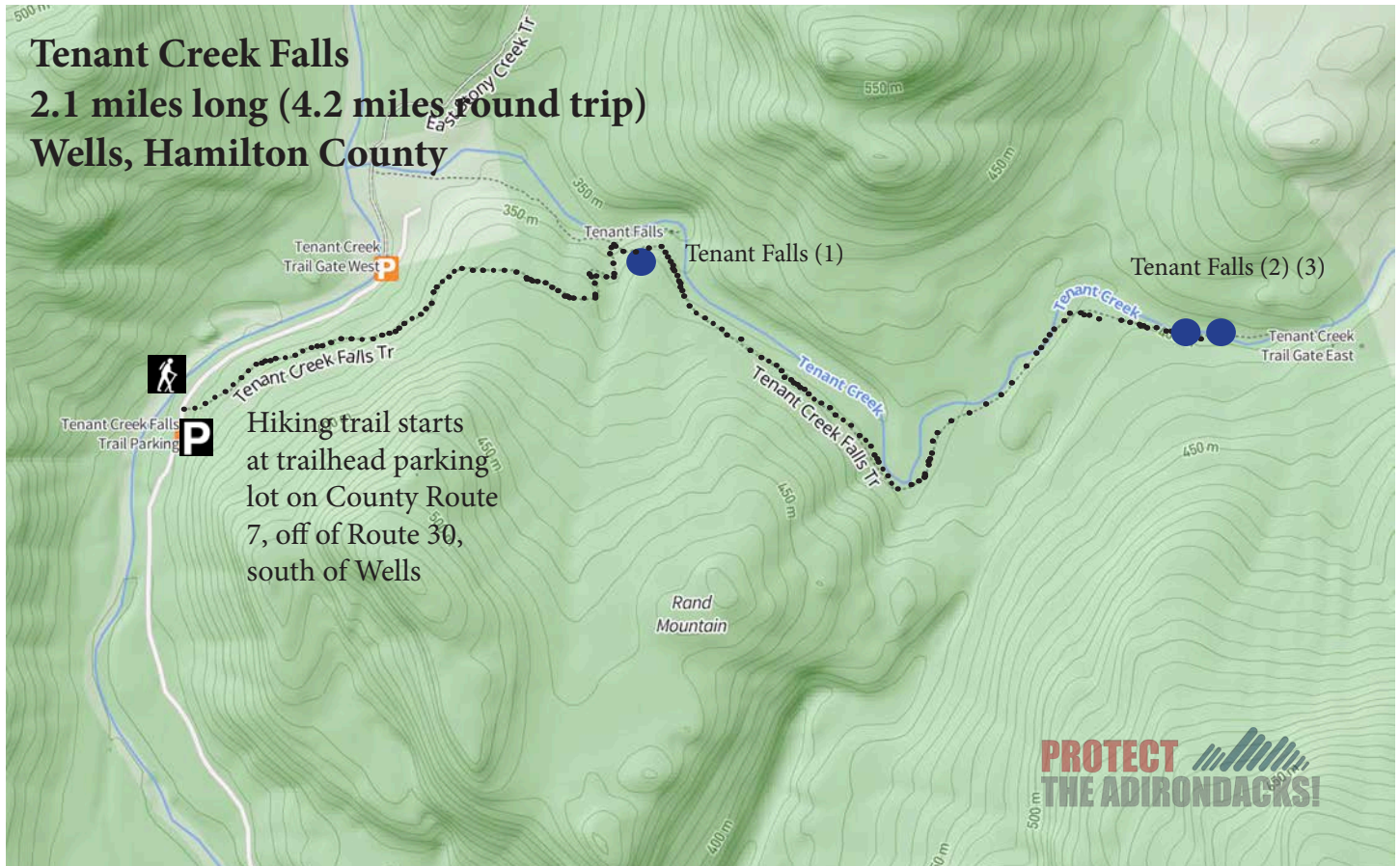


Tenant Creek Falls



The Tenant Creek Falls trail is a relatively short hike that is accessed from a parking area a seasonal (unpaved) dirt road that starts from the northern end of County Route 7 in Hamilton County, south of the hamlet of Wells. The trail is on public Forest Preserve lands in the Wilcox Lake Wild Forest. The 2.1-mile trail leads to three separate waterfalls, each accompanied by a large swimming hole at their base.

The first waterfall is 0.9-miles from the trailhead. This part of the trail widely popular for the beauty and accessibility of the waterfall. The trail is trampled in many places, eroded and wet, but easy to follow. The surrounding forest mixed northern hardwoods, with large diameter white pine, hemlock, and ash. The first waterfall is the most popular destination of the hike and may have several groups present at once on a nice day.

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After the first waterfall, the trail runs for 1.2 miles, mainly following alongside Tenant Creek, which is very scenic. This section of the trail, though less heavily used than the trail to the first waterfall, is easy to follow.

The forest surrounding both Tenant Creek itself and the accompanying trail is an old and tall mix of hardwood and conifers. There are massive white pines and hemlock, a healthy population of white ash and occasional maple, and the forest floor houses an abundance of toads and garter snakes. The second and third waterfalls are within two hundred yards of each other. They are smaller than the first, but equally beautiful, and offer more solitude.

The short distance, minor elevation change, and entertaining destinations make this a popular trail for families with small children and anyone else looking for a good ratio between effort and reward. Those to whom the effort is the reward will likely venture further to the other waterfalls. The trail out is the same as the trail in.

Help Protect the Forest Preserve and Be Prepared When You Hike: Please follow “carry in, carry out” rules for all trash and follow **Leave No Trace** principles when hiking in the public Forest Preserve and other wild areas. The 7 Leave No Trace principles are: 1) Plan ahead and prepare ; 2) Stay on hiking trails and camp at designated areas; 3) Dispose of human waste and trash properly; 4) Leave what you find; 5) Minimize campfires; 6) Respect wildlife; 7) Respect other hikers. **Educated and prepared hikers do not damage the environment or need search and rescue unless injured.**