

The Newsletter of the Friends of Worlds End State Park.



FRIENDS OF
Worlds End
STATE PARK
Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

The Vista

Spring 2021

Vol. 3 Issue 2

The Waterfalls of Sullivan County

To conserve, support and protect the park's resources by promoting education, recreation, and stewardship.



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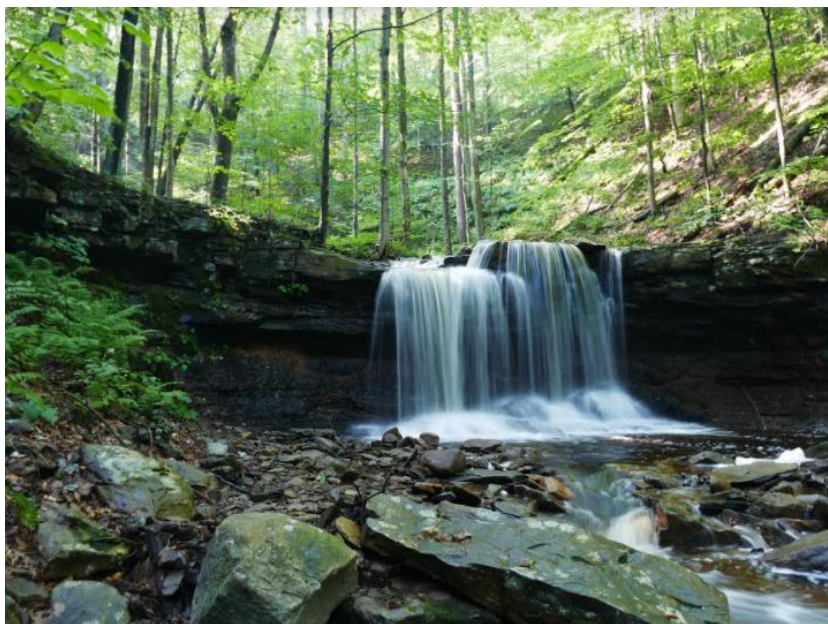
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Celebrate Spring 2021!

Spring is waterfall season here in Sullivan County! This season is the best time of the year to explore and photograph waterfalls as the melting snow and ice and frequent rains produce the strong stream flows needed to create an impressive fall of water. And the fresh spring greens of budding trees and plants enhances the setting for the falls. In this issue of *The Vista*, we highlight a few of the many waterfalls on public land that grace Worlds End and Sullivan County – where to find them – and tips on photographing them.

We also want to provide an update on the evolving pandemic-related restrictions now in place. All in-person events have been canceled through at least March 31. State Park visitor centers are also closed during this same time period. We advise everyone to keep updated on current restrictions and any changes by monitoring Worlds End Facebook page and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources website:

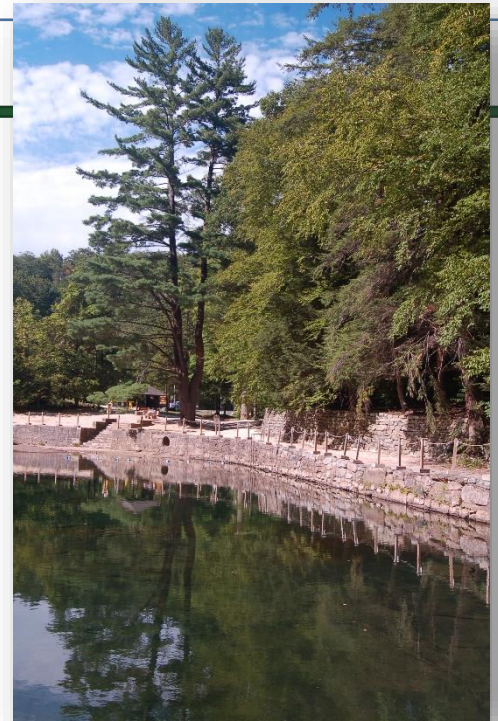
<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Pages/AlertDetails.aspx>

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Pages/OpenClosedAlert.aspx>

For the status of trail racing events this summer, we suggest monitoring the racing website: <https://worldsendultra.com/>

For updates on the status of other spring and summer programs and events at Worlds End, including the return of the popular archery program, please check our Facebook page, the park's Facebook page, and the next edition of *The Vista* – coming in May.

Swimming Area Dam to be Replaced



The dam that creates the park's swimming area is scheduled for replacement – a project expected to start this spring. It is hoped that this project will be completed by the Memorial Day weekend as not to interfere with the swimming season at the park. However, this will be dependent upon the weather and stream flow conditions this spring. Monitor the Friend's and the park's Facebook pages and the next issue of *The Vista* for an update.

TRAIL MAP AND PATCH FOR SALE.



Prepare your spring-time hiking with our map, *Trails in and around Worlds End State Park*. The map includes waterfall locations – including many mentioned in this issue of *The Vista*. It is for sale at the park office for \$10.00, and is also available from *The Sullivan Review*, *McCarty Mercantile* and online from the *Keystone Trails Association* (<https://www.kta-hike.org/>).

The Friends of Worlds End State Park trail patch, designed by Ruth Rode, is also on sale at the park office for \$ 5.00.



ENROLL TO BECOME A DCNR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER

If you are interested in volunteering at the park, we encourage you to register. Registering brings you insurance coverage and the ability to track your volunteer hours. See more on DCNR's website: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/GetInvolved/Pages/default.aspx>

New Local Recreation Guides Now Available.

In time to help you plan your spring-time outdoor activities here in Sullivan County and the surrounding counties, the Endless Mountains Heritage Region has released two new brochures to encourage exploration of parks, trails and other outdoor recreation sites. The *Endless Mountains Outdoor Recreational Guide*, produced in collaboration with the Bradford County Tourism Promotion Agency and the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, is full of photos and lists many area recreational attractions.

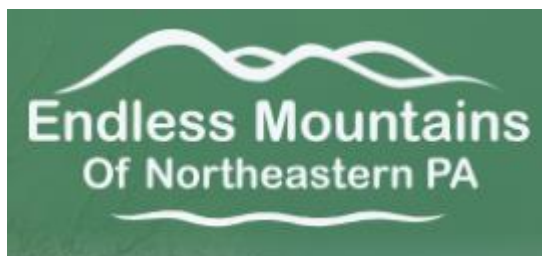
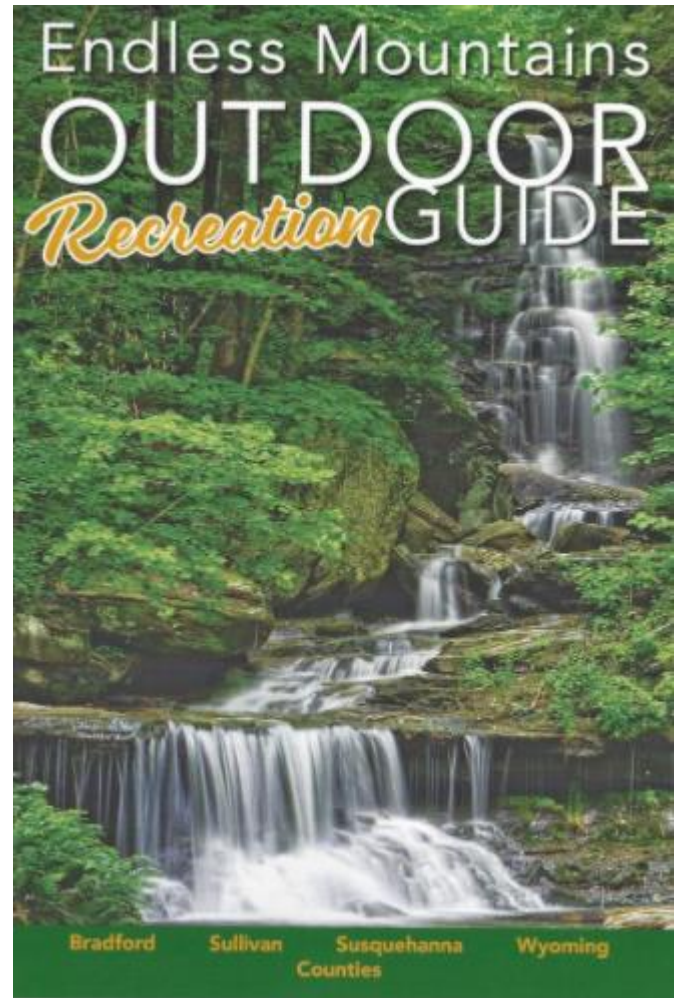
These agencies also partnered to produce the *Explore Sullivan County Pennsylvania Parks & Trails* brochure – highlighting outdoor recreation right here in Sullivan County. This pocket-sized pamphlet includes a four-page fold-out map.

These guides will be available at local visitor centers, agencies, and *The Sullivan Review*. For more information on these agencies and the new guides, check out these websites:

<http://www.endlessmtnlifestyles.com/new-guide-and-brochure-cover-outdoor-recreation-in-the-endless-mountains/>

<https://www.emheritage.org/>

<https://endlessmountains.org/>





The 2021 Trout Season

Spring also means the return of fishing season – with important changes coming for the 2021 season. First, get your license online: www.fishandboat.com .

Then check out the stocking schedule at these weblinks – you can obtain information by county, stream, and dates:

https://fbweb.pa.gov/stocking/TroutStockingDetails_GIS.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

<https://www.fishandboat.com/Pages/default.aspx>

Here is information from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) about the changes you should know about for 2021:

The PFBC began stocking the week of February 14, two weeks earlier than normal. These accelerated operations will ensure that most waters will be stocked in advance of the single, statewide Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Day on Saturday, March 27, and the single, statewide Opening Day of Trout Season on Saturday, April 3.

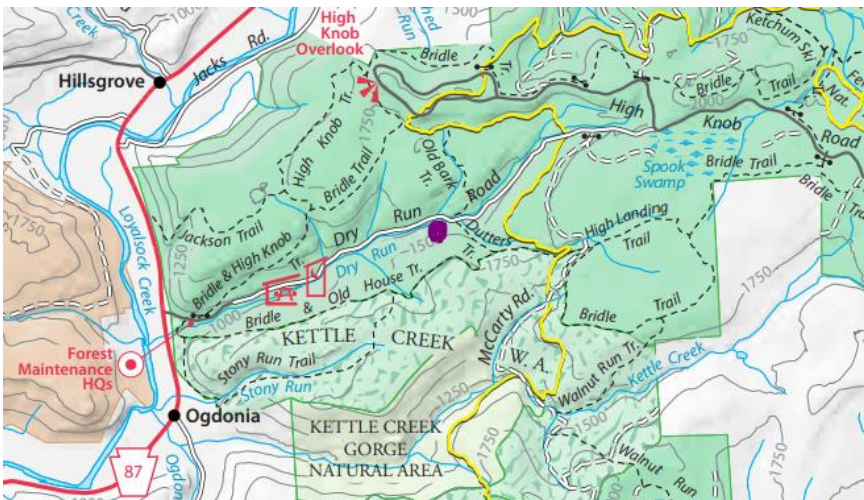
Due to stocking operations beginning earlier, all streams that are designated as Stocked Trout Waters will be closed to fishing from February 15 until the statewide Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Day and the statewide Opening Day of Trout Season. To provide for additional fishing opportunities during this time, trout which are stocked in lakes, reservoirs, and ponds during the preseason will be open to catch and release fishing but may not be harvested until the statewide Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Day and the statewide Opening Day of Trout Season. The move to an earlier statewide schedule for trout season provides anglers with 2 more weeks to enjoy trout fishing statewide, reduces travel associated with multiple opening days, and minimizes overcrowding on many popular waterways to allow anglers to comply with social distancing guidelines.

FIREWOOD AVAILABLE IN THE CAMPGROUND AND CABIN AREA:

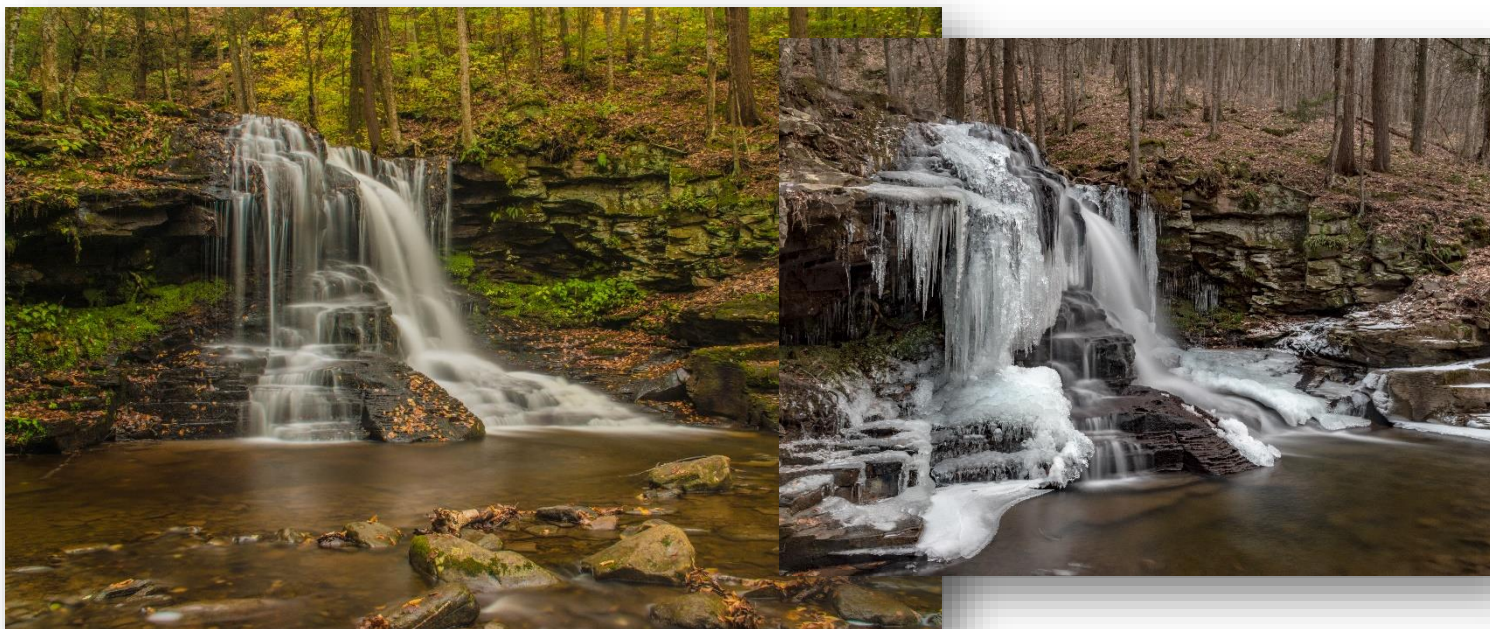
Firewood will be available for sale in the campground and cabin area this spring - \$8.00 per bundle. Look for the self-serve kiosk as you enter the cabin area near the trash dumpsters. The self-serve kiosk in the campground is located near the loop A shower-house. Money from these sales funds the park improvement projects of the Friends of Worlds End State Park.



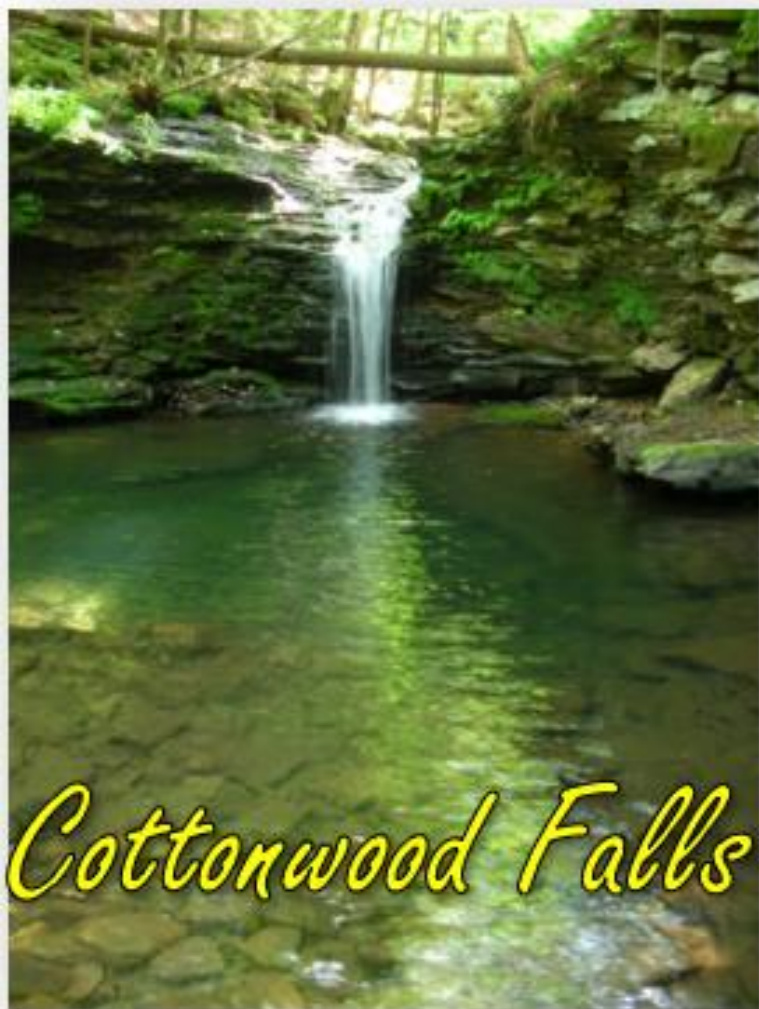
We start our tour of the waterfalls of Sullivan County with one of the more photogenic – and easily accessible – of the falls – Dry Run Falls (seen above and on the cover). As the name implies, the stream that powers this fall can flow pretty weakly much of the year and as such is best viewed in the spring-time or after a good rain. This beautiful spot is easily reached using Dry Run Road – you cannot miss the falls as it is right along the road – with parking spots and a picnic table.



Dry Run Falls can be reached from route 87 – drive up Dry Run Road past the Loyalsock State Forest maintenance facility and past the Dry Run Picnic Area. The falls are visible from the road to your right just before the road crosses over Dry Run – see purple dot on the map to the left.



Dry Run Falls is photogenic in any season – but best seen during or after snow melt or rain.



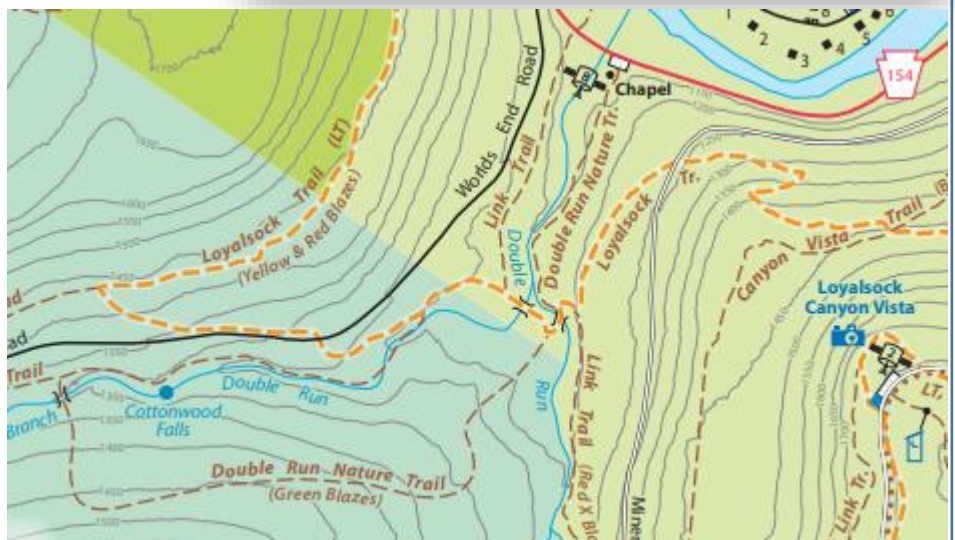
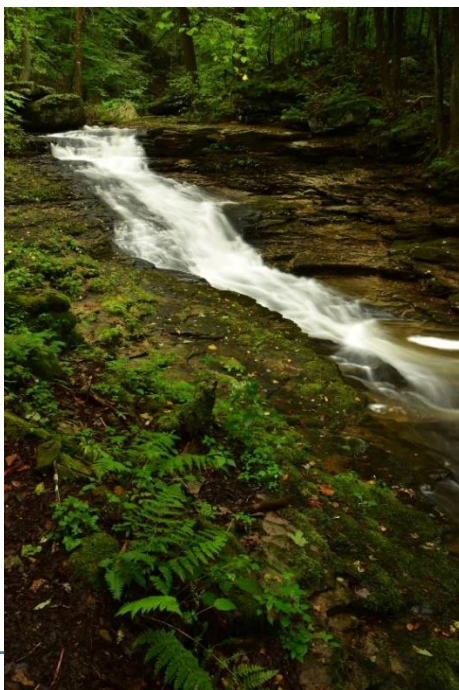
Cottonwood Falls lies right outside of the boundary of Worlds End State Park on the West Branch of Double Run in the Loyalsock State Forest. It can be reached along the Double Run Nature Trail – park at the lot on Route 154 by the Park Chapel. This falls is identified on the park map available at the park office. There are several smaller falls and cascades above and below Cottonwood Falls along the same trail – see the next page.



The Falls of Double Run



In addition to Cottonwood Falls, both branches of Double Run feature numerous small waterfalls and cascades. These can be viewed from the Double Run Nature Trail, Link Trail, and East Branch Trail.



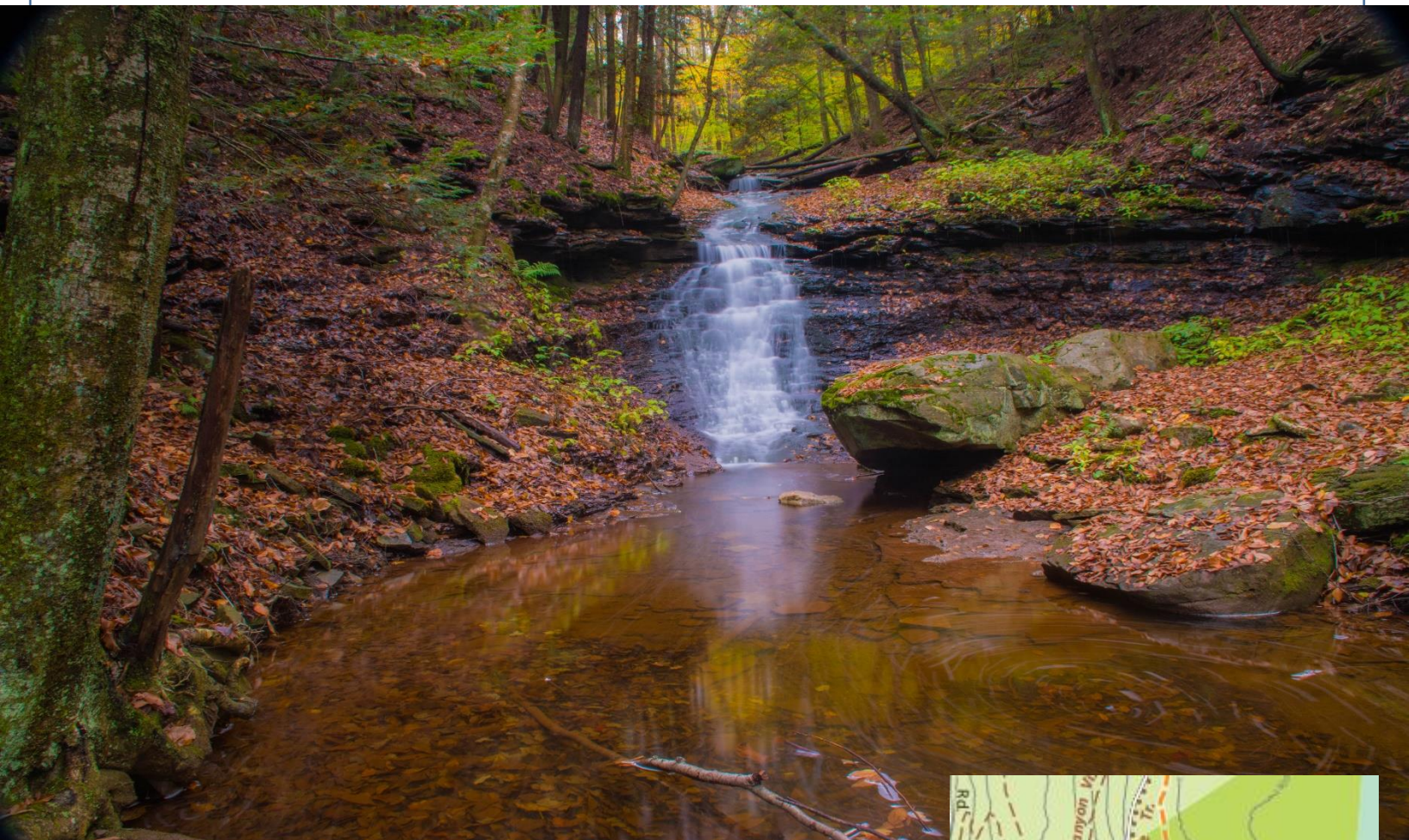


Sullivan Falls



Sullivan Falls lies in the extreme southeast corner of Sullivan County on State Game Lands # 13. From route 487, just north of the entrance to Ricketts Glen State Park, take Bear Run Road down the mountain until you see the small parking area on the right – see purple dot on the map below. There is a short path to the falls. If it is hunting season – because this is on game lands - don't forget to wear some orange.



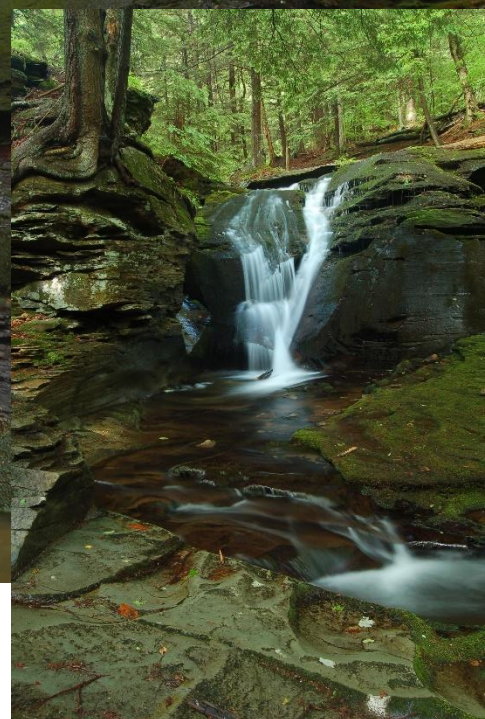


Neeneka Falls (Mineral Spring Falls)

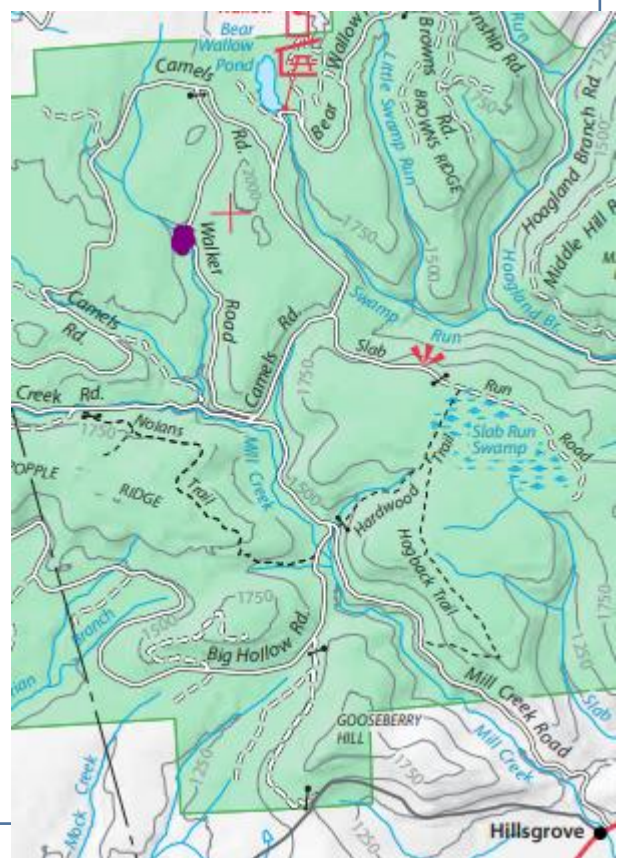
This falls, located right outside of Worlds End State Park boundary, is known by two different names – depending upon which book or map you are consulting. By whatever name, this one is literally a “drive-by”, located along and visible from Cold Run Road shortly after/before the intersection with Mineral Spring Road – see purple dot on the map to the right. While visiting the falls, you can cross the road along the Loyalsock Trail and also view the Mineral Spring that gives this falls one of its names.



East Branch Falls

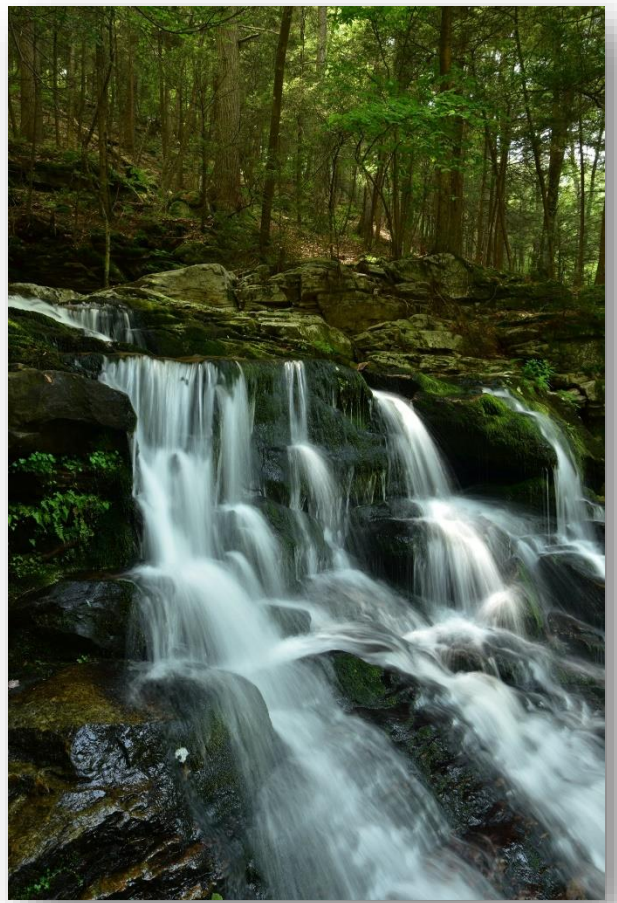
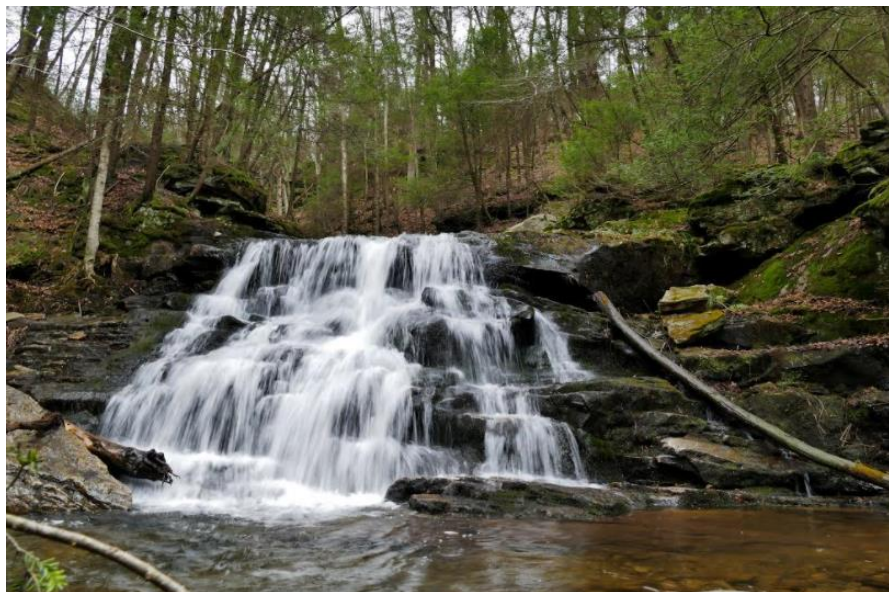


East Branch Falls – so named because it is found along the East Branch of Mill Creek – is one of several waterfalls found along the many branches of Mill Creek as it flows out of the mountains to the west of Hillsgrove in the Loyalsock State Forest. To reach this falls from route 87 in Hillsgrove take Mill Creek Road to Walker Road. (See purple dot on the map to the right.) Just above East Branch Falls is a series of smaller cascades that are quite picturesque (see picture to the upper right for an example) – so take some time to explore this pretty stream. And while in the neighborhood – stop by and enjoy beautiful Bear Wallow Pond (pictured below).



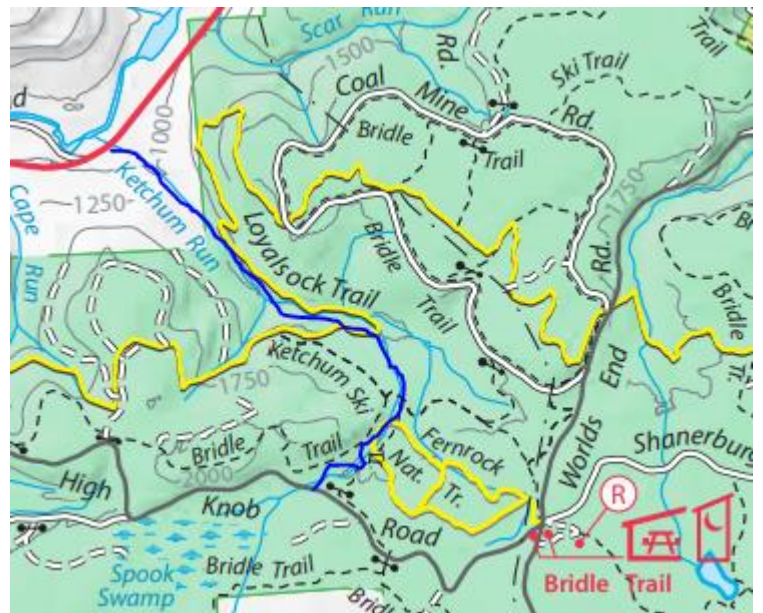


Ketchum Run features numerous falls and cascades – large and small – named and un-named. Two of the largest of these falls are pictured here – Rode Falls (above) and Lee Falls (below and left). These two falls can be viewed along the Loyalsock Trail.





Pictured are two of the un-named falls of the upper section of Ketchum Run. These two falls are located just downstream from where the Ketchum Run Trail crosses Ketchum Run.



Dutchman Falls



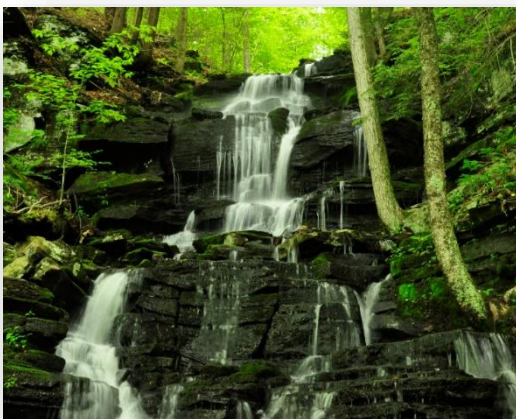
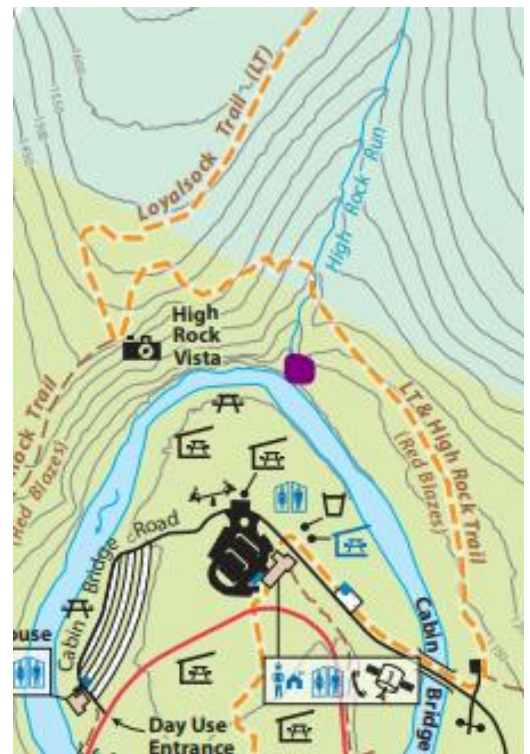
This falls is easily located right off route 220 at the eastern terminus of the Loyalsock Trail between Laporte and Dushore – near where 220 crosses Loyalsock Creek. There is a large parking lot with restrooms – from this parking lot take the trail down a short but steep hill (this is the same parking area and trail used to access the Haystack Rapids). The falls is located just before Dutchman Run tumbles into Loyalsock Creek – see purple dot on the map to the right.





High Rock Falls

There is a hidden waterfall right in the middle of Worlds End State Park. The Loyalsock Trail and High Rock Trail passes this falls at its head – and is not visible from these trails. It is best viewed, and safely viewed, from the bank of Loyalsock Creek opposite from where High Rock Run tumbles into Loyalsock Creek. This falls is usually only apparent in the spring during the snowmelt or after a good rain.

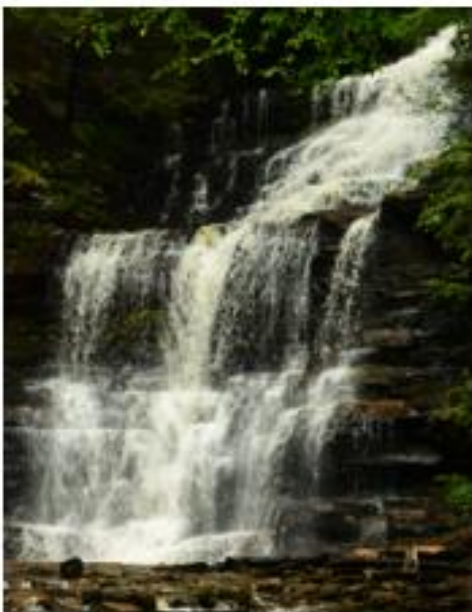


A soaking rain can turn even small hillside streams into a series of picturesque falls and cascades. The steep hillsides around Worlds End contain several such streams. To the left is a falls on one of the small streams that flow down the mountain to your left as you enter the park via Worlds End Road and accessible via the Pioneer Road Trail. Similar falls – that flow only after snowmelt or heavy rain – can be found along the Butternut, East Branch, and Cold Run Trails in the park.

Tips for Photographing Waterfalls

There is plenty of information online – and in the guides mentioned on the next page – for photographing waterfalls. Some of the basics to keep in mind...

- Avoid direct sunlight on the falls. Bright sun shining on the falls will produce a glare. Overcast days - which produces an even, neutral lighting - are actually the best days for photographing waterfalls.
- Look beyond just the waterfall and consider its setting – the surroundings – trees – plants – rocks - cliffs - and is there a plunge pool at the base of the falls? These can add interest and also a sense of scale. On the other hand, if there are things in the surroundings that would clutter or detract from the photo – experiment with your composition to exclude those things.
- Do you like the blurred, silky effect? If so, experiment with long time exposures (from 1/10th of a second, to several seconds depending upon the lighting). But for exposures this long, you will need to set your camera on a tripod – and a remote shutter release is also helpful to avoid any camera shake. If you prefer a more frozen water effect, then you will need fast shutter speeds to freeze the water. Give both effects a try and experiment with several different exposures to see what you like. See examples below.
- Be careful! The terrain around waterfalls is often steep and slippery, and the stream below the waterfall can be deep (the plunge pool). Try to stay on established trails and avoid trampling on the surrounding plant life.



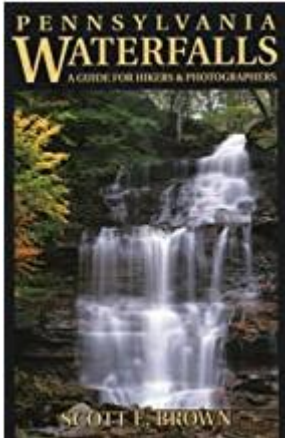
Frozen or Blurred?

These two pictures of Ganoga Falls at Ricketts Glen shows the result of different exposure times. If you want to freeze the water – go with a shorter exposure. If you want the blurred/silky effect – try a long exposure. Neither is “right” or “wrong” ...it is a matter of personal preference. The picture at the left was exposed for 1/125th of a second. The one on the right for 1 second.



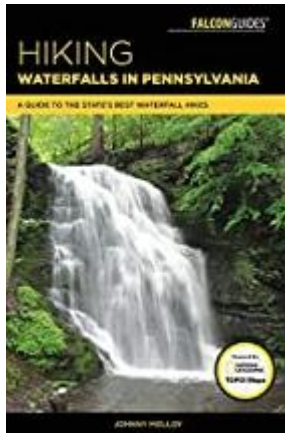
Other Information Resources:

There is plenty of information online and on social media about local waterfalls – just do a search on “Pennsylvania waterfalls” or “Sullivan County Pennsylvania waterfalls.” For those that prefer a printed reference, here are three of my favorites – all somewhat different – and all available from our friends at *The Sullivan Review* in Dushore (<https://thesullivanreview.com/books/>).



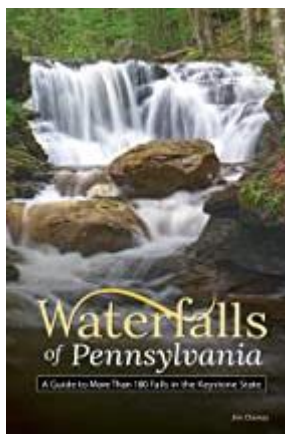
Pennsylvania Waterfalls – A Guide For Hikers & Photographers by Scott E. Brown

The emphasis of this guide is photographing waterfalls – with plenty of helpful advice and tips on doing just that. This book features 52 waterfalls, focusing on the most photogenic falls across the state – with 13 Sullivan County falls included. The guide includes descriptions of each falls, location, time needed to hike to and a rating of the difficulty of reaching the falls, and an overall rating of the fall on a scale one to five.



Hiking Waterfalls in Pennsylvania – A Falcon Guide by Johnny Molloy

Hiking is the emphasis of this guide – listing 54 separate hikes that include at least one, and often, several waterfalls. The guide also includes a helpful table that identifies the hikes that are best for children, backpacking, nature-lovers, etc. Maps of each hike are included along with the distance, difficulty, time to hike and trail surface material.



Waterfalls of Pennsylvania – A Guide to More Than 180 Falls in the Keystone State by Jim Cheney

This is the newest of the guides mentioned here – being published in 2020. It also includes the most waterfalls - over 180 across the state. Along with descriptions, location, directions and rating of difficulty, website addresses are provided for many of the falls where one can obtain additional information.

And Coming Soon: Ruth Rode and Dave Kowalewski are hard at work on *Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and the Loyalsock State Forest!* This will be a backpacking map/guide featuring over 50 local waterfalls and 17 vistas. Updates in the next Vista!



Pennsylvania Game Commission Deputy Warden (and Vice Chairman of the *Friends of Worlds End State Park*) Michael Scott is pictured cradling an orphan bear cub found in Sullivan County. The cub and a sibling were both successfully placed with a new, hibernating mother bear.

To support the Friends of Worlds End State Park, check out the SUPPORT section of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation website and designate your gift to the FRIENDS OF WORLDS END STATE PARK!

<https://parksandforests.org/support/ways-to-give/>

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PHOTO CREDITS: Cover: Dan Mumford. Page 2: Chris Andy. Page 3: Dan Mumford.

Waterfalls of Sullivan County article by Dan Mumford. Photos: Pages 6-7 of Dry Run Falls: Kyle Fawcett. Page 7 of Cottonwood Falls: Dan Mumford. Page 8 of Double Run Waterfalls: Dan Mumford. Page 9 of Sullivan Run Falls: Dan Mumford. Page 10 of Neeneha/Mineral Spring Falls: Kyle Fawcett. Page 11 of East Branch Falls: Dan Mumford. Page 12 of Rode Falls: Dan Mumford. Lee Falls (left): Chris Andy. Lee Falls (right): Dan Mumford. Page 13 of Ketchum Run: (top): Scott Bartman. (lower left): Dan Mumford. Page 14: Dutchman Falls: Kyle Fawcett (top), Chris Andy (mid-page). Page 15: High Rock falls: Dan Mumford. Page 16: Dan Mumford.