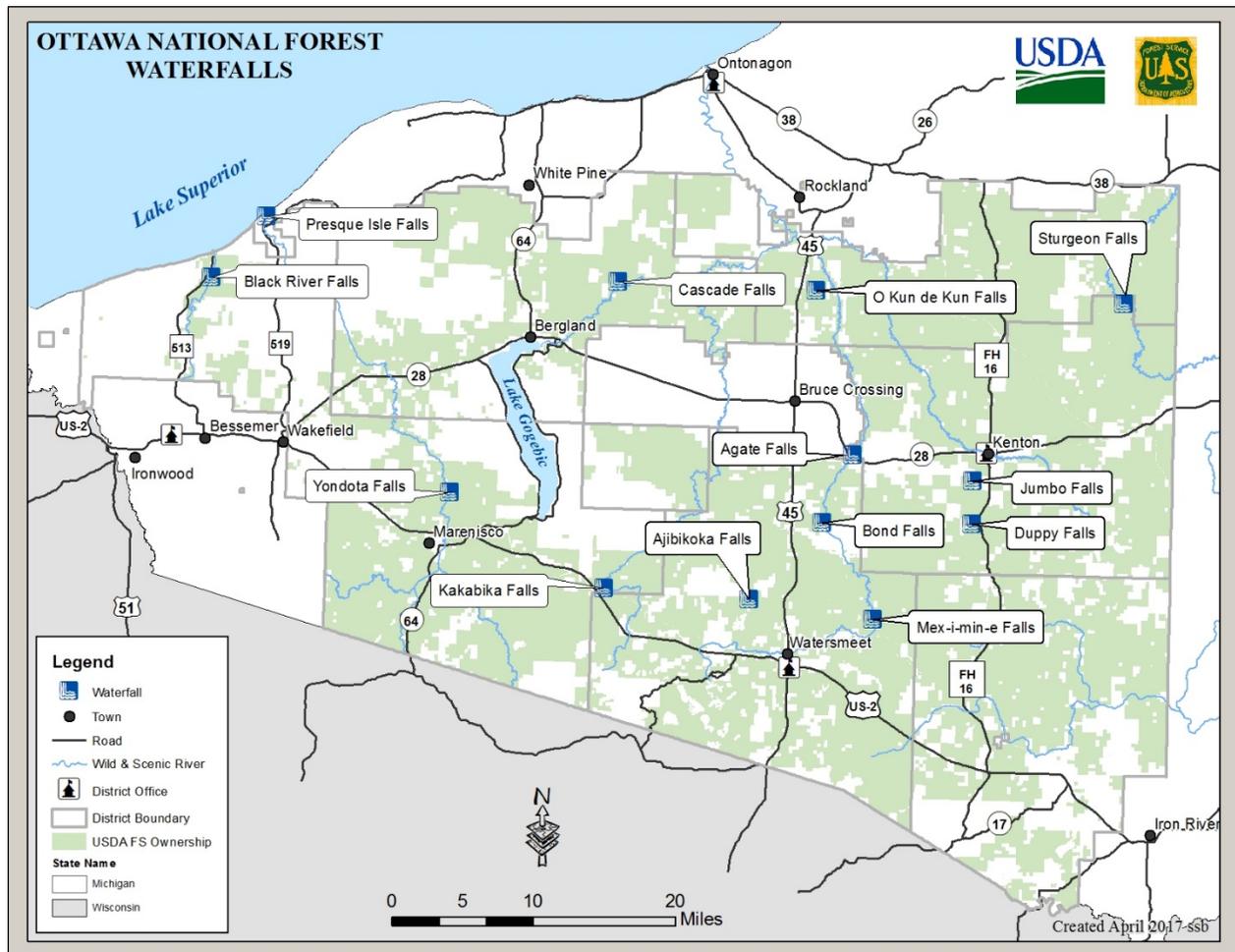




# Waterfalls Recreation Opportunity Guide

Known as “Waterfall Country,” the Ottawa is home to many beautiful waterfalls. No trip to the Ottawa is complete without exploring these scenic wonders!

4/2019



The Ottawa National Forest is known as waterfall country! Trails mark the way to many of the Ottawa’s waterfalls, but others require the use of a map and a compass. Pack your camera and water bottle as you explore the magnificent waterfalls of the Ottawa.

Visit these beautiful areas all year long! In the summer, flora and fauna adorn the shoreline of the falls, and the plummeting winter temperatures create an eerie wonderland of ice and snow.



**Sturgeon Falls** – Listen for the reedy tremolo of a Hermit Thrush, or examine the forest floor for the wildflowers that bloom in the quiet shade along Sturgeon Falls. The trail is rated moderately difficult because of its length and grade changes.

From Sidnaw, MI - Take M-28 east, turn left on Forest Road 2200 and travel approximately 11 miles north. Veer left on Forest Road 2270 on the east edge of the Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness.

**Latitude:** 46.534247 **Longitude:** -88.652094

**Duppy Falls** – The trail to the river was created by trout fishermen. There is an abandoned state quarry near the falls, if you walk quietly along the open field at the edge of the old quarry you might catch a glimpse of deer. Be sure to note the wildflowers in the open areas.

From Kenton, MI – Take Forest Highway 16 south to Forest Road 3610 and make a right. Then go about 1/4 mile to an unmarked trail. Follow the unmarked trail toward the west. When you reach the river go upstream to the falls.

**Latitude:** 46.413807 **Longitude:** -88.910858



**Photo (above): Jumbo Falls**

**Jumbo Falls** – Old growth hemlocks line the trail to the crystal clear waters of Jumbo Falls.

From Kenton, MI - Take highway M-28 west. Turn south on Golden Glow Road and travel approximately 2 miles to Forest Road 4589 (Jumbo Pit Road). Turn left and take Forest Road 4589 (Jumbo Pit Road) to Forest Road 4589-B, you will veer right to stay on Forest Road 4589-B. Keep to the right as you pass the gravel pit and continue to the end of the road where you will find the trail to the falls.

**Latitude:** 46.457753 **Longitude:** -88.912228

**Mex-i-min-e Falls** – This beautiful waterfall can be accessed from the Burned Dam Campground via a short trail down to the river. Meximine Falls was the inspiration for the print "*Spirit of the Ottawa*," now available in the Bear's Den Gift Shop at the Ottawa Visitor Center.

From Watersmeet, MI - Take Old US 2 east approximately 6 miles to Forest Road 4500. Follow Forest Road 4500 to the Burned Dam Campground. Listen for the roar of the water and follow the sound to the short, well-used trail from the campground to the falls.

**Latitude:** 46.313237 **Longitude:** -89.054089

**Bond Falls** – Although not part of the Ottawa National Forest, this beautiful series of waterfalls is surrounded by the National Forest and is one of the most popular waterfalls in the Upper Peninsula. A developed trail is maintained with steps and bridges across the river. A Recreation Passport is required to enter the falls area from the bottom parking lot. The Bond Falls Scenic Site parking area and trail from this location are accessible.

Contact Michigan Department of Natural Resources at 906-353-6651 or Bond Falls Outpost at 906-827-3235 for additional information.

From Watersmeet, MI - Take Highway 45 north approximately 9 miles to Paulding, turn east on Bond Falls Road. Travel about 4-1/2 miles to this well signed parking area and falls.

**Latitude:** 46.406733 **Longitude:** -89.128797

**Agate Falls** – Although not part of the Ottawa National Forest, this waterfall is surrounded by the National Forest. An accessible trail from the Michigan roadside park leads under the road and to a viewing area at the top of the falls. Look for the old railroad trestle over the river. It will add historic interest and depth to your photos.

From Bruce Crossing, MI - Take M-28 east 7 miles and turn right into the Michigan roadside park. You can access the trail from the parking area.

**Latitude:** 46.481331 **Longitude:** -89.090288

**O Kun de Kun Falls** – Aspen and mixed hardwoods grace the gently rolling terrain along the 1-1/3 mile long trail to O Kun-de-Kun. Keep your eyes open for frogs, squirrels, and dragon flies. Because of its distance, this trail is labeled moderately difficult. Watch for slick spots in the trail after a rain.

From Bruce Crossing, MI - Head north on Highway 45 approximately 8 miles to the parking area. This is also a trailhead for the North Country National Scenic Trail.

**Latitude:** 46.648865 **Longitude:** -89.150461

**Yondota Falls** – This is a series of falls, so be sure you walk far enough to see all of them. The trail is not long, but it does drop in elevation along the river, so the uphill return hike makes this a moderately difficult trail.

From Marenisco, MI - Take County Road 523 north. There is a small parking area near the bridge that crosses the river. The main trail is on the north side of the river, but you can hike down either side.

**Latitude:** 46.429405 **Longitude:** -089.681566



**Picture (above): Yondota Falls**

**Ajibikoka Falls** – This waterfall is about 40 feet high and the hike is of moderate difficulty. Advanced orienteering skills are required to locate this secluded gem. It is not particularly difficult terrain, but you should have a good pair of hiking boots, bug spray, a map, and a compass. Check out the unusual quartz outcroppings around the falls.

From Watersmeet, MI - Take County Road 206 west to Forest Road 5120. Then park your car off the road. Follow Forest Road 5120 along the west side of Brush Lake for about a 1/2-mile. Then take a compass reading and hike northeast.

**Latitude:** 46.330371 **Longitude:** -89.237780



**Photo (above): Kakabika Falls**

**Kakabika Falls** – The falls are a series of “S” turns that descend as the river drops in elevation. The trail is not long and not very difficult. There are some choice berry picking locations and nice fishing holes along the trail.

From Watersmeet, MI - Travel west on US 2 approximately 15 miles to County Road 527. Turn right (north) onto County Road 527 and travel approximately 1/2-mile to the parking area for the falls.

**Latitude:** 46.336666 **Longitude:** -89.453005

**Cascade Falls** – Grab your camera because the word ‘cascade’ is the perfect description for this waterfall. There are two trails that lead to the falls. The main trail is the easiest, with only moderate changes in elevation. The second trail, Bluff Trail, leaves and rejoins the main trail, but is quite challenging; however the view is definitely worth the extra effort.

From Bergland, MI – Head east on M-28, turn north on Forest Road 400. Follow the signs to the parking area at the trailhead.

**Latitude:** 46.652042 **Longitude:** -89.445967

**Presque Isle Falls** – Although not part of the Ottawa National Forest, we recommend a visit to this beautiful series of waterfalls. There are several falls on the Presque Isle River; those most visited are within the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.

A Recreation Passport is required for areas within Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, please call 906-885-5275 for additional information.

From Wakefield, MI - Take Highway M-28 to County Road 519. Follow County Road 519 north. When you come to South Boundary Road keep going straight. (This will lead to a parking area.) Take your time and enjoy the view. Manabezho Falls is near where the mouth of the river empties into Lake Superior.

**Latitude:** 46.787132 **Longitude:** -89.684143

**Black River Falls** – There are five distinct and picturesque waterfalls within the Black River Harbor Recreation Area. All can be accessed by traveling County Road 513 or by hiking the North Country National Scenic Trail from the Black River Harbor parking lot. Observation platforms and a boardwalk trail system can be accessed from trailheads located off of County Road 513. Just watch for the signs. Whichever route you choose, hiking the trails to these falls will be rewarding:

**Rainbow Falls** – A 1/2-mile hiking trail will take you from a paved parking lot to a stairway dropping down to an observation platform overlooking the scenic Black River and Rainbow Falls. Aptly named, the falling water creates a mist that can sometimes produce a rainbow effect. Just imagine the beautiful images you will be able to capture!



**Picture (above): Gorge Falls**

**Sandstone Falls** - While Sandstone Falls is not a large waterfall, the varied rock formations and hollows carved out of sandstone and conglomerate rock by stream erosion make this little falls well worth the 1/4-mile hike.

**Potawatomi and Gorge Falls** – There are a few different routes to these falls. A 600 foot trail from the Potawatomi Falls parking lot will take you to the Potawatomi Falls viewing platform, where you can also walk along the trail as you view the river and falls. Gorge Falls is only a short distance north of Potawatomi Falls. A 500 foot asphalt surface trail, located at the south end of the Gorge Falls parking area, will also connect you to Potawatomi Falls viewing platform; this trail, vault toilet, and viewing platform are accessible, providing a unique opportunity for all to view one of our areas most beautiful waterfalls. A 400 foot trail to Gorge Falls is located at the north end of the Gorge Falls parking lot.



**Picture (above): Potawatomi Falls**

**Great Conglomerate Falls** - This 3/4-mile hiking trail will drop steadily as you near the riverbank. At the falls, the river separates into two sections, falling 40 feet around an island of conglomerate rock. Old growth hemlock and hardwood add to the natural beauty of the area. Gorge and Potawatomi Falls can also be reached from Great Conglomerate Falls, by hiking north approximately 1/3-mile, via the North Country National Scenic Trail.

**Ottawa National Forest information is available in large print upon request from the Forest Supervisor's Office in Ironwood, MI (906) 932-1330, TTY 771.**