



# A New National Park in Paterson

## *Help Us Plan the Future*

Dear Friends,

I look forward to welcoming the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park as a brand new area of the National Park Service. There are almost 400 national parks in the United States and each one celebrates a special place, person or event in American history. In Paterson, the Great Falls of the Passaic River and the surrounding historic buildings and raceways are the foundation for stories of Alexander Hamilton, the Industrial Revolution, the labor movement and the important contributions of immigrants to the making of America.

Over the next few years, the National Park Service will be working with the city of Paterson, the Municipal Utility Authority, community organizations and interested people nearby and across the country to develop this new national and local resource. A first step in creating a common vision will be the park's first General Management Plan (GMP).

This fall, we invite you to join us at open houses in Paterson where you will be able to explore, discuss, and make your voice heard on ways to guide programs, activities and preserving the Falls and historic areas. If you cannot attend an open house, see the *Getting Involved* section in this newsletter for other ways to connect and comment through the website and on Facebook. Either way, your ideas will go a long way in helping us choose a direction that best achieves our shared goals. We welcome everyone's ideas and assistance.

Thank you in advance for your participation. We look forward to working with you to create a vision and plan to make this another jewel in the national park system.

Sincerely,

Dennis Reidenbach  
Regional Director

## You're Invited!

Join us at one of these open houses to share your ideas for this new national park. Drop by and informally meet our planning team, get more information and share your comments.

### Thursday, November 17th, 2011

6:00 pm to 8:30 pm  
Center City Mall, Third Floor  
301 Main Street  
Paterson, NJ 07505

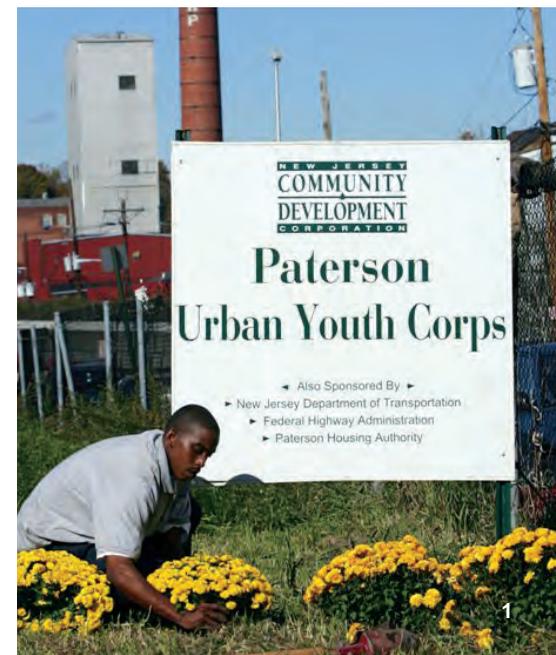
### Friday, November 18th, 2011

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm  
The Brownstone Hall  
351 W. Broadway  
Paterson, NJ 07522

### Saturday, November 19th, 2011

11:00 am to 3:00 pm  
New Jersey Community Development Corporation (NJCDC)  
32 Spruce Street  
Paterson, NJ 07501  
*Wear comfortable shoes  
and enjoy a park tour.*

For information on public transportation and driving directions to each of the sites, please visit the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/pagr>

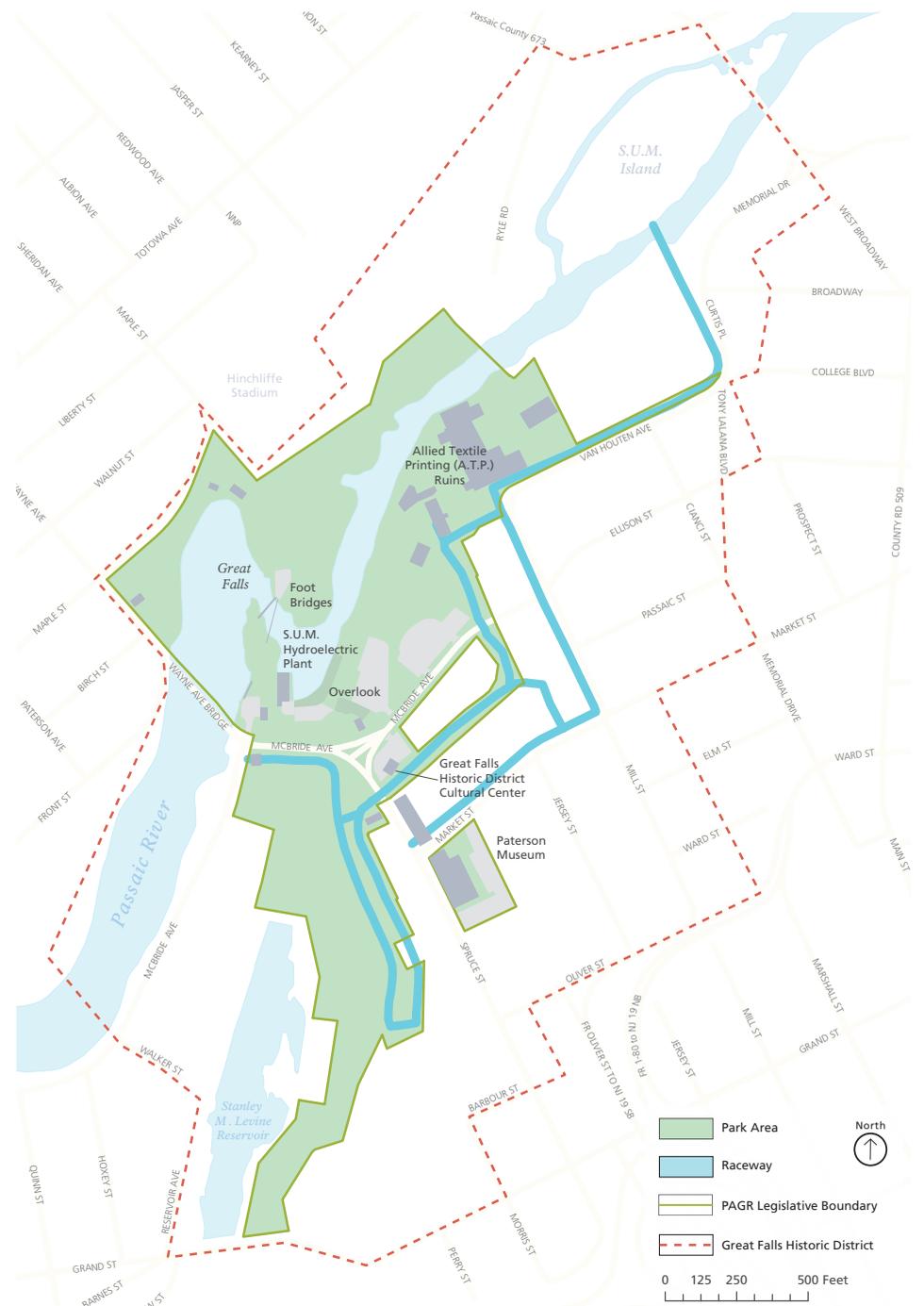


# A Brand New National Park

Since 1916, the American people have entrusted the National Park Service with the care of their national parks. National parks are here for everyone and the diversity in the national park system reflects the diversity of who we are as a nation. In places like Paterson, visitors will find experiences that bring enjoyment, inspiration and a sense of connection through interaction with the natural and historical landscapes, and the associated stories and meanings relevant to our lives today.

In 2009, Congress authorized the Secretary of Interior to establish a new National Historical Park at the Great Falls of Paterson, New Jersey for the purpose of preserving and interpreting for the benefit of present and future generations certain historical, cultural and natural resources associated with the Historic District. This designation set in motion a series of events to establish this new unit of the national park system.

The congressional legislation authorizing the establishment of Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park also provided for the establishment of a Federal Advisory Commission, composed of nine persons nominated by the Governor of New Jersey, the Passaic County Freeholder Board and the City of Paterson. This Commission is charged with advising the National Park Service and other key agencies in creating the park's General Management Plan.

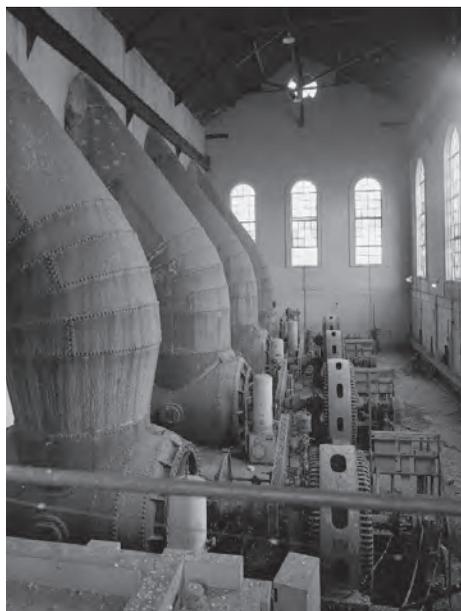


# A Proud Heritage

Paterson enjoys a distinguished history as one of this nation's earliest industrial centers. It owes its existence to the far-reaching vision of one of America's most important founders, and a shaper of our modern governmental and financial institutions, Alexander Hamilton.

Hamilton envisioned Paterson, with its water power provided by the Great Falls of the Passaic River, as America's counterpart and response to the industrial revolution occurring in England during the same period. Indeed, Hamilton was not beyond attracting, through inducements and active recruitment, the talents of those who knew of the English technological advancements despite English laws prohibiting exportation of such proprietary knowledge and skilled labor.

The history of the City of Paterson includes its beginnings as the ambitious project of Hamilton and the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures (S.U.M.) in 1792 at the Great Falls, the early development of water power systems for industrial use, and the various types of manufacturing that occurred in the District's mills into the 20th Century. These included cotton fabrics; railroad locomotives; textile machinery; jute; and silk spinning, weaving and dyeing, among many others. The Great Falls also represents compelling stories of the lives of immigrants who labored in the mills, those who owned and operated manufacturing concerns and became wealthy, and the quest of laborers and the labor movement for better working conditions and pay. Immigrants still settle today in Paterson to pursue their versions of Hamilton's vision, creating a diverse and vibrant culture.



# Looking to the Future: Creating a GMP



Picture yourself standing at the Great Falls overlook today. What do see, feel and experience? Now imagine what this place will look like 20 years from now. What changes in your view?

These questions about the future of Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park are being explored right now and we invite you to be part of creating that vision as we start the General Management Plan (GMP). A GMP lays out a vision and guides decision making to get there over the next 20 years. All units of the national park system are required to have a GMP that addresses resource protection, visitor use, facilities and boundary.

General management planning offers an open, structured decision making process that encourages and considers ideas and comments from many different people and groups. One of the goals for this GMP is to create, build and nurture long-lasting relation-

ships among those organizations, agencies and individuals interested in the park and its future.

Your ideas, expectations and concerns about the future of the park are important to us and will be carefully considered in decision making. In order to create the best possible future, these ideas and comments are matched with scholarly and scientific information and analysis.

The GMP must also comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This means that impacts to the social, cultural and natural environments in the park and surrounding areas will be taken into consideration.

All of the ideas, options and impacts for the future of the park are presented in a written document that will be available for you to read and make comments on. After all comments are received and considered, together, we will choose the best future for the park. A summary of the planning process, timeframe and ways for you to participate are provided on the following chart.

Photos: Members of the Paterson Great Falls YouthCorps engaged in a variety of efforts to improve the setting for the future National Park. Photo credit: Adali Rosario



# Planning Process for the General Management Plan

Estimated Time Frame	Planning Activity	Ways to Be Involved
Fall 2011	<b>Scoping</b> – Identify ideas, expectations, and comments related to the park with the public, government agencies and other stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review newsletter</li> <li>• Attend an Open House</li> <li>• Check out the website and learn more about the project</li> <li>• Voice your ideas and comments</li> </ul>
Winter 2011-12	<b>Planning Issues, Foundation and Resource Analysis</b> – Confirm park’s purpose, significance, fundamental resources, & primary interpretive themes; identify planning issues and resource conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in events</li> <li>• Review newsletter and website information</li> <li>• Attend an Open House</li> <li>• Send us comments and suggestions</li> </ul>
Spring 2012	<b>Develop and Present Preliminary Alternatives</b> – Outline different possible options for the park and provide opportunities for review and comment by public, partners, government agencies and other stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review newsletter and website information</li> <li>• Participate in discussion at an Open House</li> <li>• Express your comments on the preliminary alternatives</li> </ul>
Winter 2013	<b>Prepare and Distribute a Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement</b> - Review and comment by public, partners, government agencies and other stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the <i>Draft GMP/EIS</i></li> <li>• Attend an Open House</li> <li>• Share your written comments</li> </ul>
Spring 2013	<b>Revise Draft Plan and Prepare a Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement</b>	Review the <i>Final GMP/EIS</i> .
Summer 2013	<b>Implement the Approved Plan</b> – Prepare and issue a “Record of Decision” and implement plan as funding allows.	Help implement the plan.



# Get Involved with the GMP Now



This newsletter kicks off the public scoping period for the GMP. Over the coming months, we will be collecting your suggestions and comments to help us create a vision for the kind of place we want Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to be in the future. **We are interested in hearing your thoughts, especially on the following questions:**

What is most special to you about the Great Falls and surrounding historic buildings?

What are the resources that you feel have the ability to best tell the story of Paterson's heritage?

What types of activities, programs and facilities do you think should be available?

What problems need to be solved at the park to gain your support and use?

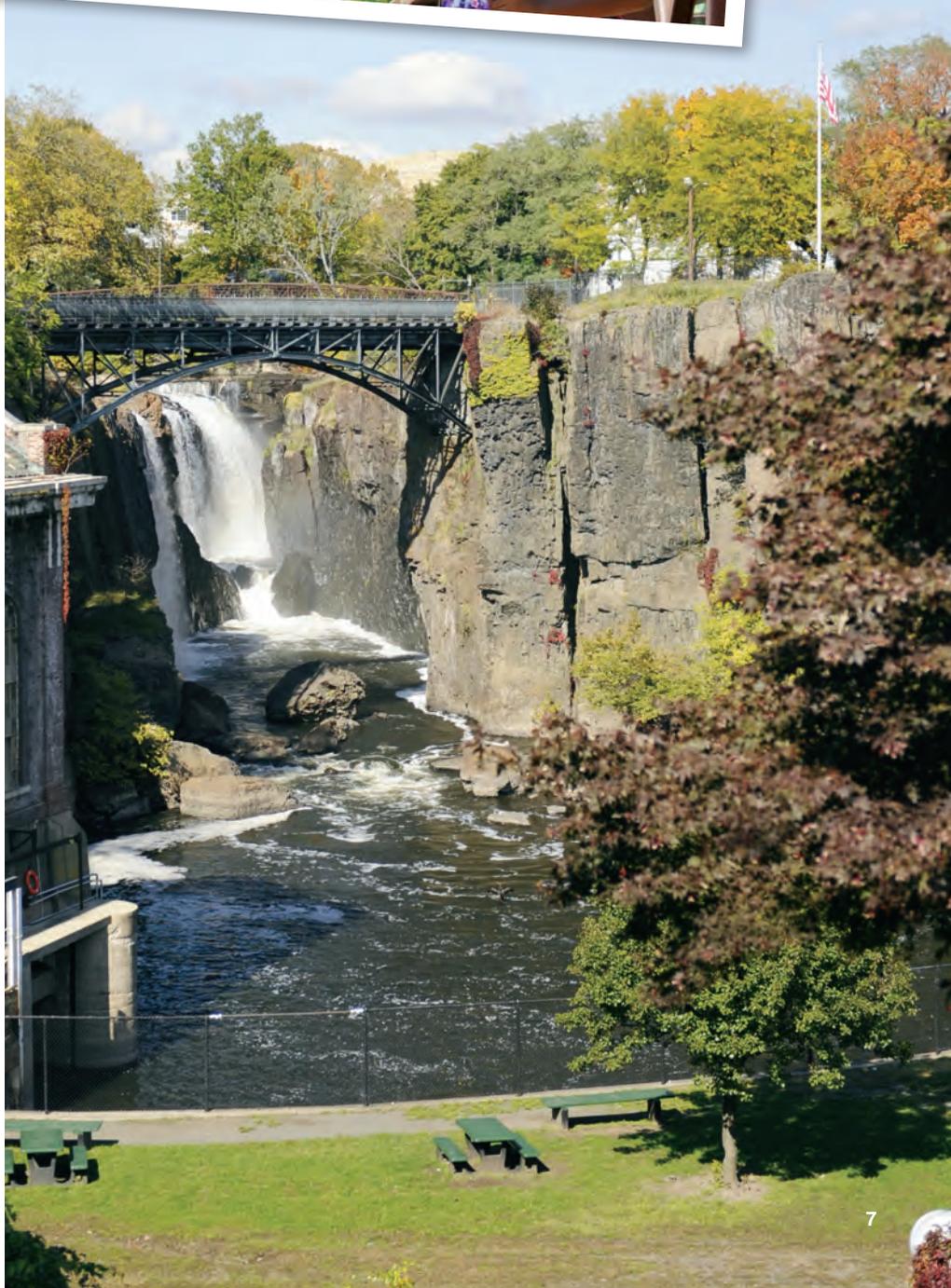
How should NPS and other partners best protect and preserve this special place?



# Stay Connected

There are many ways to learn more and stay connected with the GMP and future events:

- Visit the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park website at <http://www.nps.gov/pagr>. Check out the General Management Planning section for updated and expanded information on GMP activities.
- Drop by at one of the three Open Houses in November to learn more about the GMP. Talk with the planning team and Advisory Commission members, fill out a comment form or tell us your thoughts.
- Want to know when something new has been added? Join the electronic mailing list. Sign up on the website to receive e-blasts.
- Follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/GreatFallsNPS](http://www.twitter.com/GreatFallsNPS)
- “Like” us on the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park Facebook page.
- Fill out a comment form at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/pagr>.
- Encourage your neighbors and friends to also become involved.





US Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park  
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This newsletter is a publication of the National Park Service, Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park. For additional information please contact Superintendent, Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, 72 McBride Avenue Extension, Paterson, NJ, 07501; by email at [pagr\\_gmp@nps.gov](mailto:pagr_gmp@nps.gov). Visit us on the web at [www.nps.gov/pagr](http://www.nps.gov/pagr).



A new national park on the horizon.