad crossing, Route 252 turns left, but you should continue to drive straight ahead, onto Main Street. At 0.3 mile turn left (west) into the parking lot marked “Library Parking and Park Entrance.”

Walk 50 yards west on the Dan Waugh Nature Trail to view the waterfall.

There was a water-powered lumber mill and cider press here from 1844 to 1921.

Nearby: Walk down the Dan Waugh Nature Trail for an additional 300 yards. Plum Creek cuts a 40-foot gorge with overhanging sandstone walls. Pass underneath a pedestrian covered bridge built in 1998. You will come to David Fortier Park (latitude 41.3777°, longitude 81.8990°), where Plum Creek enters the West Branch of Rocky River, at a site with five-foot falls on both Plum Creek and the West Branch. (David Fortier Park is also accessible by car from Water Street, just east of the Rocky River bridge.)

All Saints Falls

A peaceful and calming sanctuary only a dozen yards from a busy highway.



Height: 6 feet

Hike distance: 60 yards

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of the West Branch of Rocky River

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone

Olmsted Falls, Cuyahoga County

Intermittent.

Parking latitude: 41.3854°

Parking longitude: 81.9041°

Falls latitude: 41.3849°

Falls longitude: 81.9033°

From the intersection of Ohio Route 252 (Columbia Road) and Bagley Road in the center of Olmsted Falls, drive north on Columbia Road. After 0.9 mile you'll see All Saints Lutheran Church (7230 Columbia Road) on your left (west). Drive in and park in the lot behind the church.

From the church parking lot, walk about 30 yards on the lawn toward Columbia Road and down toward the stream. The waterfall is a dozen yards west of Columbia Road.

Rainbow Falls

An elegant and ephemeral plunge over an unexpected cliff.



Height: 100 feet

Hike distance: zero

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of West Branch of Rocky River

Rock formation: Cleveland Shale

North Olmsted, Cuyahoga County

Intermittent.

Parking latitude: 41.4046°

Parking longitude: 81.8977°

Falls latitude: 41.4057°

Falls longitude: 81.8978°

This waterfall runs only in the spring, and is visible from the public road only during leafless seasons. A good time for a visit is April.

From Interstate Highway 480, interchange 6, drive south on Ohio Route 252. At mile 0.4 turn left on Butternut Ridge Road. At mile 0.6 Butternut Ridge Road terminates. Go left on Columbia Road. At mile 0.8 turn right onto Cedar Point Road. At mile 1.0 turn right onto Lewis Road. As you cross the bridge, over the West Branch of Rocky River, notice the cliffs on your right. At mile 1.2 turn right onto Rainbow Drive. At mile 1.4 park at the circle at the dead-end of Rainbow Drive.

Admire the falls from the roadside. It is to your right (north) across the West Branch of Rocky River.

Nearby: The Rocky River Nature Center is less than a mile north, on Valley Parkway in the Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Reservation. Several trails start from this nature center, but my favorite is the Fort Hill Trail that climbs up a steep slope, then past Indian earthworks, to a viewpoint high above the Rocky River.

Columbia Beach Waterfall

A buttermilk falls dropping onto a pebbly Lake Erie beach.



Height: 30 feet

Hike distance: 200 yards

Watercourse: Tuttle Creek

Rock formation: Chagrin Shale

Columbia Park, Bay Village, Cuyahoga County
(Bay Village Recreation Department)

Parking latitude: 41.4854°

Parking longitude: 81.9016°

Falls latitude: 41.4864°

Falls longitude: 81.9016°

From Interstate 90, interchange 159, drive north on Ohio Route 252, Columbia Road. In 0.8 mile Columbia terminates at Lake Road (US Route 6). Park on the left just before you reach Lake Road. (That is, at the southwest corner of the intersection of Columbia and Lake.)

Walk across Lake Road and toward Lake Erie. After 100 yards you may choose to take eight steps down to an overlook platform or to take 66 steps down to the beach.

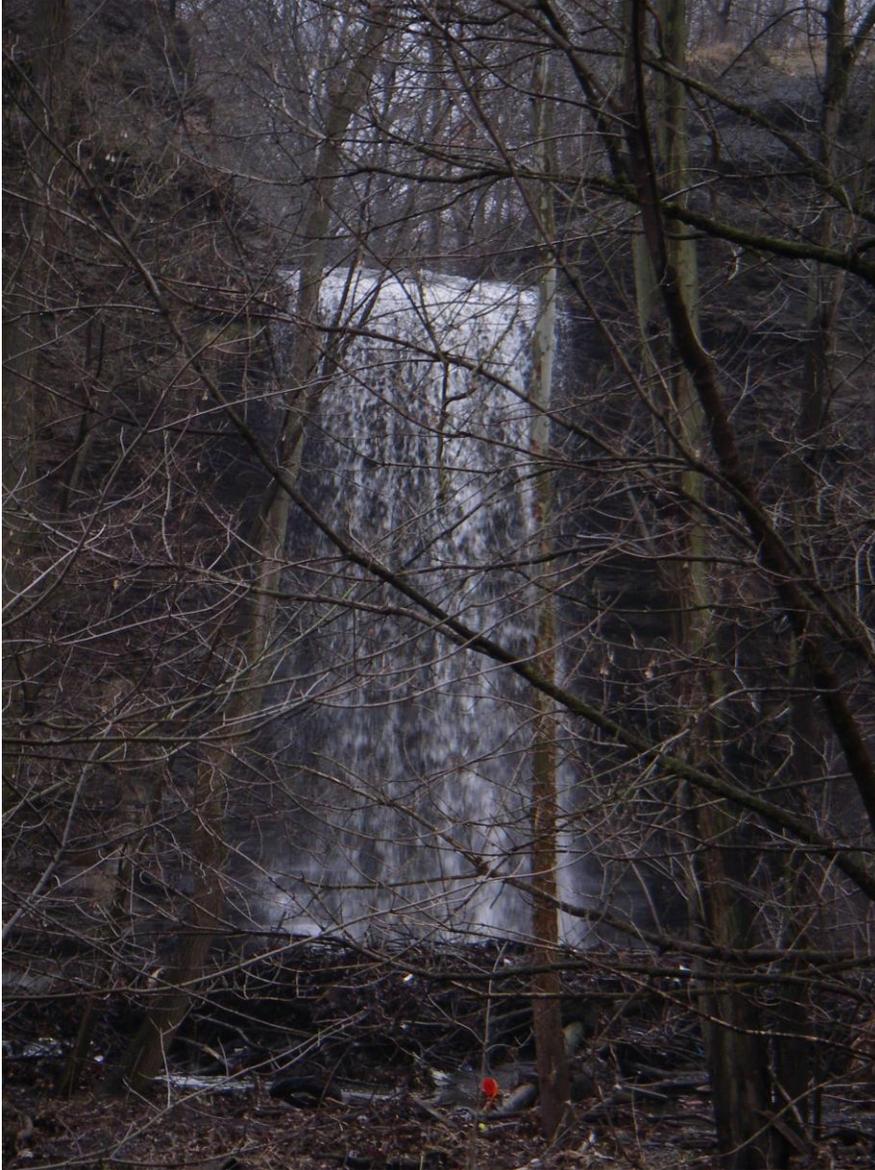
From the beach, you can see not only the waterfall, but also the skyscrapers of downtown Cleveland.

Nearby: The Minh Anh Vietnamese Restaurant is located ten miles away at 5428 Detroit Avenue in Cleveland. Drive east on Lake Road (US Route 6) then Detroit Avenue (Alternate US Route 6). The restaurant is on the left just beyond West 57th Street. I can recommend anything on this restaurant's menu ... you won't be disappointed.

If you get hungry before reaching the Minh Anh, try the Blackbird Baking Company (on the left on Detroit Avenue just past the bridge over Rocky River) or Melt Bar and Grilled (exceptional grilled cheese sandwiches, on the left on Detroit Avenue just past Warren Road) or the Luxe bistro (on the right on Detroit Avenue just past West 67th Street).

36th Street Falls

You'd expect to find 36th Street between 35th Street and 37th Street, but in the easternmost part of the city of Lorain you'll find an unnamed stream there instead. When this stream tumbles over a cliff on its way to the Black River, it forms 36th Street Falls.



Height: 25 feet
Hike distance: 1.5 miles
Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Black River
Rock formation: Cleveland Shale
Black River Reservation, Lorain, Lorain County
(Lorain County Metroparks)

Parking latitude: 41.4422°
Parking longitude: 82.1065°
Falls latitude: 41.4380°
Falls longitude: 82.1094°

From Interstate 90, interchange 145, drive north on Ohio Route 57. After 2.7 miles turn right (east) on 31st Street. At mile 3.3 park at the Black River Reservation lot on the right (south) side of 31st Street, just west of the Black River bridge.

Hike south on the asphalt Black River Bridgeway Trail for 0.6 mile, until (40 yards after passing under high-voltage power transmission lines) you see a sign on the right titled "Home on the Prairie." At this point a wood-chipped trail begins on the right. Take this trail for 10 yards until it forks, then follow the left-hand fork for 300 yards, until you see the falls on your left.

Nearby: Continue south 0.5 mile on the paved Black River Bridgeway Trail to a pair of spectacular foot bridges high over the Black River. Or, go back to the parking lot, then continue north for 2.0 miles on the Steel Mill Trail to view an unusual combination of nature and industry.

Also nearby: The city of Lorain contains a large number of churches, each appealing to one of the many and various ethnic groups who live there. Within six blocks of the waterfall you will find St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, St. Basil's Byzantine Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, and St. John's Catholic Church.

Lorain is the birthplace of Nobel Prize-winning novelist Toni Morrison and of Pulitzer Prize-winning literary critic Michael Dirda. Dirda writes movingly of his hometown in his essay "Sweet Lorain."

East Cascade Falls

A wide and powerful falls in an urban setting.



Height: 40 feet

Hike distance: 300 yards

Watercourse: East Branch of the Black River

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone

Cascade Park, Elyria, Lorain County

(City of Elyria Parks and Recreation Department)

Wheelchair accessible.

Parking latitude: 41.3691°

Parking longitude: 82.1082°

Falls latitude: 41.3693°

Falls longitude: 82.1074°

From Interstate 90, interchange 145, drive south on Ohio Route 57, Lorain Boulevard. After 1.4 miles Route 57 turns off to the left, but you should continue straight ahead south on Lorain Boulevard. At a traffic signal at mile 2.0, turn left (southeast) on Lake Avenue toward downtown Elyria. At mile 2.6, just before the road passes under a railroad bridge, turn left on Lake Avenue. (There's no traffic signal at this turn so it's easy to miss. It's just beyond the police station on your left.) Soon, at mile 2.7, park on the left in a lot marked "East Falls Riverwalk."

You have a good view of the falls from the edge of the parking lot. For a even better view, take a 300 yard stroll (some of it wheelchair accessible) to two observing decks.

Behind the falls is a dam built to increase the water power available for industry. At the foot of the falls on the west side are the ruins of the Elyria Milling and Power Company hydroelectric plant that supplied downtown Elyria with power in the 1920s.

West Cascade Falls

An irregular, rocky, and wonderful fall in an irregular, rocky, and wonderful city park.



Height: 40 feet

Hike distance: 1.2 miles

Watercourse: West Branch of the Black River

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone

Cascade Park, Elyria, Lorain County

(City of Elyria Parks and Recreation Department)

Parking latitude: 41.3762°

Parking longitude: 82.1093°

Falls latitude: 41.3719°

Falls longitude: 82.1121°

From the East Falls Riverwalk (see previous waterfall) leave the parking lot and turn right (west) on Lake Avenue. At the end of this road turn right, then drive over a bridge and, at mile 0.3, turn right onto Furnace Street at a traffic signal. On Furnace Street, at mile 0.5, take the third right-hand turn onto Hillsdale Court. At the end of Hillsdale Court, enter Cascade Park and drive down a steep looping road. At mile 0.7 park on the left in a lot near the playground, the concession stand, the base of the sledding hill, and the Cascade Park Nature Center.

Walk along the road back south in the direction you came from. The Black River is on your left. In about 150 yards, the road bears right but you continue straight on a trail. There are a number of trails here forming a maze, but any of them will take you upstream, past intricate sandstone rock formations, past the confluence of the East and West Branches, and past an old sandstone quarry, to a footbridge spanning the West Branch and, 80 yards beyond that, to an overlook platform. There are good views of West Cascade Falls from both bridge and platform. The auto bridge you see above the falls is the same one that you drove over yourself just a few minutes ago.

Swift Hollow Falls

Tiny, serene, and with a lovely voice.



Height: 12 feet

Hike distance: 240 yards

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Vermilion River

Rock formation: Cleveland Shale

Vermilion River Reservation, Brownhelm, Lorain County
(Lorain County Metroparks)

Intermittent.

Parking latitude: 41.3590°

Parking longitude: 82.3347°

Falls latitude: 41.3578°

Falls longitude: 82.3337°

From the intersection of Ohio Routes 130 and 60 in Birmingham, drive north on Route 60. At 2.4 miles turn right (east) on Sperry Road. At 4.0 miles, at the foot of a steep slope, turn sharp right onto Gore Orphanage Road. At 4.2 miles cross the Vermilion River on a bridge, and at 4.3 miles park on the left side of the road. (Note: Signs to “Vermilion River Reservation” take you to a different, more developed, part of the park.)

Walk east into the woods (no formal trail) for 60 yards along the foot of a steep slope to reach a small stream. Turn right and follow the ravine upstream (south) for 60 more yards to the waterfall.

When you turn around to return, you’ll see a small rock window within the cliffs to your right.

Nearby: The entire Vermilion River valley is scenic with cliffs and deep woods. Much of the northern end is open to the public through the Vermilion River Reservation and Schoepfle Gardens of Lorain County Metroparks. In particular, the southern end of Mill Hollow (latitude 41.3804°, longitude 82.3121°) has the best skipping stones I’ve ever encountered.

Berlin Heights Ravine

Rapids among stream-side cliffs and stately trees.



Height: 3 feet

Hike distance: 140 yards

Watercourse: Old Woman Creek

Rock formation: Ohio Shale

Berlin Heights, Erie County

Parking latitude: 41.3164°

Parking longitude: 82.4964°

Falls latitude: 41.3161°

Falls longitude: 82.4968°

From the intersection of Ohio Route 61 and Main Street at the center of Berlin Heights, drive south on Route 61 (South Street). At mile 0.4 turn right into Riverside Cemetery just before Route 61 crosses Old Woman Creek on a bridge. Drive into the cemetery: bear left at all intersections, hugging the edge of the ravine. At mile 0.6 park on the left at the side of the road.

Old Woman Creek dances among cliffs for the entire length of the ravine, but for my money the best rapids are about 70 yards from your parked car: walk straight down the steep slope, then turn right when you reach the creek and walk downstream for another

20 yards. There is no trail. In addition to the rapids, be sure to notice the convoluted rock in the 30-foot cliff on the opposite bank.

Nearby: Those who like apples and cider will find a number of farm stands nearby.

A mile to the north on Ohio Route 61 is the Edison Woods Metropark. You could spend many hours exploring this large park, but my favorite site is the dense packed field of trillium that blooms in the last week of April or the first week of May (latitude 41.3483°, longitude 82.4669°).



Ballville Rapids

Stone slabs along one-third of a mile of river.



Height: rapid

Hike distance: zero to 140 yards

Watercourse: Sandusky River

Rock formation: Lockport Dolomite

Ballville, Sandusky County

Parking latitude: 41.3277°

Parking longitude: 83.1305°

Falls latitude: 41.3265°

Falls longitude: 83.1320°

From the intersection of US Route 6 and Ohio Route 53 west of Fremont, drive east on Hayes Avenue. At 2.1 miles, pass the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center. At 2.3 miles, turn right onto Whittlesey Street. At 3.0 miles Whittlesey terminates; bear right on Tiffin Street. At 3.5 miles you arrive at an intersection with the Tiffin Road bridge to your left.

For a quick scan, turn left and view the rapids from your car on the bridge. For more leisurely viewing, turn right and park in the lot of the Ballville E-Z Shop. Cross Tiffin Street and walk onto the bridge. The best views are upstream.

Rice Road Rapids

Rapids upstream from a historical bridge.



Height: rapid

Hike distance: zero to 220 yards

Watercourse: Sandusky River

Rock formation: Lockport Dolomite

Ballville Township, Sandusky County

Parking latitude: 41.3084°

Parking longitude: 83.1569°

Falls latitude: 41.3079°

Falls longitude: 83.1582°

From the intersection of US Route 6 and Ohio Route 53 west of Fremont, drive south on Ohio 53. At 2.0 miles, turn left onto Gonawein Road. At 2.6 miles Gonawein terminates; turn right on South River Road. At 2.9 miles turn left onto Rice Road and immediately cross the Sandusky River on Tindall Bridge, a 1915 single-lane steel truss bridge.

From the bridge there's a good view upstream (right) to the rapid. If you wish to see it closer up drive across the bridge, turn left at the far side, and park in the small lot on the left. From there walk an obvious path down to the river.

Mull Falls

Small fall under a covered bridge.



Height: 3 feet

Hike distance: 30 yards

Watercourse: East Branch Wolf Creek

Rock formation: Lockport Dolomite

Mull Covered Bridge Park, Ballville Township, Sandusky County
(Sandusky County Park District)

Parking latitude: 41.2609°

Parking longitude: 83.1848°

Falls latitude: 41.2608°

Falls longitude: 83.1846°

From the intersection of Ohio Route 53 and Gilmore Road south of Fremont, drive west on Gilmore Road. At 0.9 mile, turn left into the small parking lot for Mull Covered Bridge Park.

Walk down to the streamside. The 1851 bridge no longer carries traffic, but underneath it is a 3 foot fall, and upstream is a series of riffles.

Tiffin Rapids



Height: rapid
Hike distance: 60 yards
Watercourse: Sandusky River
Rock formation: Lockport Dolomite
Clinton Township, Seneca County

Parking latitude: 41.1538°
Parking longitude: 83.1573°
Falls latitude: 41.1536°
Falls longitude: 83.1577°

From the intersection of Ohio Route 53 and County Route 38 about three miles north of Tiffin, drive east on County Route 38. Cross the Sandusky River on a bridge and, at 0.3 mile, turn right onto Township Road 73, River Road. This road follows the river closely and you'll glimpse occasional river scenes to your right. But the real payoff comes at mile 1.3, where you should park your car on the pullover to the right.

Walk 30 yards down to the river to view the wide rapids.

Nearby: Continue south (upstream) on River Road. You will again steal occasional glimpses of the river on your right. At mile 3.0 turn right and take the Huss Road bridge over the Sandusky. Just upstream from the bridge you'll see rapids and the site of a breached dam.

Maumee River Rapids

The Maumee River is the largest tributary of the Great Lakes. It passes over a number of rapids on its way to Lake Erie at Toledo. These are neither high nor delicate, but impressive both for their width (a tenth of a mile or more) and for the volume of water falling over them.

Fallen Timbers Rapids



Height: rapid	Parking latitude: 41.5395°
Hike distance: ?? yards	Parking longitude: 83.6956°
Watercourse: Maumee River	Falls latitude: 41.5390°
Rock formation: Tymochtee Dolomite	Falls longitude: 83.6940°
Side Cut Metropark and Fallen Timbers Battlefield National Historic Site, Maumee, Lucas County (Metroparks of the Toledo Area)	
Wheelchair accessible. (??)	

From the intersection of US Routes 20 and 24 in the center of Maumee, drive east on US 20. At 0.3 mile, turn right on Broadway. At 1.0 mile, Broadway changes name to West

River Road. At 2.2 miles, it passes under Interstate 475. At 3.0 miles, pull off and park at the edge of the road on the right-hand side.

Walk across the road for a nice view of the rapids (which are also called the Maumee River Rapids).

Nearby: A spur of the 63-mile-long Wabash Cannonball multipurpose trail begins just 150 yards back north on River Road.

This viewpoint is on the site of the 20 August 1794 Battle of Fallen Timbers. This battle, a victory for the “Legion of the United States” under the command of General “Mad” Anthony Wayne over the Western Lakes Confederacy of Native Americans led by Little Turtle, Blue Jacket, Little Otter, Crane, and Buckongahelas, opened the “Northwest Territory” (which is now Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin) to settlement by European Americans.

About 35 miles west is the Goll Woods State Nature Preserve, a splendid old-growth forest with trees up to four feet in diameter. I can recommend this preserve in any season of the year, but during the summer bring insect repellent.

To reach Roche de Boeuf Rapids, continue driving south on River Road.

Roche de Boeuf Rapids



Height: rapids

Hike distance: zero

Watercourse: Maumee River

Rock formation: Tymochtee Dolomite

Waterville, Lucas County

Wheelchair accessible.

Parking latitude: 41.4878°

Parking longitude: 83.7296°

Falls latitude: 41.4869°

Falls longitude: 83.7291°

From the intersection of Ohio Route 64 and River Road in Waterville, just west of the Maumee River bridge, drive south on River Road. At mile 1.2, park in the lot on the left, near the historic marker. You have a good view right from the parking area.

You are standing on top of the Roche de Boeuf cliffs, looking out on the Roche de Boeuf rapids and Roche de Boeuf island. (Roche de Boeuf means “Ox Rock.” The rapids are also known as Pray’s Falls, after the founder of Waterville.) The disused bridge you see once carried the Lima and Toledo Traction Company’s interurban trolley cars over the Maumee River. When the bridge was built in 1907, it was the world’s longest steel reinforced concrete railroad bridge.

This rock was a legendary sacred meeting site for Native Americans. It was here that they gathered to discuss strategy before the Battle of Fallen Timbers. About one third of the rock was destroyed when the trolley bridge was built.

Nearby: The large (3744 acres) Oak Openings Preserve Metropark, six miles northwest of Waterville on Ohio Route 64, is home to miles of trail (including a portion of the Wabash Cannonball Trail) and to the endangered oak savanna ecosystem with numerous endangered plant species.

To reach Weir's Rapids, drive back north to the Waterville bridge, cross the Maumee River, then drive south on Ohio Route 65.

Weir's Rapids



Height: 2 feet

Hike distance: 60 yards

Watercourse: Maumee River

Rock formation: Sylvania Sandstone

Washington Township, Wood County
(Ohio Division of Wildlife)

Parking latitude: 41.4613°

Parking longitude: 83.7672°

Falls latitude: 41.4626°

Falls longitude: 83.7677°

From the intersection of Ohio Route 65 and 582 across the Maumee River and south from Waterville, drive southwest on Route 65 (River Road). After 1.2 miles turn right (north) on Range Line Road at a sign marked "Weir's Rapids, Maumee River Access." At mile 1.4 park in the northwest (left) corner of the parking lot.

Walk to the riverside. The rapid stretches clear across the river, which is 0.16 mile wide here. The locals tell me that the correct pronunciation for this feature is "wire's rapids."

Nearby: Drive south on Range Line Road 6.1 miles to the four imposing yet graceful windmills of the Bowling Green Wind Energy Farm.

To reach Bear Rapids, continue south on Route 65 (River Road) for another 1.4 miles.

Bear Rapids



Height: 3 feet

Hike distance: 300 yards

Watercourse: Maumee River

Rock formation: Sylvania Sandstone

Otsego Park, Otsego, Wood County
(Wood County Park District)

Parking latitude: 41.4452°

Parking longitude: 83.7854°

Falls latitude: 41.4465°

Falls longitude: 83.7858°

From the intersection of Ohio Route 65 and 582 across the Maumee River and south from Waterville, drive southwest on Route 65 (River Road). After 2.6 miles turn right (north) into Otsego Park and park in the lot.

Follow the path labeled “Stairway to River” around the Shelter House (built in 1939 by the Works Progress Administration) and down 70 steps to the waterside. The rapid stretches clear across the river, an impressive 0.19 mile.

Nearby: To reach Grand Rapids, continue south on Route 65 (River Road) for another 4.8 miles.

Grand Rapids



Height: rapid	Right bank parking latitude:	41.4127°
Hike distance: 160 yards or more	Right bank parking longitude:	83.8664°
	Left bank parking latitude:	41.4177°
	Left bank parking longitude:	83.8692°
Watercourse: Maumee River	Falls latitude:	41.4140°
Rock formation: Dundee Limestone	Falls longitude:	83.8670°
Right bank: Bluebell Island Park, Village of Grand Rapids, Wood County		
Left bank: Providence Metropark, Providence Township, Lucas County (Metroparks of the Toledo Area)		
Right bank is marginally wheelchair accessible: there is one two-inch rise and one two-inch drop.		

These rapids are adjacent to the village of Grand Rapids, but they are sometimes called “Wolf Rapids” as well. They are worth viewing from both banks of the river.

To reach the right bank: From the intersection of Ohio Routes 65 and 578 in Grand Rapids, Ohio, just southeast of the Maumee River bridge, drive southwest on Route 65.

At 0.1 mile Route 65 turns left, but you continue straight onto Front Street. Park on the right side of the street at 0.2 mile, near the Lincoln Street walkway.

Walk down the Lincoln Street walkway and over the Gilead Side Cut Canal for 80 yards to the bank of the Maumee River. Here you can relax on one of the swinging park benches and look out over the rapids that gave birth to the town. Further upstream are the Grand Rapids Dam and the Providence Dam, which feed water to the canal system (and to Ludwig Mill). You are likely to see great blue herons, gulls, geese, and swallows. Do not neglect the historical village itself, with shops, restaurants, a spa, a bed and breakfast, and several buildings on the National Register of Historic Places.

To reach the left bank, drive back to the intersection of Ohio Routes 65 and 578. From there drive across the bridge and, at mile 0.2, turn left on US Route 24. At mile 0.5 turn left into the Providence Metropark and park in the lot at mile 0.7.

Walk toward the Maumee River. You will cross the Miami and Erie Canal and, after 140 yards, reach the river bank with a good view of the Grand Rapids.

Nearby: Walk downstream along the Miami and Erie Towpath Trail for 0.4 mile to the restored Ludwig Mill, which still saws logs and grinds flour using water power provided through the canal. Many Ohio waterfalls show the ruins of old millworks, and here at Ludwig Mill you can see the turbines, pulleys, generators, and millwheels that used to occupy these structures. (If you like such windows into the past, you will enjoy David Macaulay's illustrated book *Mill*.) Adjacent to Ludwig Mill is canal lock 44. Downstream an additional 0.3 mile is Kimble's Landing, where you may board a canal barge for a 45-minute mule-powered ride up through lock 44 (May through October). These features are all within Providence Metropark.

According to Joe Hannibal, author of *Geology along the Towpath: Stones of the Ohio & Erie and Miami & Erie Canals*, lock 44 was once considered the rowdiest lock on the Miami and Erie Canal. Dr. Hannibal claims that "this is no longer true," but neglects to mention which lock currently does hold that distinction.

You may continue walking downstream on the Towpath Trail from Kimble's Landing for 9.0 additional miles to Roche de Boeuf.

From Cleveland to Akron

Canyon Falls

Splendid overhang falls with cliffs and a crevice.



Height: 25 feet

Hike distance: 350 yards

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Tinkers Creek

Rock formation: Sharon Conglomerate

Twinsburg, Summit County

Intermittent.

Parking latitude: 41.3135°

Parking longitude: 81.4585°

Falls latitude: 41.3148°

Falls longitude: 81.4592°

From the Twinsburg town center at the intersection of Ohio Route 82 (East Aurora Road) and Ohio Route 91 (Darrow Road), drive west on Aurora Road. At mile 0.6, pass over Interstate 480 at intersection 36. At mile 1.0, turn right into Canyon Falls Corporate Center. At mile 1.1, turn right and park in the northwest corner of the lot for the office building at 8957 Canyon Falls Boulevard.

Canyon Falls Boulevard terminates in a traffic circle. Walk into the woods at the end of the circle, and continue in the same direction (north) that Canyon Falls Boulevard had been heading. There is no trail, but if you keep heading north you'll come to the stream and you can follow it down to the waterfall. Be sure to notice also the deep cleft just south of and downstream from Canyon Falls.

Nearby: Every year, on the first full weekend of August, Twinsburg hosts the "Twins Day Festival," a three-day celebration of multiple births.

Crown Hill Cemetery Falls

Serene overhang falls: a source of solace.



Height: 20 feet
Hike distance: 40 yards
Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Tinkers Creek
Rock formation: Sharon Conglomerate
Twinsburg, Summit County

Parking latitude: 41.3044°
Parking longitude: 81.4454°
Falls latitude: 41.3045°
Falls longitude: 81.4455°

From the Twinsburg town center at the intersection of Ohio Route 82 (East Aurora Road) and Ohio Route 91 (Darrow Road), drive south on Darrow Road. At mile 0.3, pass under Interstate 480 at intersection 37. At mile 0.6, turn right into Crown Hill Cemetery, and at mile 0.8, pass through the cemetery gates. At mile 0.7 turn right on the paved, divided perimeter road, and follow this road until reaching a bridge at mile 1.4. Just before crossing the bridge, turn right and follow the cascading stream on your left. At mile 1.5, park at the edge of the road.

Walk down and to the left on a concrete pathway including eight descending steps. At the brink of the waterfall is a granite bench dedicated to the Farrar family.

Greenwood Falls

A buttermilk falls dropping into a stunning curved amphitheater gorge.



Height: 60 feet

Hike distance: 300 yards

Watercourse: Hooker's Run

Rock formation: Bedford Shale

Sagamore Hills, Summit County

Parking latitude: 41.3096°

Parking longitude: 81.5679°

Falls latitude: 41.3088°

Falls longitude: 81.5673°

From the Brecksville town center at the intersection of Ohio Routes 82 and 21, drive east on Route 82, Chippewa Road, for 3.2 miles. (Alternatively, from the intersection of Ohio Routes 8 and 82, drive west on Route 82, Aurora Road, for 2.5 miles.) Turn south on Greenwood Parkway into the Greenwood Village subdivision. Drive south an additional 0.4 mile and park on the right, opposite Greengate Oval near a small stone picnic shelter.

Hike on the cement path 100 yards to a bridge. The waterfall is 50 yards downstream from this bridge. The right bank provides the best view, but this waterfall is so curvy that

no single viewpoint provides an adequate overall picture. Hence the waterfall is much more beautiful than the photo above suggests.

Nearby: The Old Carriage Trail in Cuyahoga Valley National Park bridges three cascading streams in deep gorges. At the northern end of this trail, you see Hooker's Run again. The trailhead for this 3.5-mile loop is at the south terminus of Holzauer Road: Continue driving south on Greenwood Parkway 0.6 mile until it terminates on Holzauer, then turn right and drive 0.4 mile to the trailhead. (No parking lot. Seek parking on side streets.)

To reach Brandywine Falls, drive back north to Aurora Road, then turn right (east) and drive to Brandywine Road.

Twin Sisters Waterfalls

A pair of falls at the end of an adventure.



Height: 60 feet

Hike distance: 1.6 miles

Watercourse: Mudcatcher Run

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone atop Bedford Shale

Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Sagamore Hills, Summit County

Parking latitude: 41.3182°

Parking longitude: 81.5874°

Falls latitude: 41.3240°

Falls longitude: 81.5812°

Drive to the Station Road Bridge Trailhead of Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Walk to the east end of the antique Station Road Bridge, which is now a pedestrian bridge. Hike west for 175 yards over the Cuyahoga River to the Towpath Trail. Turn left and walk north, bearing right at both trail intersections. After 530 yards, you will notice

an old concrete mudcatcher on your right, across the remains of the Ohio and Erie Canal. Leave the trail. Cross the canal as best you can, and walk up Mudcatcher Run. There is no trail, and without doubt your feet will get wet. After about 0.4 mile, your upstream progress will be blocked by a cliff containing two waterfalls – two streams merge at the bottom of this cliff. Return as you came.

Crazy Man's Hollow

A waterfall at the end of an adventure.



Height: 40 feet

Hike distance: 1.4 miles

Watercourse: Chaffee Run

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone atop Bedford Shale

Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Sagamore Hills, Summit County

Parking latitude: 41.3182°

Parking longitude: 81.5874°

Falls latitude: 41.3165°

Falls longitude: 81.5789°

Drive to the Station Road Bridge Trailhead of Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Walk to the east end of the antique Station Road Bridge, which is now a pedestrian bridge. Hike west for 175 yards over the Cuyahoga River to the Towpath Trail. Turn right and walk south. After about 500 yards, you will notice a stream running under the

trail. Leave the trail and walk up this stream to the left (east). There is no trail, and without doubt your feet will get wet. After about 0.3 mile, your upstream progress will be blocked by a cliff containing the waterfall. Admire the scene, listen to the water, and then return as you came.

Brandywine Falls

Large, powerful, and delicately beautiful all at the same time.



Height: 60 feet	Parking latitude: 41.2763°
Hike distance: 560 to 800 yards	Parking longitude: 81.5395°
Watercourse: Brandywine Creek	Falls latitude: 41.2768°
Rock formation: Berea Sandstone atop Bedford Shale and Cleveland Shale	Falls longitude: 81.5385°

Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Sagamore Hills, Summit County
Wheelchair accessible.

From the intersection of Ohio Routes 8 and 82 drive east on Route 82, Aurora Road. At mile 0.8 turn left (south) on Brandywine Road. At mile 3.5 turn right on Stanford Road, and at mile 3.6 turn left into the falls parking lot.

Walk north on the paved trail. After 90 yards the trail crosses Stanford Road and changes to a wooden boardwalk. At 100 yards further the boardwalk splits. Either continue straight ahead 90 yards for one fine view of the waterfall, or turn left and walk 110 yards (including 65 steps) down to another view of the waterfall.

This waterfall is so spectacular that you might miss the gorge, the woods, the ferns, the wildflowers, and the wonderful craftsmanship of the boardwalk. Be sure to take a moment to appreciate these details.

Nearby: (1) You may extend your stroll to the falls to hike the 1.2 mile Brandywine Gorge Loop Trail. (2) My favorite way to visit Brandywine Falls is to park at the Stanford Youth Hostel on Stanford Road north of Boston, Ohio, and then hike up the Stanford Trail 1.5 miles to the falls. (3) Ritchie Ledges, four miles to the south in the Virginia Kendall area of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, is not to be missed.

Blue Hen Falls

Overhang falls agreeable in size, proportion, and setting.



Height: 20 feet

Hike distance: 600 yards

Watercourse: Spring Creek

Rock formation: Berea Sandstone atop Bedford Shale

Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Boston, Summit County

Parking latitude: 41.2571°

Parking longitude: 81.5726°

Falls latitude: 41.2584°

Falls longitude: 81.5729°

From Riverview Road west of Boston, Ohio, and just south of Boston Mills Ski Resort, drive east (uphill) on Boston Mills Road. At mile 0.8 turn right into the small (three-car) parking area for Blue Hen Falls, and park at mile 0.9. (If this area is full, park at the overflow lot on the opposite side of Boston Mills Road.)

Alternatively, start at the intersection of Black Road and Ohio Route 303 just east of the Country Maid Ice Cream and Orchard. (Said to make the best ice cream in Ohio.) Drive north on Black Road. At mile 1.3, immediately after the Ohio Turnpike bridge, turn right on Boston Mills Road. At mile 3.3 turn left into the small (three-car) parking area, and

park at mile 3.4. (If this area is full, park at the overflow lot on the opposite side of Boston Mills Road.)

From the small parking area walk north, downhill, on the path through a forest of beech, maple, and tulip trees. Just after the footbridge, bear right.

Nearby: The Towpath Trail through Boston, Ohio, follows the route of the historical Ohio and Erie Canal. It is great for walking, running, bicycling, and history/nature exploration. This trail currently stretches from Cleveland to Akron, and is being extended (under the name Ohio to Erie Trail) all the way to Cincinnati. Closer at hand, the historical canal town of Peninsula offers train rides, bike rentals, galleries, museums, and eateries. (I enjoyed Fisher's Café and Pub, but there are other possibilities.)

Buttermilk Falls

A satisfying waterfall at the end of a satisfying hike.



Height: 20 feet

Hike distance: 1.3 miles

Watercourse: Spring Creek

Rock formation: Bedford Shale

Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Boston, Summit County

Parking latitude: 41.2571°

Parking longitude: 81.5726°

Falls latitude: 41.2629°

Falls longitude: 81.5676°

Park and walk as for Blue Hen Falls. But after you've admired those falls, don't turn back. Instead, continue walking east, downstream. This trail is no longer maintained by the National Park Service or by anyone else, so it's narrow at some places and muddy at others, but it is always well-trodden so you won't get lost. You will need to ford Spring Creek three times. At the end of your hike you'll be rewarded with this lovely waterfall. In late summer, the left bank of the waterfall blooms with blue great lobelia and yellow touch-me-not. In winter, the left bank cliff above the waterfalls is festooned with icicles.

Camp Christopher Natural Bridge and Waterfall

A waterfall, a natural bridge, a box canyon, and a profusion of plants all at a single site.



Height: 10 feet
Hike distance: 1.5 miles
Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Yellow Creek
Rock formation: Sharon Conglomerate
Camp Christopher, Bath Township, Summit County

Parking latitude: 41.1897°
Parking longitude: 81.6672°
Falls latitude: 41.1903°
Falls longitude: 81.6765°

Neither photograph nor simple statistics are adequate to describe this site. The natural bridge spans an opening 4 feet wide and 25 feet high. It heads a 20-yard-long box canyon that ends with a 10-foot waterfall. The walls of the box canyon are rich with mosses, ferns, and trailing arbutus, and the surrounding woods are full of northern species like hemlock and silver birch.

The site is privately owned by the Akron Catholic Youth Organization. For permission to visit, call 330-376-CAMP.

From Interstate 77, interchange 138, drive northwest on Ghent Road. At mile 0.3, Ghent Road merges with the northbound Cleveland-Massillon Road. At mile 2.7, turn left (west) onto Ira Road. At mile 4.2, Ira road terminates at Hametown Road. Turn right and then take an immediate left into Camp Christopher. Follow the camp road to the large parking area at mile 4.3.

Walk west on the asphalt road marked “No vehicles beyond this point”. Pass St. Francis Hall on your left and McDowell Hall on your right. After 386 yards, the asphalt road ends at a two-bay garage (located at latitude 41.1898°, longitude 81.6714°). There are two trails here: one leads to the right of the garage and travels 42 yards to “Mummy's Cave” at the base of a Sharon Conglomerate cliff (latitude 41.1899°, longitude 81.6718°). But the trail you want leads to the left of the garage and goes steeply up the cliff for 94 yards to a trail intersection at the top of the cliff (latitude 41.1892°, longitude 81.6720°). At this intersection, turn right and walk 134 yards to a chimney (latitude 41.1901°, longitude 81.6727°). Turn left and walk 230 yards to a trail intersection (latitude 41.1892°, longitude 81.6746°) where you take the left-hand fork. Walk 206 yards to the corner of a field (latitude 41.1884°, longitude 81.6764°) and continue straight ahead along the edge of the field for 42 yards, then turn right into the woods (latitude 41.1885°, longitude 81.6769°). Follow this trail for 230 yards – do not cross the power line. Just before the trail crosses a small stream, turn right on a side trail and walk 34 yards to the natural bridge.

Yellow Creek Falls

An easily accessible vertical falls. Easy roadside viewing, so this is a good site for handicapped visitors.



Height: 10 feet

Hike distance: zero

Watercourse: Yellow Creek

Rock formation: Chagrin Shale

Bath Township, Summit County

Wheelchair accessible (roadside view).

Parking latitude: 41.1601°

Parking longitude: 81.6000°

Falls latitude: 41.1599°

Falls longitude: 81.5999°

From Interstate 77, interchange 138, drive northwest on Ghent Road. At mile 0.3, Ghent Road merges with the northbound Cleveland-Massillon Road. At mile 0.5, turn right onto Yellow Creek Road. Follow this road to the bridge over Yellow Creek at mile 2.5.

From this bridge, you can look right (upstream) get a good view of the waterfall, 20 yards away. From the far (east) apron of the bridge, you can see an additional 100 yards upstream to a taller slide waterfall (latitude 41.1588°, longitude 81.5999°).

If you want a view better than the one obtained from your car, then drive an additional 30 yards, park to the left on a gravel utility road, and walk back to the bridge.

Cascade Park

Overhang fall at head of a Sharon Conglomerate ravine.



Height: 10 feet
Hike distance: 380 yards
Watercourse: unnamed
Rock formation: Sharon Conglomerate
Cascade Park, Hudson, Summit County
(City of Hudson Parks Office)
Intermittent.

Parking latitude: 41.2328°
Parking longitude: 81.4532°
Falls latitude: 41.2314°
Falls longitude: 81.4540°

Perhaps wheelchair accessible: The crushed limestone path is well-maintained, but does not lead all the way to the waterfall.

From the intersection of Ohio Routes 91 and 303 in the center of Hudson, drive west on Ohio 303 (Streetsboro Street). At 0.5 mile make a 90 degree left turn onto East Case Drive. Follow Case Drive as it curves from heading south to heading west. At 1.0 mile turn left on Lynn Drive, which leads into Cascade Park. Park in the lot at 1.1 miles.

Walk on the crushed limestone path at the far end of the parking lot, marked "Cascade Trail". After 20 yards, turn left. Walk 150 additional yards and then, just after a bench on your left, leave the trail and walk left into the woods for 20 yards. The waterfall will be just to your left, at the head of the ravine.

Nearby: North ravine within Cascade Park is even more sensuous than this one, but rarely has water flowing over its head (latitude 41.2339°, longitude 81.4562°). To reach it either: (1) Continue in the direction you're going for about half a mile, bearing right at the first trail intersection and left at the second. Or else (2) go back to the trailhead by the parking lot, and traverse the trail in the opposite direction. From the intersection by the parking lot walk 84 yards and bear left, then walk 100 yards and bear right, then walk 120 yards to the ravine head.

Tip Top Falls

A wonderfully intricate double waterfall and canyon.

Height: 10 feet and 20 feet

Hike distance: 30 yards

Watercourse: Walnut Creek

Rock formation: Sharon Conglomerate

Stow, Summit County

Intermittent.

Parking latitude: 41.1582°

Parking longitude: 81.4407°

Falls latitude: 41.1580°

Falls longitude: 81.4404°

At the intersection of Ohio Route 59 (Kent Road) and Ohio Route 91 (Darrow Road) in Stow, a CVS Pharmacy occupies the southwest corner. Drive 100 yards south on Route 91 to Dave's Tip Top, a restaurant just south of the CVS, on the right at 3428 Darrow Road. Drive to the right behind the restaurant and park by the guardrail at the far end of the rear parking lot.

Step over the guardrail. To the left you'll see Walnut Creek exit a culvert and immediately fall down a ten foot drop. It then flows for fifteen yards through a box canyon — ten feet deep and five feet wide — until the canyon ends at a twenty foot cascade into a ravine. You can easily walk the fifteen yards to a viewpoint above these lower falls, but you're above and behind these falls so you can't get a good look at them.

Nearby: On Route 91, 0.2 mile south of Dave's Tip Top restaurant, on the right (west), is Adell Durbin Park and Arboretum, which offers trails through Walnut Creek's beautiful ravine. The park extends north almost to Tip Top Falls, but unfortunately you can't walk right up to the falls because of private property.

On Route 91, 0.8 mile north of Dave's Tip Top restaurant, on the left (west), is the 11,000 square foot multi-level wooden Stow Kids Playground (SKiP), part of the Stow City Center campus. Bring your kids!

Wetmore Waterfall

Diminutive waterfall in a petite park. If you like tiny gems, this is the place for you.



Height: 10 feet

Hike distance: 100 yards

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Walnut Creek

Rock formation: Sharon Conglomerate

Wetmore Park, Stow, Summit County

(City of Stow Department of Parks and Recreation)

Intermittent.

Parking latitude: 41.1570°

Parking longitude: 81.4484°

Falls latitude: 41.1566°

Falls longitude: 81.4483°

From the intersection of Ohio Route 59 (Kent Road) and Ohio Route 91 (Darrow Road) in Stow, drive west on Route 59. At 0.3 mile turn right onto Park Drive. At 0.5 mile, just before the Lakeview Boulevard intersection, park on the right side of the road.

Walk across Park Drive and into Wetmore Park. There is no trail, but if you continue for 50 yards in the direction you're heading, across the lawn and down into the ravine, you'll find Wetmore Waterfall.

Munroe Falls

A wide riffle revived from death.



Height: riffle

Hike distance: 200 yards

Watercourse: Cuyahoga River

Rock formation: (indistinct)

Brust Park, Munroe Falls, Summit County

(City of Munroe Falls, Department of Parks and Recreation)

Wheelchair accessible.

Parking latitude: 41.1421°

Parking longitude: 81.4367°

Falls latitude: 41.1414°

Falls longitude: 81.4361°

From the intersection of Ohio Route 59 (Kent Road) and Ohio Route 91 (Darrow Road) in Stow, drive south on Route 91 for 1.1 miles. Turn left (east) into Brust Park, and park at the far end of the lot. (Alternatively, start at the intersection of Ohio Route 261 and Ohio Route 91 in Tallmadge. Drive north on Route 91 for 2.9 miles and, just after crossing the Cuyahoga River on a bridge, turn right into Brust Park.)

The cascade is best viewed from an observation platform a short stroll downhill from the east end of the parking lot.

The town now called Munroe Falls was settled in 1809 as Kelsey's Mills. A dam on the Cuyahoga River was built by 1817, and in the same year the town changed its name to Florence. The town changed its name to Munroe Falls in 1836, and the dam was rebuilt in 1903. The dam was removed in October 2005, exposing the long-submerged "Munroe Falls Rapid" at the dam site.

Nearby: On the north bank of the Cuyahoga here a utility right-of-way has been converted to the multipurpose "Bike & Hike Trail." You may follow this trail north and then east for 26 miles as it passes near Brandywine Falls in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, then Greenwood Falls, then Bridal Veil Falls and the Great Falls of Tinkers Creek in Bedford Reservation, until it ends near Sulfur Springs Fall in South Chagrin Reservation.

Cuyahoga Falls Little Fall

Urban falls and gorge.



Height: 40 feet

Hike distance: 160 yards

Watercourse: Cuyahoga River

Rock formation: Sharon Conglomerate

Cuyahoga Falls, Summit County

Wheelchair accessible.

Parking latitude: 41.1306°

Parking longitude: 81.4835°

Falls latitude: 41.1317°

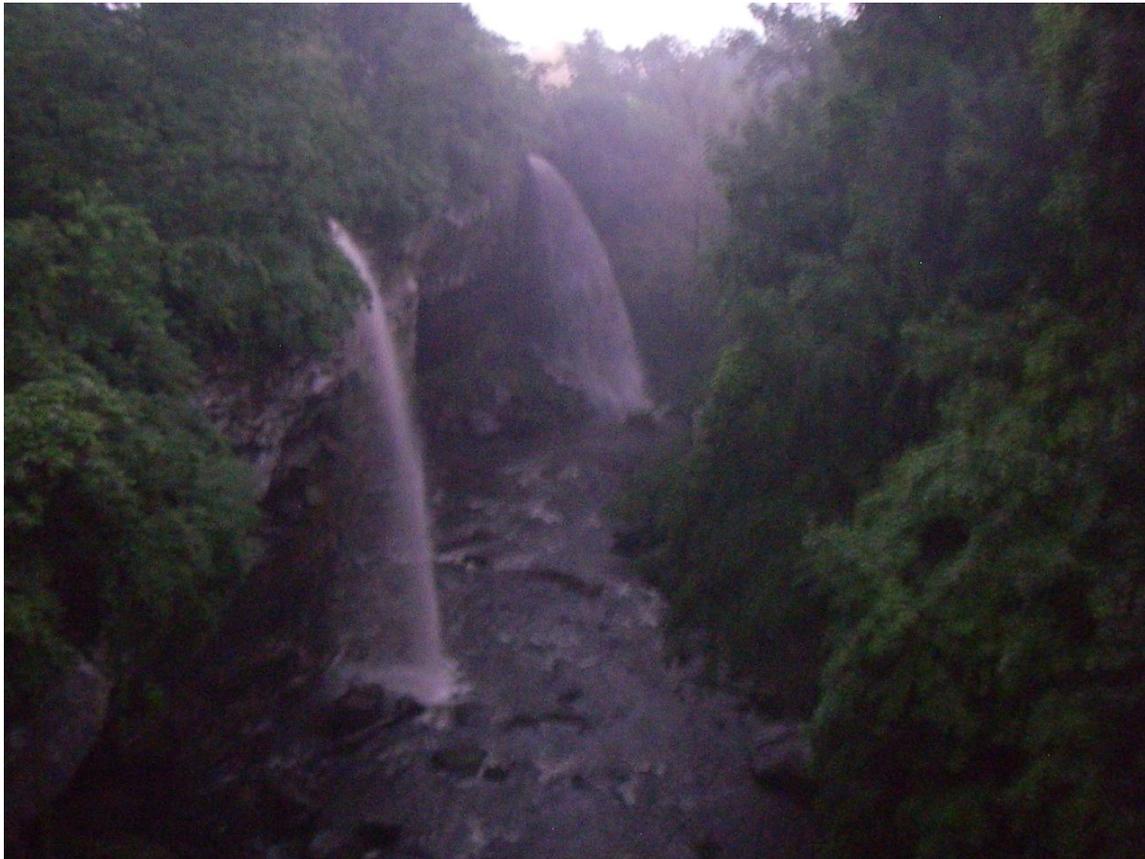
Falls longitude: 81.4825°

The Cuyahoga River follows an unusual circuitous course. Its headwaters are just 14 miles south of Lake Erie. Instead of flowing north toward the lake it flows southwest for 40 miles, then turns and flows north for 27 miles to empty into Lake Erie 34 miles from its starting point. (Cuyahoga is the Erie Indian word for “crooked.”) Where the river turns around it also falls steeply into a gorge. This place is now the city of Cuyahoga Falls.

Drive west on Broad Boulevard in the city of Cuyahoga Falls. Just before crossing over the Cuyahoga River, turn right (south) onto Front Street. (Don’t try this while driving

east on Broad Boulevard, because left turns onto Front Street are prohibited.) From this point, drive south on Front Street for 0.2 mile, then turn left onto Prospect Avenue. Park on the side of this short, dead-end street.

Walk down Prospect Avenue until it ends at a viewing platform that stretches full across the river. To the north, upstream, you'll see Cuyahoga Falls Little Fall, a series of falls and cascades that drops 40 feet along 300 horizontal feet of river. To the south, downstream, you'll see the head of the great gorge. If it's raining heavily then to the south you'll see two waterfalls (presumably storm drain discharge) arcing gracefully into the gorge, a sight worth getting soaked for.



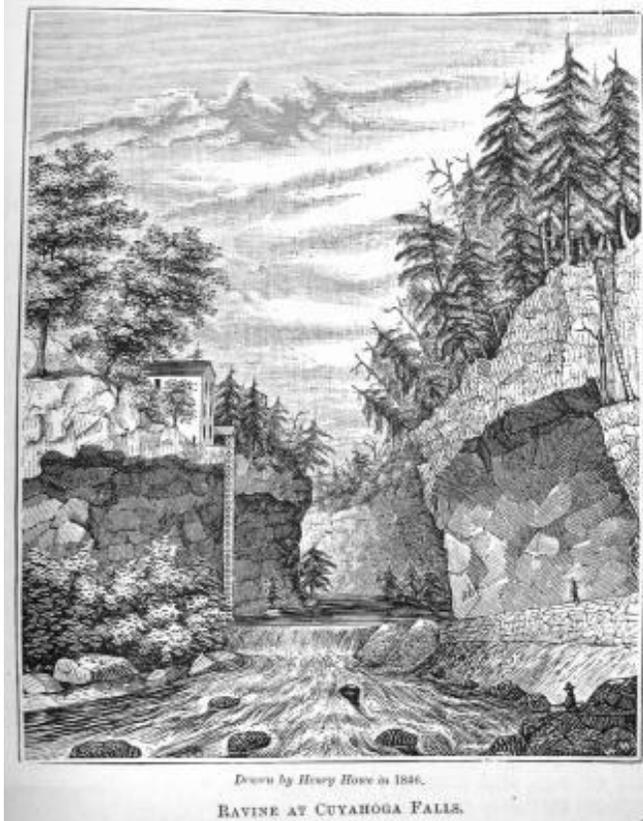
Cuyahoga Falls Gorge on 13 July 2008, during a thunderstorm

Nearby: Just north of the falls viewing platform are the Sheraton Suites, featuring the Piatto Novo restaurant that cantilevers out over the Little Fall, with full glass walls overlooking the river and gorge.

And just north of the Sheraton Suites and Broad Boulevard is the Falls River Square Festival Site featuring dining, shops, a riverfront boardwalk, an amphitheater, and an interactive water fountain. Special events are staged here throughout the year.

Coppacaw Falls

Also called “Cuyahoga Falls Big Fall,” this waterfall has been drowned since 1912.



Height: 22 feet (reported)
Watercourse: Cuyahoga River
Rock formation: Sharon Conglomerate
George Metropark, Cuyahoga Falls, Summit County
(Metroparks, Serving Summit County)

I cannot describe this waterfall because I have never seen it: in 1912 it was drowned under the reservoir backed up behind the 57 foot tall Ohio Edison Dam. Instead, to show what has been lost, I reproduce an etching and a description from Henry Howe’s 1888 *History of Summit County*:

“Cuyahoga Falls has become a great place of resort for summer excursionists, and improved approaches, stairways, etc., have been constructed to make the romantic glens and nooks more accessible to the visiting multitudes. The High Bridge, Lover’s Retreat, Fern Cave, Observation Rock, Grand Promenade and Old Maid’s Kitchen are some of the features that go to make up the romantic interest of this rock-bound gorge.”

In addition, I quote from Samuel Alanson Lane's 1892 *Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County*:

“For the past twenty-five years, Cuyahoga Falls and vicinity has been one of the best known pleasure resorts in Northern Ohio. The river, with its deep gorges, its rumbling waterfalls, its leaping cascades, its over-hanging cliffs, its caves and grottos, its shady groves, its variegated shrubbery and picturesque views, has ever been a course of delight to lovers of the beautiful in nature, both savage and civilized.”

Gorge of the Cuyahoga

Cascades and rapids in a deep wooded gorge.



Height: rapids

Hike distance: 1.8 miles

Watercourse: Cuyahoga River

Rock formation: Orangeville Shale

George Metropark, Cuyahoga Falls, Summit County

(Metroparks, Serving Summit County)

Parking latitude: 41.1205°

Parking longitude: 81.4934°

Falls latitude: 41.1229°

Falls longitude: 81.5035°

Drive west on Broad Boulevard in the city of Cuyahoga Falls. Just before crossing over the Cuyahoga River, turn right (south) onto Front Street. (Don't try this while driving east on Broad Boulevard, because left turns onto Front Street are prohibited.) From this point, drive south on Front Street for 1.1 miles where, just before a bridge over the Cuyahoga River, you turn right into the parking lot for Gorge Metropark. At 1.2 miles, park at the far end of the lot.

Walk down the paved trail toward the fishing dock. Pass the dock and walk down 114 steps. From this lower level there are many views of Cuyahoga River rapids. You'll also

see old-growth woods and small tributary waterfalls. After about a mile, the trail climbs 68 steps and loops back at higher elevation within the gorge. On this return path you'll find cliffs and a recess cave of Sharon Conglomerate. During wet seasons, the cliff at latitude 41.1246°, longitude 81.5023° sports a waterfall.

Nearby: The mouth of this gorge is less dramatic than its body, but if you want to see it drive to the Chuckery area of Cascade Valley Metropark. Park at latitude 41.1219°, longitude 81.5158° and walk down a dirt road marked "Service Vehicles Only." This road proceeds about 200 yards to the Cuyahoga River, then turns upstream, with views of rapids, for about 400 yards.

Sharon Center Falls

A truly spectacular fall sliding and jumping into a steep-walled gorge.



Height: 15 feet

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Wolf Creek

Rock formation: Sharon Conglomerate

Sharon Township, Medina County

Falls latitude: 41.1018°

Falls longitude: 81.7012°

(Very private property: in someone's back yard. For that reason, this waterfall will be omitted from the final version, despite the fact that it's one of my favorites.)

Akron and South

Lower Dundee Falls

Waterfall in front of a rock shelter — easy to stand behind.



Height: 25 feet

Hike distance: 380 yards

Watercourse: tributary of South Fork, Sugar Creek

Rock formation: Massillon Sandstone

Beach City Wildlife Area, Wayne Township, Tuscarawas County
(Ohio Division of Wildlife)

Parking latitude: 40.6182°

Parking longitude: 81.6233°

Falls latitude: 40.6176°

Falls longitude: 81.6212°

From US Route 250, about three miles west of Strasburg, drive west on County Route 97, Chestnut Ridge Road. At mile 2.0 turn left (south) onto Township Route 446, Camp Road. At mile 3.3 turn left and park in the public hunting area lot.

Hike the dirt path away from the road to the top of the falls.

Dundee Falls

Overhang falls dropping into a pool.



Height: 15 feet

Hike distance: 500 yards

Watercourse: tributary of South Fork, Sugar Creek

Rock formation: Massillon Sandstone

Beach City Wildlife Area, Wayne Township, Tuscarawas County
(Ohio Division of Wildlife)

Parking latitude: 40.6103°

Parking longitude: 81.6249°

Falls latitude: 40.6111°

Falls longitude: 81.6231°

From US Route 250, about three miles west of Strasburg, drive west on County Route 97, Chestnut Ridge Road. At mile 2.0 turn left (south) onto Township Route 446, Camp Road. At mile 3.7 turn left (southeast) onto County Route 96, Dundee-Wilmon Road. At mile 4.0 turn left at the “Beach City Wildlife Area” sign and park in the lot.

Hike the dirt path away from the road to the top of the falls. This waterfall is sometimes called “Upper Dundee Falls” to distinguish it from the “Lower Dundee Falls” described above.

Nearby: The immediate area is full of back roads inviting exploration. While driving on these roads, I have discovered cliffs, woods, swamps, Amish farms, barns, foxes, and ravines. Rather than give you specific instructions, I’ll suggest that you cruise the back roads yourself.

Twenty-seven miles north, the Johnson Woods State Nature Preserve holds 200 acres of the finest virgin woodland in Ohio (latitude 40.8888°, longitude 81.7439°). (My two sons cut the ribbon to open this preserve to the public.) There are huge individuals of oak, hickory, maple, and beech. This woods has splendid fall color, majestic winter tree trunks, abundant spring wildflowers, and voracious summer mosquitoes.

Hosak's Cave and Waterfall

Free-flying seasonal waterfall at the head of a beech-filled ravine.



Height: 30 feet
Hike distance: 400 yards
Watercourse: tributary of Salt Fork Reservoir
Rock formation: Massillon Sandstone
Salt Fork State Park, Guernsey County
Intermittent

Parking latitude: 40.1358°
Parking longitude: 81.4923°
Falls latitude: 40.1374°
Falls longitude: 81.4943°

From Interstate Route 77, interchange 54, drive east on Plainfield Road (County Route 831). At mile 0.4 turn left (north) on Old Twentyone Road (CR 35). At mile 1.4 turn right (east) on Freedom Road (CR 851). At mile 5.1 turn right (south) on Park Road 1, and enter the park at mile 5.7. At mile 6.0 turn right on Park Road 29. At mile 6.3 park at the lot on the right.

Hike the trail away from the reservoir 200 yards to a viewpoint.

Nearby: To see the top of the waterfall, walk from your car back up Park Road 29. After 100 yards, turn left onto the “Orange Trail.” Follow this trail for an additional 350 yards to the lip of the waterfall.

Salt Fork State Park is the largest state park in Ohio. In addition to Hosak’s Cave, it offers camping, boating, historic old homes, horseback riding, golfing, and a lodge.

Youngstown and South

Lanterman's Mill Falls

Overhang falls adjacent to a historical mill.



Height: 23 feet

Hike distance: 400 yards

Watercourse: Mill Creek

Rock formation: Sharon Sandstone

Mill Creek Park, Youngstown, Mahoning County
(Mill Creek Metropark District)

Partially accessible to wheelchairs, see text.

Parking latitude: 41.0676°

Parking longitude: 80.6838°

Falls latitude: 41.0666°

Falls longitude: 80.6822°

From the southwestern intersection of US Route 62 (Canfield Road) and Ohio Route 625 (Arden Boulevard), drive east on Canfield Road. At mile 0.1 take a bridge over Mill Creek. (From the bridge, the waterfall is visible to your right.) At the far end of the bridge, turn left onto Valley Drive (also called East Cohasset Drive). At mile 0.2 turn left into the parking area for Lanterman's Mill.

Take the path upstream and under the US Route 62 bridge to the mill and falls. The first 110 yards of this path are wheelchair accessible, and this is enough to give you a reasonable view of the falls. For closer access, telephone the Mill beforehand at 330-740-7115.

Nearby: (1) Just 60 yards upstream from the Mill is a 1988 covered bridge. From the bridge you can see upstream on Mill Creek to some nice cascades. (2) From the falls, walk downstream on the East Gorge Boardwalk, then back to your car on Valley Drive. You will be glad you did. (3) There are many other features worth visiting in Mill Creek Park: Fellows Riverside Gardens, the Ford Nature Center, even the Judge Morley Performing Arts Pavilion and a golf course.

Mill Creek Park was the first metropark in Ohio, and gave birth to the state's metropark movement. In most states, county parks are created by county governments and subject to the whims and funding of the county commissioners. In Ohio, county park boards are instead separate political subdivisions of the state, with their own commissioners and their own dedicated tax funding. (These parks are called "metroparks" even in rural counties.) This unusual arrangement started in April 1891, when Youngstown voters (encouraged by visionary Volney Rogers) approved the Youngstown Township Park District as the first park district in Ohio. This district went on to establish Mill Creek Park. The idea caught on and in 6 March 1917 the Ohio General Assembly provided for "the conservation of natural resources by the creation, development and improvement of park districts" statewide.

Sheepskin Hollow Waterfalls

Two waterfalls in a rugged and romantic setting.

Height: 10 feet (lower); 15 feet (upper)	Parking latitude: 40.7513°
Hike distance: 1.2 miles (lower); 2.0 miles (upper)	Parking longitude: 80.5375°
Lower falls latitude: 40.7451°	Lower falls longitude: 80.5334°
Upper falls latitude: 40.7465°	Upper falls longitude: 80.5261°

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of North Fork Little Beaver Creek
Rock formation: Allegheny Group (Pennsylvanian) sandstone (lower) and shale (upper)
Sheepskin Hollow Nature Preserve, Middleton Township, Columbiana County
(Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves)

From the intersection of Ohio Routes 154 and 170 in Negley, drive south on Ohio Route 170. At 2.9 miles turn left (east) onto Pancake Clarkson Road. At mile 4.3 take a bridge over the North Fork of Little Beaver Creek, and at mile 4.5 park at the small pullover to the right just before reaching the railroad bridge. (This bridge belongs to the abandoned Smiths Ferry Branch, a private railroad of the Pittsburgh Coal Company, operated by the Youngstown & Southern Railway.)

There is no maintained trail. Walk south on the abandoned railroad bed 0.4 mile, to the second stream crossing. Make your way left down to the stream and hike upstream. Some of the time you'll be walking in the stream, so wear shoes that can get wet (and stash a pair of fresh socks in your car). In the spring this hollow is full of wildflowers, butterflies, and birdsong. At 0.6 mile reach the lower falls, an overhang falls in sandstone. You may prefer to turn around here. Otherwise figure out some route around the waterfall cliff, and hike upstream an additional 0.4 mile to the upper falls, a buttermilk falls in shale.

Nearby: The Beaver Creek Natural Bridge is on private property at latitude 40.7523°, longitude 80.5346°.

The “North Country Trail”, a projected 4,600 mile hiking trail from Lake Champlain in New York to the Missouri River in North Dakota, crosses the North Fork of the Little Beaver Creek on the same road bridge that you did. (Check this??)

Purgatory Hollow Falls

Remote waterfall overhanging sandstone and coal.



Height: 30 feet

Hike distance: 3.6 miles

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Bieler Run

Rock formation: Conemaugh Group

Ohio Township, Beaver County, Pennsylvania

Parking latitude: 40.7148°

Parking longitude: 80.5424°

Falls latitude: 40.7083°

Falls longitude: 80.5174°

This waterfall is actually just over the state line in Pennsylvania, but the journey there is mostly through Ohio. It is a rugged but very rewarding hike. You will need to ford streams several times, so wear shoes that can get wet. I recommend also that you stock your car with a set of warm dry fluffy socks because you'll want to change into them at the end of your journey.

From the intersection of Ohio Route 170 and Fredericktown Road in the center of Fredericktown, Ohio, drive east on Fredericktown Road. At mile 0.1 you will see, on your right, the ruins of Culbertson Mill. Just beyond you will take an old, single-lane bridge over the North Fork of Little Beaver Creek. The set of rapids you see in the river

below is called Stewarts Falls (latitude 40.7145°, longitude 80.5443°). (The main fork of Little Beaver Creek tumbles over the same bedrock just south of town. These rapids are visible from the Ohio Route 170 bridge.) Continue over the creek bridge, and then drive until you pass under the old railroad bridge at mile 0.2. Park on the road shoulder just past the railroad bridge.

Walk south on the abandoned railroad bed. It is not maintained as a trail and you will have to make your way around fallen trees and rocks. At 0.3 mile you'll navigate over a landslide. At 0.7 mile you will, if the season is wet enough, notice Fredericktown Falls to your left – this waterfall is very tall and elegant, but also very slender and ephemeral (latitude 40.7109°, longitude 80.5316°). At 0.9 mile you reach the mouth of Bieler Run. Turn left and follow the run upstream. There is no maintained trail, but it's easy going. The only serious obstacle is that you will occasionally need to ford the stream.

At 1.5 miles a stream comes in from the left: this is the mouth of Purgatory Hollow. Just 50 yards up the hollow from this junction is a cute five-foot-tall slide waterfall that empties into a deep pool – it looks like a fun place for a swim (latitude 40.7083°, longitude 80.5157°). Just beyond, at 1.6 miles, sharp eyes will notice a row of posts marking the Ohio–Pennsylvania border. At 1.8 miles, you attain the falls – notice the mosses, the ferns, and the two-foot thick band of glistening coal behind the waterfall.

Nearby: Lots of stuff. (??)

Mansfield Area

Fleming Falls

Two falls in two ravines, with cliffs, big trees, ferns, and frogs.



Height: 18 feet

Hike distance: 700 yards

Watercourse: Fleming's Run, a tributary of the Black Fork of Mohican River

Rock formation: Black Hand Sandstone

Camp Mowana, Fleming Falls, Richland County

Parking latitude: 40.7966°

Parking longitude: 82.4327°

Falls latitude: 40.7961°

Falls longitude: 82.4299°

Camp Mowana is private property of the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio. If you wish to visit, then call beforehand at 419-589-7406, or at least check in at the Camp Office as described below.

From the intersection of US Routes 30 and 42 northeast of Mansfield, drive north on US Route 42. At 2.3 miles turn right onto Fleming Falls Road, and at 2.5 miles bear right

into Camp Mowana. Travel straight on the camp road until mile 2.7, where you should bear left and then immediately park on the left side of the road.

Check in at the Camp Office, across the road and uphill. Then walk along the road toward the swimming pool. After 80 yards turn left onto a trail marked “Trail to Inter. Hill”. Walk 40 yards down this trail to reach the “Small Falls” (5 feet high, latitude 40.7957°, longitude 82.4321°, on Woodhouse Run, a tributary to Fleming's Run). An additional 30 yards brings you to the west end of a bridge over Woodhouse Run. Walk over the bridge and, after 20 yards, turn left at an intersection. An additional 40 yards brings you to a clearing at the top of Intermediate Hill. (The camp also has a “Junior Hill”.) Walk straight across the clearing, aiming to the left of a bench. After 55 yards enter a wooded trail again, just to the left of a huge black oak. Walk down this trail 120 yards to Fleming Falls. This walk has impressive cliffs, ferns, wildflowers, and trees – try to take it all in rather than focus on any single item to the exclusion of the whole!

In the nineteenth century, this waterfall powered a grist mill for Mr. John Fleming. At the lip of the falls, on the left bank, there is a hole carved into the rock that once supported one of the massive timbers for this mill. The mill structure was washed away by a flood.

Nearby: Fowler Woods. (Needs more! ??)

Big and Little Lyons Falls

Two waterfalls in one of Ohio's finest state parks.

Height: 40 feet (each)	Parking latitude:	40.6128°
Hike distance: 2.6 miles (both)	Parking longitude:	82.3167°
Big Lyons Fall latitude: 40.6162°	Big Lyons Fall longitude:	82.3277°
Little Lyons Fall latitude: 40.6193°	Little Lyons Fall longitude:	82.3292°

Watercourse: unnamed tributaries of the Clear Fork of Mohican River
Rock formation: Black Hand Sandstone
Mohican State Park, Loudonville, Ashland County

Anywhere in the vicinity of Mohican State Park you will find road signs pointing to “Covered Bridge.” Drive following those signs and park on the east side of the road, just south of the bridge.

Hike west on the Lyons Falls Trails across the road. You will follow the right bank of Clear Fork for 0.5 mile, then turn left and walk up the right bank of a tributary for 0.4 mile to Big Lyons Fall, a substantial stream plunging 40 feet over the lip of a rock shelter. Cross behind the waterfall, walk up the rock stairs, and continue for another 0.4 mile to Little Lyons Fall, which is the same height as Big Lyons Fall but smaller in volume. Little Lyons Fall marks the head of a short but spectacular gorge.

Nearby: Mohican State Park, Mohican Memorial State Forest, and environs will reward any amount of time you care to invest in exploring them. If you like ravines, you will find them. If you like deep forests, you will find them. If you like scenic overlooks, historical artifacts, wildflowers, monasteries, solitude, or crowds, you will find those also. I won't give you detailed directions, but I will encourage you to explore.

Honey Run Waterfall

A prancer.



Height: 20 feet

Hike distance: 120 yards

Watercourse: Honey Run

Rock formation: Black Hand Sandstone

Honey Run Waterfall Park, Butler Township, Knox County
(Knox County Park District)

Parking latitude: 40.3828°

Parking longitude: 82.2663°

Falls latitude: 40.3827°

Falls longitude: 82.2658°

From US Route 62 just east of Millwood, under the US Route 36 bridge, drive south on US Route 62. Cross over the Kokosing River and, at 0.2 mile, turn left onto Hazel Dell Road. At 1.4 miles, just before Austin Road takes off on the left, park on the left shoulder of the road.

Walk ten yards up Austin Road, to a faint path to the left. Follow that path down fifty yards to the base of the waterfall.

Nearby: The entire area invites exploration either on back roads or on the multipurpose Kokosing Gap Trail. Two other area waterfalls (thin and intermittent) on Black Hand Sandstone are Laurel Run Falls at latitude 40.3340°, longitude 82.1774°, and McElwee Falls at latitude 40.3379°, longitude 82.1656°.

Woodbury Natural Bridge and Waterfall

Cascading stream flows through a piece of limestone bedrock, near the roots of a giant Tulip Tree.



Height: 4 feet

Hike distance: 0.7 mile

Watercourse: unnamed tributary of Simmons Run

Rock formation: Putnam Hill Limestone

Woodbury Wildlife Area, Bedford Township, Coshocton County

(Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife)

Parking latitude: 40.2804°

Parking longitude: 82.0303°

Bridge latitude: 40.2788°

Bridge longitude: 82.0357°

From the intersection of US Route 36 and Ohio Route 60 in Warsaw, Ohio, drive south on Ohio Route 60. At mile 2.3 take a mild left turn onto County Road 17. Then at mile 3.4 take a sharp right onto the graveled Township Road 56. Drive past a pond on the left, and park at the circle at the end of the road at mile 4.9.

Walk on the trail that continues in the same direction as the road (south). After 130 yards, turn right off the trail and follow a stream upstream (west). After 500 yards, you'll

find the stream falling down four feet, then passing under the natural bridge. The setting is graceful and harmonious, with a four-foot diameter Tulip Tree to the southeast.

Columbus Area

The Engulfed Waterfall

A pleasant little fall with an extraordinary — and hopeful — story.



Height: riffle

Hike distance: zero

Watercourse: Olentangy River

Rock formation: ??

Liberty Township, Delaware County

Falls latitude: 40.2441°

Falls longitude: 83.0587°

Dennison Dam, a three-foot tall concrete structure, was built about 1900 above a rapid on the Olentangy River to generate electricity for a nearby summer cottage. In October 2002 it was removed to improve the river's water quality and to support fish and aquatic habitat. When the impoundment drained, it revealed a small waterfall that hadn't been seen for a century. I have named this waterfall after Claude Debussy's piano prelude "The Engulfed Cathedral." It is best viewed from the roadside during leafless seasons.

From Columbus, drive north on US Route 23. About five miles north of Highbanks Metropark you'll notice the Fairview Memorial Park cemetery on your right. Take the next left onto Winter Road. In about a mile, Winter Road terminates at Chapman Road. Turn right. Just 0.1 mile from the intersection you'll find the massive ruins of stone mill on your left. At 0.3 mile a 5-10 foot tributary falls is visible on the right. At 0.9 mile Dennison Rapids, the site of the old dam, is visible on the left. And at 1.1 miles the Engulfed Waterfall is visible on the left.

Nearby: Highbanks Metropark features cascades, ravines, two Adena Indian burial mounds, Cole Indian earthworks, a 100-foot high shale bluff overlooking the Olentangy River, and 11 miles of trails.

To reach the Indian Creek waterfalls, drive south on US Route 23, then west and south on Interstate Route 270.

Indian Creek Waterfalls

Double treat: a buttermilk falls and an overhang falls.

Height: 20 feet each	Parking latitude: 40.1005°
Hike distance: 340 yards	Parking longitude: 83.1207°
Watercourse: South Fork of Indian Creek	Upper Falls latitude: 40.1009°
Rock formation: Columbus Limestone (??)	Upper Falls longitude: 83.1200°
Indian Run Falls Park, Dublin, Franklin County (City of Dublin Parks)	Lower Falls latitude: 40.1014°
Wheelchair accessible (fine gravel trails).	Lower Falls longitude: 83.1198°

From Interstate Route 270, interchange 17, drive east on Ohio Route 161. At mile 0.4 reach a traffic signal. Cross this road (Post Road) and move into the leftmost lane. At mile 0.6 reach a second traffic signal. Turn left onto Shawan Falls Drive. At mile 0.7 turn right into the park parking lot.

Walk east into the woods on the graveled trail. At 55 yards is a trail intersection: turn left. After 35 more yards, a viewing platform on the right overlooks the buttermilk falls, and 80 yards beyond that a viewing platform overlooks the overhang falls.

Turning right at the trail intersection takes you on a 600 yard walk (one-way) over a footbridge, then to additional waterfall viewpoints, then along the south rim of the Indian Run ravine. At the footbridge is a staircase down to the very creek. I recommend this walk, but it is not wheelchair accessible.

Nearby: To reach Hayden Falls, continue south on Interstate Route 270.

Hayden Falls

Billowy falls plunging into a steep but short gorge.



Height: 35 feet

Hike distance: 500 yards

Watercourse: Hayden Run

Rock formation: Columbus Limestone

Hayden Falls Park, Norwich Township (just west of Columbus), Franklin County

(City of Columbus Department of Recreation and Parks)

Wheelchair accessible in part.

Parking latitude: 40.0677°

Parking longitude: 83.1093°

Falls latitude: 40.0673°

Falls longitude: 83.1109°

From Interstate 270, interchange 15, drive east on Tuttle Crossing Boulevard. At mile 0.6 turn right (south) onto Frantz Road, then at mile 1.6 turn left (west) onto Hayden Run Road. At mile 1.8, park in the lot on the right, where a sign proclaims “Griggs Nature Preserve.”

For a wheelchair-accessible overview, walk 120 yards west (right, uphill) to a pair of overlook platforms. (Note the leaf impressions in the concrete spur sidewalks leading to the platforms.)

But for the best view, from the parking lot walk east (left, downhill) for 40 yards to the head of a staircase. Walk down 56 steps then follow the trail upstream. During high water, you’ll have to ford two streams. At 120 yards beyond the foot of the staircase you’ll encounter a boardwalk. Walk 6 steps up, then 70 yards to the viewing platform.

Nearby: The North Market, Schmidt’s Sausage Haus, the Book Loft of German Village.
(More -- ??)

Afterword

This is the end of the book, but not the end of the waterfalls.

There are well-known waterfalls in Yosemite Valley and in Yellowstone Canyon. It detracts nothing from those waterfalls to say that there are beautiful waterfalls in Lorain and in Loudonville. I've listed my favorites in this book, but I did not list every northern Ohio waterfall that I know, and I'm sure there are many that I don't know. My hope, instead, is that this book will inspire you to look for waterfalls in your own neighborhood. If not waterfalls, then cliffs. If not cliffs, then fields or forests. If you live next to a garbage dump, then watch for the gulls and terns who flock there, and for the hawks who come looking for small rodents. Watch for the great weathers, and wonder over halos around the moon.

Our world is full of natural delights. If we relegate "nature" to what we see while vacationing in a distant national park, then we disserve ourselves, our friends, our neighborhoods, and our world itself.