

49 BATTLE CREEK FALLS



KEY AT-A-GLANCE INFORMATION

LENGTH: 1.6 miles round-trip
ELEVATION GAIN: 450'
ELEVATION AT TRAILHEAD: 5,221'
CONFIGURATION: Out-and-back
DIFFICULTY: Easy
SCENERY: Deep-canyon waterfall and valley views
EXPOSURE: Mostly shaded
TRAFFIC: Moderate
TRAIL SURFACE: Dirt, rock
HIKING TIME: 45 minutes–1.5 hours
WATER REQUIREMENTS: 0.5 liter
SEASON: Year-round; minimal avalanche risk in winter
ACCESS: In Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. No fees or permits. Horses and mountain bikes also use this trail.
MAPS: USGS Orem, Trails Illustrated Uinta National Forest (701)
FACILITIES: Water and vault toilet near trailhead
DOGS: On leash
SPECIAL COMMENTS: Especially beautiful in autumn with colors and a trailbed of fallen leaves



GPS TRAILHEAD COORDINATES

N40° 21.789 ′ W111° 42.042 ′

IN BRIEF

A popular, family-friendly route along a creek-bed in a deep canyon. The hike's payout: a 50-foot waterfall spraying down the side of a rock cliff.

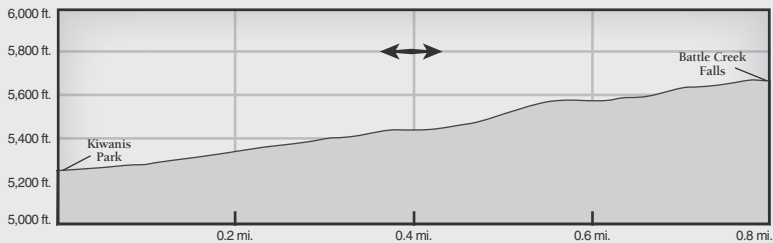
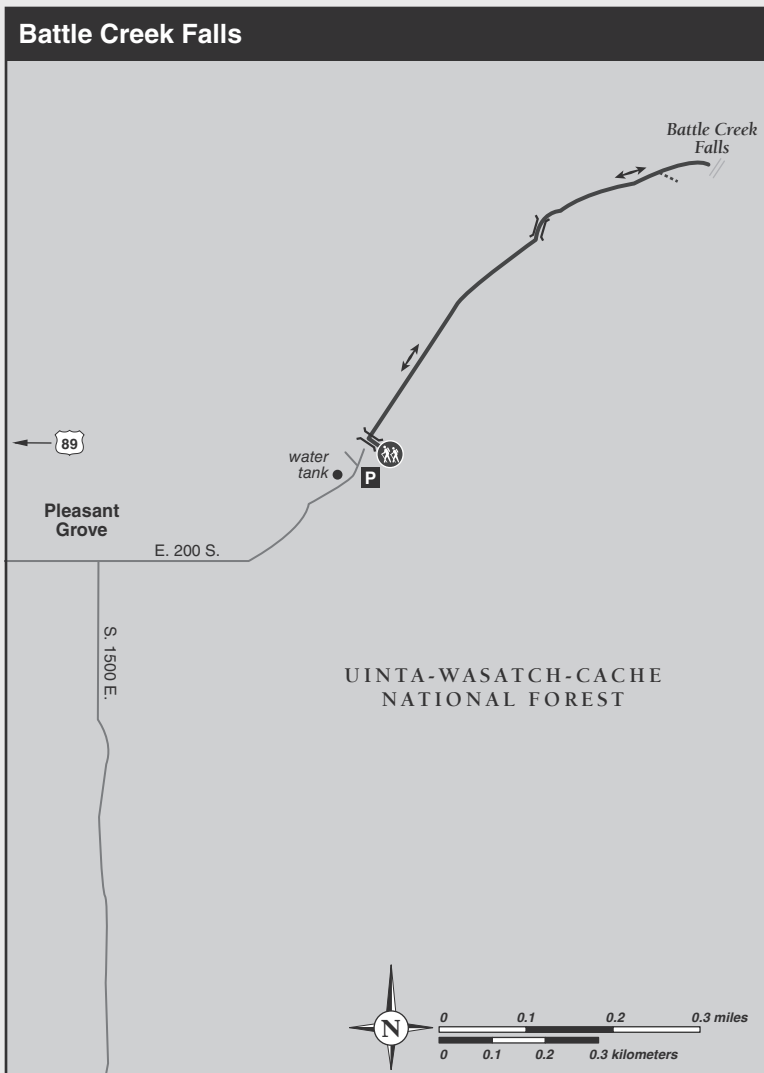
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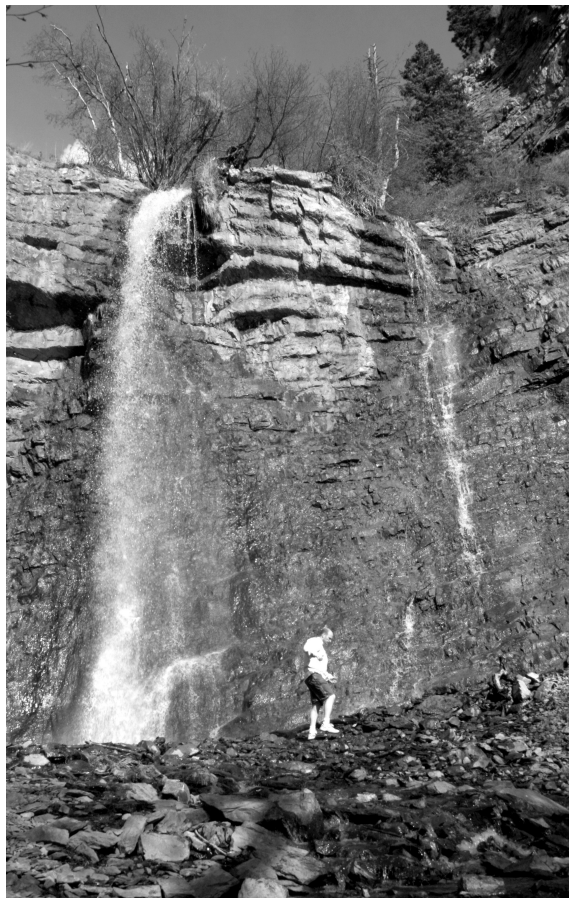
The Timpanogos massif, which dominates the eastern skyline of Utah County, has several canyons along its foothills that provide water to the towns below and access to the mountain's higher slopes. From the valley, you can most easily identify Battle Creek Canyon as the one immediately to the right (or south) of the G on the side of the mountain. Battle Creek supplies the water that fills the large tank and irrigates the orchards you pass on the way to the trailhead. In this area on February 28, 1849, a band of Ute Indians fought Captain John Scott and his men, pursuing Scott's party into the canyon.

Arriving at the parking area, walk toward the blue metal arch over the bridge that leads into Kiwanis Park. Find the trailhead by walking up the steep slope to your right, just a few feet before the bridge. Note the park's large

Directions

From Salt Lake City, go south on I-15 to Highland/Alpine (Exit 284). At the bottom of the off-ramp, turn left and take UT 92 east 7.4 miles toward the mouth of American Fork Canyon. As UT 92 enters the canyon, take UT 146 to the right and up the hill. Continue south 4.8 miles on UT 146 (Canyon Road) to 200 South in Pleasant Grove. Turn left onto 200 South and continue east 1.8 miles. As the pavement ends, continue another 0.3 mile up the wide dirt road, passing the large water tank on your way to the parking area next to Kiwanis Park.





Battle Creek Falls

picnic pavilion, drinking water, and vault toilet, all under the shade of giant cottonwood trees. As the trail climbs the hillside, it soon joins a jeep road on the right.

Don't expect to see any water in the creekbed to your left. Because the water is diverted into underground pipes just up the canyon, it remains dry throughout the year. At 0.3 mile, you'll see a water-diversion basin where Battle Creek begins its life underground. Beyond this diversion basin, follow the tumbling creek another 0.2 mile and cross to the north side of the creek over a sturdy wooden footbridge.

After it crosses the bridge, the trail steepens considerably. Shards of shale from the cliffs above cover the trail's dirt base. Still, the trail provides sure footing. Within about 100 feet after you cross the bridge, the falls appear. About 50 feet before the falls, the trail divides. The right spur descends to the base of the falls, and the main trail to the left leads to the top.

A natural spring feeds Battle Creek, augmented by snowmelt. So while the falls' spray becomes heaviest in spring, the creek and the falls are perennial. Battle Creek Falls serves as a popular escape from summer's heat, with visitors enjoying the cooling spray near its base. The water falls gently enough that even young children can safely walk and play under the main channel of water as it bounces off the rock wall. Local adventurers often rappel down the falls in summer.

The trail leading to the top of the falls continues up the canyon and joins the Great Western Trail, which surrounds much of Mount Timpanogos and connects all the canyon trails on Timpanogos's western slopes.

At the lower elevations, below the falls, the vegetation consists of Gambel oak, sage, and cottonwoods. Conifers and aspens grow at higher elevations near

the falls and above. You'll often spot pinyon jays, but scrub jays—while common—prove to be a bit more elusive.

Along the way, you're likely to see more people than animals. Families out for a day hike will find the trail suitable for children, while young couples and older adults can get some exercise just minutes from the neighborhoods in the valley below.

NEARBY ACTIVITIES

The U.S. Forest Service's **Pleasant Grove Ranger Station** (801-785-3563) is on the way to the trailhead at 390 N. 100 East (UT 146). The office offers maps and publications about recreation in Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.