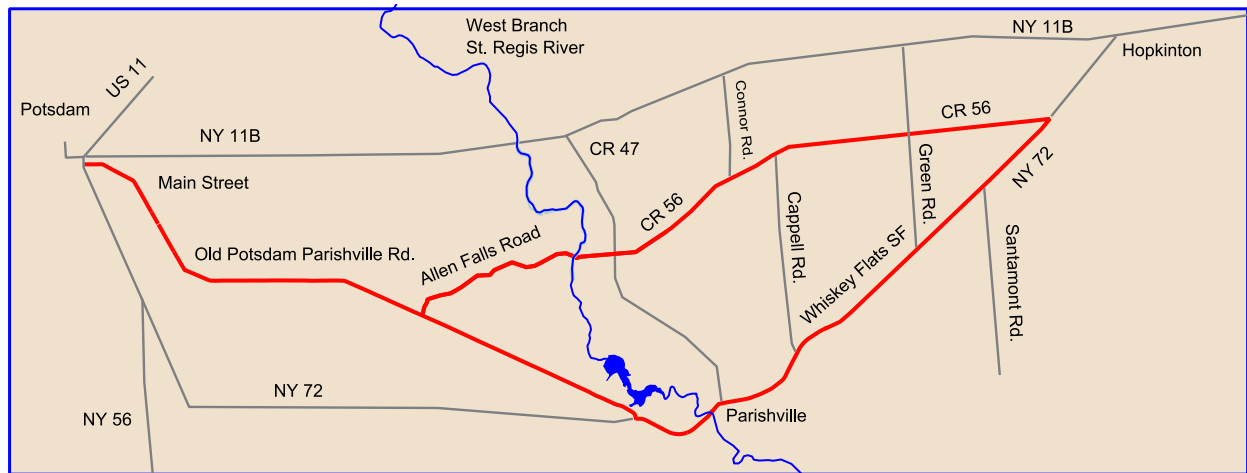


Potsdam to Whiskey Flats State Forest

This 29 mile loop route starts in Potsdam, and heads east up to Parishville, near the Blue Line of the Adirondack Park. It then heads east through Whiskey Flats State Forest. Just shy of Hopkinton, it heads back toward Potsdam at a somewhat lower elevation where farms and fields replace the forest east of Parishville. The route crosses over the West Branch of the St. Regis River, with attractive locations for a pause on both crossings.



St. Regis River entering the flume in Parishville

The route starts at the junction of Main Street and Pierrepont Avenue (NY 56) in Potsdam. Parking is available in the municipal lot just behind the fire station on the northwest corner. From this parking lot, cross Pierrepont and head east on Main Street. As you approach the edge of the village, Main Street curves right and becomes Outer Main, as it passes by the east side of the SUNY Potsdam campus. At the village edge, Outer Main becomes the Old Potsdam-Parishville Road. This road bears left at a Y-junction at 1.9 miles, and gradually climbs toward Parishville. You will pass the upper end of Allen Falls Flow, and then come to a stop sign where the road ends at NY 72. Turn left on NY 72, and you will steeply climb up to the hamlet of Parishville. On entering Parishville, you will find a convenience store on your left. Soon after is the bridge over the west branch of the St. Regis. The river is dammed just below the highway. If you take a left just after the bridge, you will find a pedestrian bridge below the dam that overlooks a dramatic gorge that the river passes through.

Unfortunately, a fairly obtrusive chain length fence has been recently erected that limits access to the gorge—necessitated by the liability risk to the landowner. Still, there is a nice view down the gorge from the pedestrian bridge.

After crossing the river, continue east on NY 72. In 1.3 miles, you will come to Cappell Road on the left, and the Timber Tavern on the right. This marks the start of the Whiskey Flats State Forest, and you will find the forest on one or both sides of the road for the next several miles. In about 4 miles, you will find the Santamont Road on your right. Soon after, CR 56 will be on your left. Take the sharp left onto CR 56 to head back toward Potsdam. Note that this is St. Lawrence County Route 56, not New York State Highway 56, which is prominent inside Potsdam and is shown on the left (west) side of the route map.

Also, a side trip of just over a mile further on NY 72 beyond CR 56 will bring you to NY 11B in Hopkinton, where there is a convenience store.

Leg Distance (Miles) to Location	Location	Direction	GPS Data	Total Distance (Miles)
--	Start—Potsdam, junction of Main St and Pierrepont (NY 56)	Head east on Main Street (becomes Outer Main then Old Potsdam-Parishville Rd)	N44 40.119 W74 58.929	--
1.9	Y in road	Bear Left on Old Potsdam Parishville Rd.	N44 39.076 W74 57.319	1.9
6.3	End of Old Potsdam-Parishville Rd	Turn left on NY 72	N44 37.615 W74 50.110	8.2
1.1	Enter Parishville, cross St. Regis River	Continue straight on NY 72	N44 37.670 W74 48.902	9.3
1.3	Jct, Cappell Road	Continue straight on NY 72	N44 38.175 W74 47.600	10.6
4.4	Jct CR 56	Sharp left turn onto CR 56	N44 40.571 W74 43.484	15.0
6.0	Jct. CR 47	Continue straight on Allen Falls Road	N44 39.24 W74 50.42	21.0
0.5	St. Regis River	Cycle route continues straight-possible walk along the river to the Falls	N44 39.205 W74 51.101	21.5
2.4	Jct. with Old Potsdam Parishville Rd	Turn right onto Old Potsdam Parishville Rd.	N44 38.623 W74 53.491	23.9
5.1	Jct. of Main and Pierrepont,	End of route	N44 40.119 W74 58.929	29.0

CR 56 is lower in elevation than NY 72, and you will find mainly farms rather than forests along this route. We have noticed many apple trees on this ride back to Potsdam, some in the road's right of way and others on private property. The ride along CR 56 is pleasant and passes quickly.



Allen Falls on the St. Regis River

When you come to a stop sign, it will be CR 47, connecting Parishville to NY 11B. Continue straight, the road now becomes the Allen Falls Road. In a short distance, you will go down a hill into the river valley. If you stop at the bridge, you will find scenic views of the St. Regis both up- and down-stream. A short walk downstream along the eastern shore will bring you to the top of Allen Falls. This side trip is well worth the effort. We often sit on the bedrock at the top of the falls. The herd path to the bottom of the falls is challenging.

After crossing the river, the road rises steeply, and then crosses over the penstock delivering water to the hydroturbines. There is another steep rise, and then you come out on a flat stretch that will take you back to the Old Potsdam-Parishville Road. Turn right here, and head back into Potsdam and the end of the route.

For those wanting a shorter ride, it is possible to head north at CR 47, Cappell Road, or the Green Road. For riders inclined to stop at the Timber Tavern for their lunch, we suggest reversing the direction of the route, taking Allen Falls Road on the way out, and returning on NY 72. If you do this, you should check the hours before starting out on your ride.