

Wahconah Falls

Another of the waterfalls of Berkshire County, Wahconah, like most, is technically a cascade—the water drops several times rather than just once. The lowest and largest drop is 40 feet. The popular site and gorge is located at Wahconah Falls State Park on Route 9 in Dalton.

GETTING THERE

Coming from Dalton center on Route 9 east toward Windsor, turn right at the sign. The parking lot is on the right about 1 mile up the gravel Wahconah Road. No fee, no camping, no lifeguard, but a composting toilet.

THE TRAIL

A sometime party spot, at last visit it had been meticulously cleaned. The public should treat a beautiful resource with respect. Like all state properties and most town and private ones, there are no trash barrels. Visitors are asked to remove what they bring in; some do. On this 53-acre tract, you will find a deep gulf, rocky ledges, large hemlocks, and a scattering of picnic grills. Trails meander through the woods on either side of the brook. The falls dive deeply over ledges below Windsor Reservoir on a tributary of the Housatonic. Deep pools below beckon to cool your feet. However, swimming is not allowed, due to the unsafe conditions.

According to legend, Wahconah was an Indian maid who fell for the handsome Nessacus rather than the older, politically expedient suitor. Of the several versions of the myth, one describes a contest to see which man could leap across the brook above the falls. When Nessacus doesn't make it, Wahconah leaps in after him, and both tumble to their deaths over the falls.

DALTON
HIKING DISTANCE: a few hundred yards
WALKING TIME: a few minutes
VERTICAL GAIN: N/A
MAP: Peru/Windsor

