

Taughannock Falls State Park - Self-Guided Tour

Park Website: <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/taughannockfalls>

There is a \$9 per vehicle entrance fee at the park.

We recommend two options for your visit:

(1) Visit the Taughannock Falls Overlook:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/uoghePS77oe3gVY98>

For those looking for a short and easy trip, you can drive up and park at a scenic overlook with an excellent view of the falls from above. There are a number of educational signs describing the geologic history of the gorge posted around the overlook.

(2) Hike the Gorge Trail to the base of Taughannock Falls:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/16NKGyHh7421CLzm7>

If you are looking for a slightly longer trip, the Gorge Trail is a roughly 1 mile long (2 mile round trip) gentle and well-maintained trail that runs along the stream in the gorge and ends just below the main falls, with great views.

Ithaca's Museum of the Earth has put together an audio tour along this trail that you can access on your phone with the link or QR code below:

<https://izi.travel/en/fd1e-taughannock-state-park-geology-tour/en>



More Resources on Taughannock Falls:

- The geology of Taughannock State Park
<https://earthathome.org/finger-lakes-geology/geology-taughannock-falls/>
- Excerpt on Taughannock Fall State Park from “Gorges History: Landscapes and Geology of the Finger Lakes Region” by Art Bloom (emeritus Cornell geology professor)
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mDRHkTrVBW-IXMkChDQyDKupNdOxODbW/view?usp=sharing>

More Resources on Glaciation in the Finger Lakes:

- Natural history of the Finger Lakes: Glaciers
<https://www.gofingerlakes.org/natural-history-of-the-region-part-2/>
- The geology of the Fingers Lakes and its relationship to past glaciations
<https://earthathome.org/finger-lakes-geology/geology-finger-lakes/>

For a longer discussion of the local geology with more figures, here is a video of a ~45 minute talk by Cornell's Professor Matt Pritchard discussing some of the interesting glacier-related formations in the Finger Lakes region of New York:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JpRvWzxhvl&t=50s>