

Rabun County officially your 'Waterfall Capital of Georgia'

By [Megan Horn](#) on Thursday, June 19, 2025



Enoch Autry/The Clayton Tribune. Mud Creek Falls in Sky Valley is one of the more than 30 named waterfalls in Rabun County, which has approximately 120 waterfalls in total.

Rabun County is known for its hiking trails, lakes and outdoor recreation activities where locals and visitors can enjoy the beautiful outdoors and reduce stress.

So, it's no surprise Rabun County was recently recognized by both the Georgia House of Representatives and Georgia Senate as the "Waterfall Capital of Georgia."

"Rabun County has so many wonderful attributes and so many wonderful things for the public to enjoy," said Andrew Harris, a Lake Burton resident who drafted the resolution and spearheaded the designation with Georgia District 10 Rep. Victor Anderson. "Victor [Anderson] was key in getting it passed."

Georgia Sen. Bo Hatchett, District 50, was also helpful in getting the proclamation passed.

"It was a partnership," Harris said about the collective effort.

Harris said the recognition supports "green tourism" and the idea of bringing in tourists who enjoy the beautiful mountains and natural environment.

“Our community is all about this beautiful environment and landscape. To me, it builds on other strengths,” Harris said about how being the “Waterfall Capital of Georgia” makes Rabun County unique from other areas.

“My motivation is trying to do something to help my community,” Harris said.

Harris added that the designation brings people to the county who respect the environment and support the outdoors.

In 2022, Rabun County was proclaimed the “Wooden Boat Capital of Georgia.” Harris said the two designations work together to enhance the outdoor recreation experience and tourism.

Harris said the Waterfall Capital resolution was read on the Georgia House and Senate floors and there were no objections, so they passed.

“I was absolutely thrilled to learn that Rabun County has received the designation of ‘Waterfall Capital of Georgia.’ Our local waterfalls are generally the most frequently visited destinations in our community, and waterfall information is generally the most-often requested,” said Rick Story, president of Forward Rabun/Rabun County Chamber of Commerce and director of development for Rabun County.

“I appreciate the great work and partnership with Mr. Andrew Harris on behalf of the Lake Burton Civic Association (LBCA), and our local legislators, Sen. Bo Hatchett and Rep. Victor Anderson, in helping us achieve this designation,” Story said.

A Resolution

The resolution from the Georgia House recognizing Rabun County as the “Waterfall Capital of Georgia” reads, “Whereas, Rabun County, Georgia, located in the Northeast corner of the state, consists of over 240,000 acres, most of which are public lands owned by the United States Forest Service and the Georgia Power Company; and whereas, these thousands of professionally managed acres consist mostly of mountains and watersheds that lend themselves to the formation of abundant waterfalls; and whereas, there are approximately 120 waterfalls in Rabun County including Mud Creek, Hemlock, Minnehaha, Dicks Creek, Martin Creek, Holcomb Creek, and others-more than double the number of waterfalls in any other county in the Peach State; and whereas, these waterfalls provide recreation and enjoyment for citizens of not only Rabun County but also citizens of Georgia; and

“Whereas, part of the enjoyment of these waterfalls is known as the “Waterfall Effect,” which occurs when water collides with itself and releases negative ions into the air that are believed to relieve stress, aid sleep, and increase energy in humans; and whereas, Rabun County’s waterfalls have attracted thousands of onlookers from all over the United States and created a culture of hiking and other outdoor activities that have spawned outfitters and other businesses that provide tours, equipment and clothing; and whereas, these businesses provide “green” economic activity that generates jobs and strengthens the overall economy of Rabun County and all of North Georgia.

“Now, therefore be it resolved by the House of Representatives that the members of this body recognize Rabun County as the Waterfall Capital of Georgia,” according to the resolution.

It was read and adopted by the House on Feb. 4, 2025. The Georgia Senate resolution reads similarly.

Marketing ‘Waterfall Capital of Georgia’

Harris and Anderson met with the Forward Rabun Marketing Committee on June 10 and presented the recognition to the group at the Rabun County Welcome Center.

Marketing committee members discussed that along with being the “Wooden Boat Capital of Georgia” and “Waterfall Capital of Georgia,” Rabun County is also the “Farm2Table Capital of Georgia” and an official Appalachian Trail (AT) Community designated by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

The marketing committee discussed how best to market Rabun County as the “Waterfall Capital of Georgia” through signage, press releases and outdoor exhibits.

Anderson agreed signage would be great and said he would work to enhance signage on a local level and help get the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) on board with signage along the highways.

“Make it a tool in a toolbox you are using,” Anderson said during the meeting about marketing the designations and encouraging tourism to the county.

The group also talked about the book, *Waterfalls of Georgia: A Comprehensive Guide With Over 700 Waterfalls*, written by Mark Oleg Ozboyd. Ozboyd was at the marketing meeting sharing the inspiration behind his book.

They also discussed ways to market the designations throughout the county and region and add waterfall education as well.

Harris said the designation of “Waterfall Capital of Georgia” is an important marking tool that highlights the unique attributes of Rabun County. He said it is positive for the community, and he looks forward to the “green tourism” that brings people to enjoy the outdoors in Northeast Georgia while also respecting and protecting the beautiful resources it has to offer.

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