

# Local Hike from Kathleens Barn

[www.kathleensbarn.com](http://www.kathleensbarn.com)

## Directions to this leisurely walk on Bard Campus:

— Go out the Barn driveway, turn left onto Broadway, then turn right going south on 9G, take your third right onto Annandale Rd with the two huge stop signs, Rte 103. this takes you into the Bard main campus. Drive thru the campus, notice the Chapel on your right, then the beige building of the student center. Your next right is Blithewood Rd. with a gatehouse on the corner. Continue past the Community Garden and turn left into the parking lot. Park at the rear.

— Go back and enjoy the Community Garden, built and overseen by my good friend Paul Marienthal. It is a lovely spot in the heart of a meadow with luscious flowers, veggies, a circular cedar bench and graceful entrance arch.

— Return to the rear of the parking and observe a building on your left with a wide, gravel path leading down into the woods. Take the path and momentarily you will come the top of the waterfalls. Continue on, taking note of the old swimming pool, full of graffetti. You can swim at the bottom of the falls...and climb them too for an additional thrill.



Continuing on this path, you will come to a dam... and a little further, a second cataract, equally dramatic. These falls provide in miniature a sense of the famous Hudson River landscape, well loved by artists and romantics of the past and present.

Shortly the SawKill, as this stream is called, enters into South Bay of Tivoli Bays. Just up ahead is Bard's Ecology Field Station.

# BLITHEWOOD AND THE WATERFALLS

This tour is a five minute drive from the Barn and all very doable with children.



Fisher Performing Arts Center



Blithewood



Bard Chapel



Community Garden



Retracing your steps up out of the Glen, you will come back onto Blithewood Rd...go left and "stroll down the lane". Go visit The Bard Hessel Museum, hours: Wed-Sun, 1 - 5, FREE, which is on your right. Continue shortly and come to what was once Blithewood, the Hudson River Mansion of the Zabriskie family, donated to Bard College and for many years, a popular women's dorm, now the Levy Economic Institute.



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Here you will find an inviting and sacred walled in garden with a fountain, exquisite plantings...perfect for quiet reflection and conversation. I personally have had many significant moments in this locale. Take in the large sward of lawn within the scope of the Catskills. Spend a moment with "the hit by lightning tree," which is a red and silver maple hybrid.

## Here are two little-known options to explore...

The second option is...off the lawn, down to the right, is another path leading into the woods, again a bit steep. As you approach the bend in the path, just before a bridge crossing over the stream, look off to your left and you will see, a somewhat hidden tree-house of sorts, that is climbable with a little dexterity...continuing on the path, shortly to the left is a peninsula, surrounded by cattails and phragmites, worth checking out.

Hungry?....Venture back into main campus and stop at the coffee shop in the student center...here you can get great sandwiches...really cheap! And play a game of pool, if you are so inclined, check out the bulletin boards which are quite intriguing, I find.

Heading straight down towards the River from the Garden, find a path that leads to what the locals call, "Blithewood Point," a spit of land jutting out into the river with a sense of being cast out into space. Take note: The path is short and steep.

