



## Message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since the Great Falls was established as a new national park and I was warmly welcomed as the first superintendent. As a native of Paterson, and as someone whose family worked and lived here in this city, it has been and continues to be a privilege for me to come to work every day at the Great Falls. Most importantly, I continue to be inspired by the many residents of Paterson, as well as those from the surrounding communities, who are committed to building a great national park in their backyard and have lent their time and energy volunteering and helping us plan the future.

As the pages of this newsletter illustrate, we've had an active first year and the planning efforts are beginning to take shape. The National Park Service is in the process of acquiring the first parcels of land that will be a part of the park. In the meantime, we are working with community partners, educational institutions, the City of Paterson, Paterson Municipal Utility Authority, and others to develop new programs and undertake some improvement projects. We've hired the first park ranger and are launching the park's VIP (Volunteer in Parks) and Junior Ranger programs.

We are at a stage in the planning process where visions for the future management of the Great Falls are coming into focus, thanks in large part to the input of people like you. As we envision the park, we'll soon be asking you to again share with us your thoughts. You play an important role in helping us answer the question about the kind of experiences we want our future visitors to have when they come to the Great Falls. When you consider the stunning natural landscape within a national historic district, as well as the rich history of the Patersonians who came before us, and those who are here today, we certainly have a lot to offer as a national park destination.

Thanks again for your involvement and for your dedication to your city and to the national park. You can stay in touch and informed by checking out our website at [www.nps.gov/pagr](http://www.nps.gov/pagr) and by "liking" us on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/PatersonGreatFalls](http://www.facebook.com/PatersonGreatFalls)

Sincerely,

Darren Boch, Superintendent  
Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park



## Paterson Steps Up



The park's first year has been a flurry of activity as park staff, civic groups, local non-profits, and citizens of Paterson have devoted countless hours toward building the nation's 397th national park. Working together, we have improved the appearance of the park, established new programs and activities, and moved forward with the next steps in our General Management Plan (GMP) planning process. Some of the activities we've been working on include:

### Park Beautification

Thanks to all of our volunteers who helped clean and transform the park landscape! Led by the Great Falls Youth Corps, this summer's clean-up efforts occurred at Upper Raceway Park, areas surrounding the Great Falls, and throughout Paterson's Historic District. In addition, a butterfly garden was planted in Mary Ellen Kramer Park and a group of volunteers designed and planted a

new garden surrounding the bell at Overlook Park.

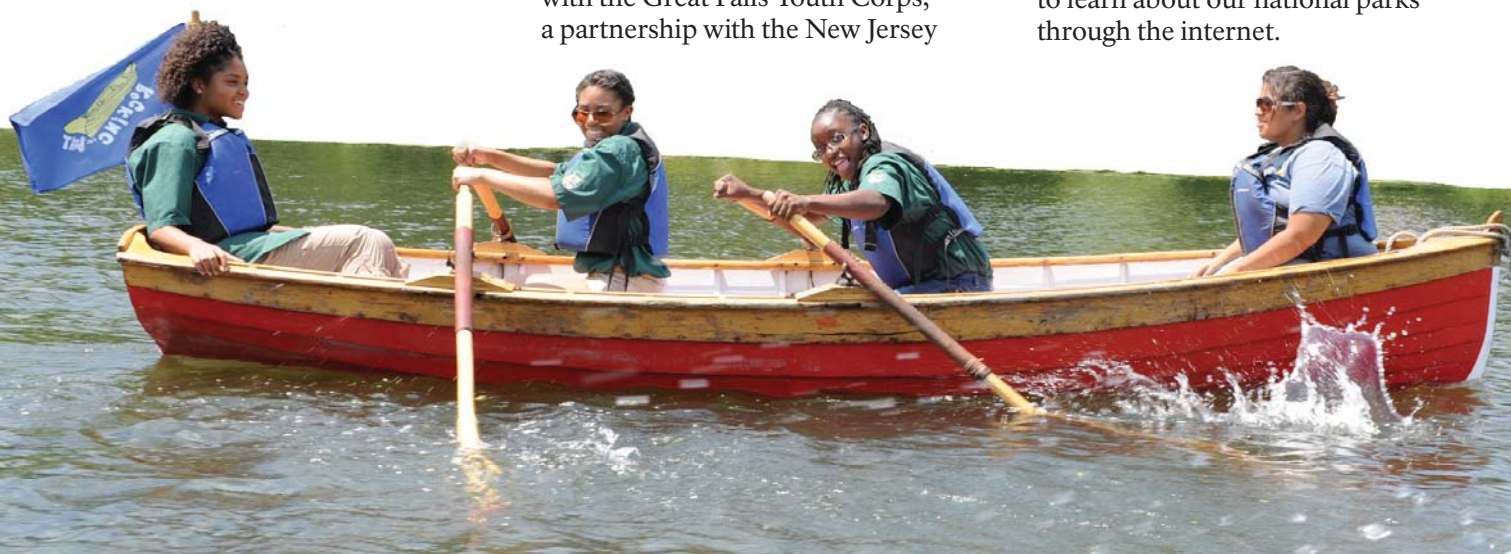
National Park Service (NPS) preservationists from Gettysburg National Military Park were busy at the park this summer cleaning and maintaining the Alexander Hamilton statue located in Overlook Park. Meanwhile, the NPS's Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation designed landscape improvements for Mary Ellen Kramer and Overlook Parks and we are working with the City of Paterson, the State of New Jersey, and others to make those planned improvements a reality. Safety and access improvements have also been made to the S.U.M. building and with the addition of new hand rails needed to reopen a stairwell in Overlook Park.

### New Programs and Activities

The park had another successful year with the Great Falls Youth Corps, a partnership with the New Jersey

Community Development Corporation. We also introduced new youth programs and education outreach this year through a new cooperative agreement with the Paterson Education Fund (PEF). With PEF, the park brought the non-profit "Rocking the Boat" to the city to get school kids out onto the Passaic River and developed a workshop for teachers to show them how to use the park as a classroom. Additionally, the park is working closely with the City of Paterson to create future opportunities for youth programming in the park.

The park has also begun its Junior Park Ranger and Web Ranger programs. The Junior Ranger Program allows participants to learn more about their national parks and earn official badges and certificates upon completion. The Web Ranger Program provides participants with an opportunity to learn about our national parks through the internet.







## Park's First Ranger

Please help welcome our new park ranger, Ilyse Goldman. Ranger Ilyse is a 14-year veteran of the NPS and will be in charge of developing the park's educational and interpretive programs. From Fair Lawn, NJ, Ranger Ilyse is very familiar with Paterson's history and is excited about working alongside the local community to share that history with the park's visitors.

## The GMP Planning Status

Many of you participated in our Open Houses held last November and provided us with input on what you would like to see in your national park. Ideas and opinions from those Open Houses are presented in this newsletter and are available on the park's website. In addition to the Open Houses, the planning team has been busy completing the next steps of the planning process.

The team has held a number of meetings with scholars from both the local and national levels, including specialists in the fields of architecture, history, interpretation, and natural resources. In consultation with the Paterson Great Falls Federal Advisory Commission and others, we've also undertaken the important task of drafting what's called the park's Foundation Document.



We invite your comments, concerns, and/or ideas on information presented in this newsletter, especially the section titled Foundation for Planning (pages 9-11). Suggestions and comments will be collected by one of the following ways: visit our park planning webpage ([parkplanning.nps.gov/pagr](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/pagr)) and fill out a comment form, email comments to [pagr\\_gmp@nps.gov](mailto:pagr_gmp@nps.gov), or download a comment form from our park website ([www.nps.gov/pagr](http://www.nps.gov/pagr)) and mail it back to the address provided on the comment form.

## Federal Advisory Commission

The congressional legislation authorizing the establishment of Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park also provided for the establishment of a Federal Advisory Commission charged with advising the NPS and other key agencies in creating the park's GMP.

Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park's Federal Advisory Commission members:

- Dr. Leslie Agard Jones, former William Paterson University dean of education
- Susan Cole, president of Montclair State University
- Robert Guarasci, executive director, New Jersey Community Development Corp.
- Jeffery Jones, Mayor of Paterson, New Jersey
- Lawrence F. Kramer, former mayor and lifelong resident of Paterson
- James Pepper, former National Park Service official
- Thomas Rooney, former Paterson mayor and councilman
- Leonard Zax, president of the Hamilton Partnership for Paterson

Please visit the Advisory Commission's website ([www.nps.gov/pagr/parkmgmt/federal-advisory-commission](http://www.nps.gov/pagr/parkmgmt/federal-advisory-commission)) for announcements and upcoming meeting dates.

## What We Heard and Learned From You



During the fall of 2011, we invited you to imagine the future of Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park (NHP). The first GMP newsletter was introduced and more than 3,000 copies were printed in English, Spanish, Arabic, and Bengali. Newsletters were mailed out, distributed throughout the City of Paterson, and posted on the park's website. In addition to the newsletter, three Open Houses were held in mid-November at Paterson's Center City Mall, The Brownstone House, and the New Jersey Community Development Corporation.

The highlight of the Open Houses was hearing from you. We asked you to reflect on five important questions to help the planning team create a vision for the kind of place we want Paterson Great Falls NHP to be in the future:

- 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

### *"A geological phenomenon in the middle of the city"*

at the park to gain your support and use?

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

Many of you spoke with us during our Open Houses; submitted video interviews; filled out comment cards with thoughts, ideas, and suggestions; read our first newsletter; or stayed connected with the planning process via our website. We received hundreds of comment forms and video interviews; the City of Paterson submitted 50 pages of consolidated comments from its staff; Paterson's School No. 7 submitted the results of a writing assignment given to their fifth graders, asking what they would like to see in the park; and School No. 5 built and submitted photos of models displaying student's ideas for park improvements.

What follows is a summary of what you shared with us including responses to our questions as well as your other ideas and thoughts. A complete report of responses is available on

the park's website at [www.nps.gov/pagr](http://www.nps.gov/pagr) and the NPS planning website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/pagr>.

### **What you Value about the Park**

*"...the river, the falls, the raceways – along with the remaining mills tell a compelling story of invention, innovation, and industry"*

One of the sentiments that we heard most frequently was your appreciation of the Great Falls and surrounding natural setting. You told us that you value this place for its beauty and serenity and you stated that you use this space as a place for solitude and reflection. Others appreciated the opportunity for recreational activities that the area provides including picnicking, hiking, and fishing.

You also indicated the Historic District's mill buildings to be of great value to you. A large number of comments pointed to these buildings as a reminder of how Paterson became such an important part of America's industrial history.





Numerous comments referenced the connection between the natural power source of the Great Falls and its industrial connection to Paterson. Many expressed an appreciation of the ingenuity of Alexander Hamilton and others to harness that power for industrial use. The complete hydroelectric system, including raceways and dams, was of particular interest to many of you as a way to interpret and learn about using water as a natural source of energy.

Many of you expressed a sense of pride in Paterson's heritage. You mentioned the Native Americans who once lived alongside the falls as well as the immigrants who worked in the mills and fought to make a better life for themselves in Paterson. Overall, most of you expressed the desire to learn more and inform others about the people who worked to establish the City of Paterson.

### Your Concerns

*"The remaining buildings provide a direct view into the city's history."*

Most of you expressed your concern with the overall cleanliness of the park. Many of you were concerned with the amount of litter and debris found along the banks of the river. Others had concerns about the maintenance

of the park's buildings and facilities. Several comments stressed the need to improve water quality in and around the river. Many of you requested additional landscaping around the park to improve its appearance.

Most of you also voiced concerns about the issue of safety in the park. You expressed the need for additional lighting and surveillance, especially in more remote areas of the park. We also heard your concerns about after hours access to the park and vandalism.

You also had concerns about existing park facilities. Many expressed the need for public restrooms, additional benches, picnic areas, and space for larger gatherings or community events. Many expressed the need for additional roadway signage to point visitors in the direction of the park. Others suggested more informational signage inside the park to orient the visitor and provide historical background.

***"It's just something everyone needs to witness...and enjoy"***

### Future Programming

*"tours explaining the natural resources (i.e. geological formations) as well as history of the mills, especially the labor movement"*

We received numerous suggestions for activities you would like to see occur within the Park. Most of you hope to see more educational tours, brochures, and signs. Several of you suggested the inclusion of a library and/or research facility for public use.

Many of you asked for more recreational opportunities within the park. You requested the addition of new hiking and biking trails, access to the river for boating and fishing, and additional sitting and picnicking areas. We also received several suggestions for outdoor open space which could be used by the public to hold special events such as festivals, art shows, and classes.

Several of you stressed the importance of partnerships for the park. You suggested partnerships with local governments and private organizations to incorporate a wider variety of programming. Some examples you provided were partnerships with museums to create historical tours, and partnerships with local historical groups to convey the story of labor struggles in the area.

## Planning Challenges

In the early stages of a GMP, the most pressing challenges that the GMP should address, as well as ideas for making the park a better place are identified by the public and NPS staff. In the first GMP newsletter and at the public open houses, people were asked what they valued and enjoyed most about Paterson Great Falls NHP and what were their concerns and suggestions for the future management of the park. Following analysis of the all comments, the most relevant planning issues and opportunities were identified. The planning team also developed decision points - the major questions that the planning team must address through general management planning and alternative development.

The following section summarizes the major planning challenges that the new GMP will address. Exploring different ways to address these issues is the basis for developing the range of management alternatives.



### Sharing Stories & Experiencing Cultures

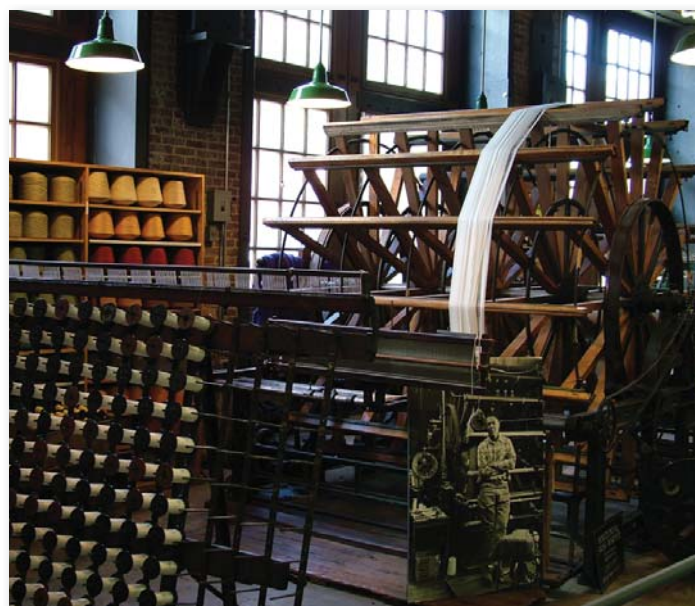
There are many fascinating stories that can help people understand the history of Paterson. Many people who visit the park live in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area, a region with great diversity.

- What kinds of engaging, educational, and exciting experiences do you think should be available at the park for people of different ages and backgrounds?
- How do you think people who are unable to physically visit the park can learn about and experience this place?
- What are the best ways to provide excellent interpretive experiences for all visitors recognizing a dynamic and changing technological world?

### Finding the Park

Visitors new to the area and unfamiliar with the city can sometimes be confused about where to receive information about the new national park, especially moving around the site and what activities there are to see and do.

- Given the multiple entrance points, how should visitors be oriented to the National Historical Park?
- What are the most affordable and efficient ways to move and direct visitors to and throughout the park and Great Falls Historic District?
- What is the park's role with partners to extend public transportation services, enhance trail connections, and assist in the promotion of alternative modes to/from and within the park?



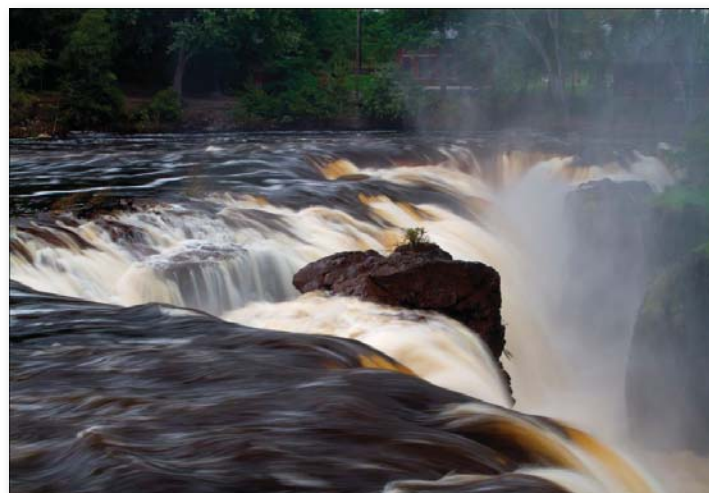




## Keys to Protection

Paterson Great Falls and the Great Falls Historic District are nationally important places. Over the years, these resources experienced changes from different uses and natural events, such as floods and the everyday activities of people and industries nearby.

- What are the best ways to manage the park's fundamental resources and landscapes to ensure their preservation?
- What partnerships can the park leverage to encourage the long-term protection of other important resources?
- What should be NPS's role in the protection of the Passaic River and the Historic District?



## Visitor Comforts

Many visitors have expressed concerns about safety and park infrastructure being in a state of decline and inadequate areas for bathrooms and parking. There is a demand for more user comforts – shade, benches, bike racks, picnic areas, water fountains, facilities for large family groups, and parking.

- What levels and kinds of visitor facilities are appropriate for NPS and others to manage?
- What types of services and experiences should be available at the park?

A first step in the general management planning effort is the development of a Foundation Document. This Document reflects the park's purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, as well as primary interpretive themes. It helps keep the park's management focused on what is most important about the place and the reasons for its establishment as a national historical park.

The draft Foundation Document was developed by a team of NPS archeologists, historians, ethnographers, interpretive specialists, and planners as well as members of the Paterson Great Falls Federal Advisory Commission and the City of Paterson, among others. Now, we would like your help in finalizing the purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, and interpretive themes for the site.



### Purpose

The purpose statement is a specific reason why Congress and/or the President established the park as a unit of the national park system. The purpose statement provides the most fundamental criteria against which the appropriateness of all planning recommendations, operational decisions, and actions are tested.

The purpose of Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park is to:

Preserve and interpret the natural beauty of the Great Falls of the Passaic River and the industrial landscape which formed around its endless source of power. The park and surrounding Historic District illustrate the successful evolution of a manufacturing society which drew from the diversity and innovativeness of the American people for more than two centuries.

### Significance

Guided by legislation and the knowledge acquired through management, research, and civic engagement, statements of significance define what is most important about the park's resources and values. The purpose and significance statements are used to guide planning and management decisions to ensure that the resources and values that Congress and the president wanted preserved are the first priority.

**Significance Statement I** - The Great Falls of the Passaic River, with its natural chasm and 75 foot waterfall, provides extraordinary recreational, scenic, and natural resources in the midst of an industrialized city.

**Significance Statement II** - Paterson Great Falls NHP and the Historic District provide one of the best opportunities to view a complete hydropower system from its source at the Great Falls to its transformation into power for the mills and the surrounding community.

**Significance Statement III** - Paterson's raceway system illustrates American ingenuity as the country fought to become a major industrial nation. The raceway system offers an outstanding opportunity to interpret the city's industrial past and provide insight into the evolution of its transformation from industrial to civic use.

**Significance Statement IV** - The entrepreneurial innovativeness of Paterson's manufacturing leaders allowed the city to thrive and evolve over time in a long continuum of industrial use that continues today.

**Significance Statement V** - Paterson's success can be attributed in large part to immigrants who brought their creativity and experience to the city seeking a better life; a trend which has continued throughout the city's history.



## Fundamental Resources

Fundamental resources and values are the features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, or other resources and values determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management because they are critical to achieving the park's purpose and maintaining its significance. These resources and values should collectively capture the essence of the park.

**Geologic Formation and Features** - The Great Falls of the Passaic were designated a National Natural Landmark in 1967; significant because of its creation by the Watchung basaltic lava flow. The geologic formation of the falls has created an extraordinary 75 foot fall into a naturally occurring chasm.

**Hydrologic Systems and Features** - The Passaic River is the principal drainage of the Great Swamp area that cuts its way through northern New Jersey and eventually cascades over the Great Falls in Paterson. The flowing water was the backbone of industrial development as the City of Paterson was planned and still provides power today. The river also provides an ecological and recreational value to an otherwise industrial city.

**Historic Structures and Ruins** - Paterson Great Falls NHP's historic structures and structural ruins, including the Allied Textile Plant (ATP) site (including the Colt Gun Mill ruins), the hydroelectricity steam plant ruins/foundation, and the Ivanhoe Wheelhouse, convey the history of the park's industrial history.

**Raceway System** - Paterson's system of raceways (gatehouses; wheelhouses; upper, middle, and lower raceways; spillways, outfalls) provides visitors with a complete vision and understanding of how the system functions as a whole and fits into the larger hydropower grid of the industrial landscape.

**Industrial Landscape Views** - The topography within the park provides visitors with panoramic views of the industrial landscape, reflecting settlement and industrial development patterns.

**Natural Scenic Views/Setting** - The breathtaking views of the Great Falls and surrounding natural landscape allow a glimpse into the inherent beauty of nature in contrast to the manipulated landscape of the industrial city.

**Experiential Elements of the Falls** - The experience of hearing the water thunder over the falls, feeling the spray from the water crashing into the chasm, and watching the water churn down the river help the visitor understand the power of the flowing water.





## Other Important Resources

Park resources that are not fundamental to the park's purpose and significance but have been determined to be important.

**Natural Resources** – Water resources, species, exemplary natural communities, rare plants.

**Historic Mill Buildings** – The numerous Historic Mill Buildings located within the Paterson Historic District were an integral part of the industrial development of the city. The densely constructed mills along the raceways and river illustrate the success of a 19th century industrial city.

**Milling Community** – Paterson's success was built largely on the innovative, entrepreneurial spirit of its citizens, most of whom were immigrants looking for a better life. The mill housing, community centers, and recreational facilities provide the visitor with an understanding of the typical lifestyle of 19th and 20th century mill workers.

**Museum Collections** – Items and artifacts that show the inner-workings of manufacturing machinery used in Paterson, products produced in Paterson's Mills, and personal artifacts of mill workers.

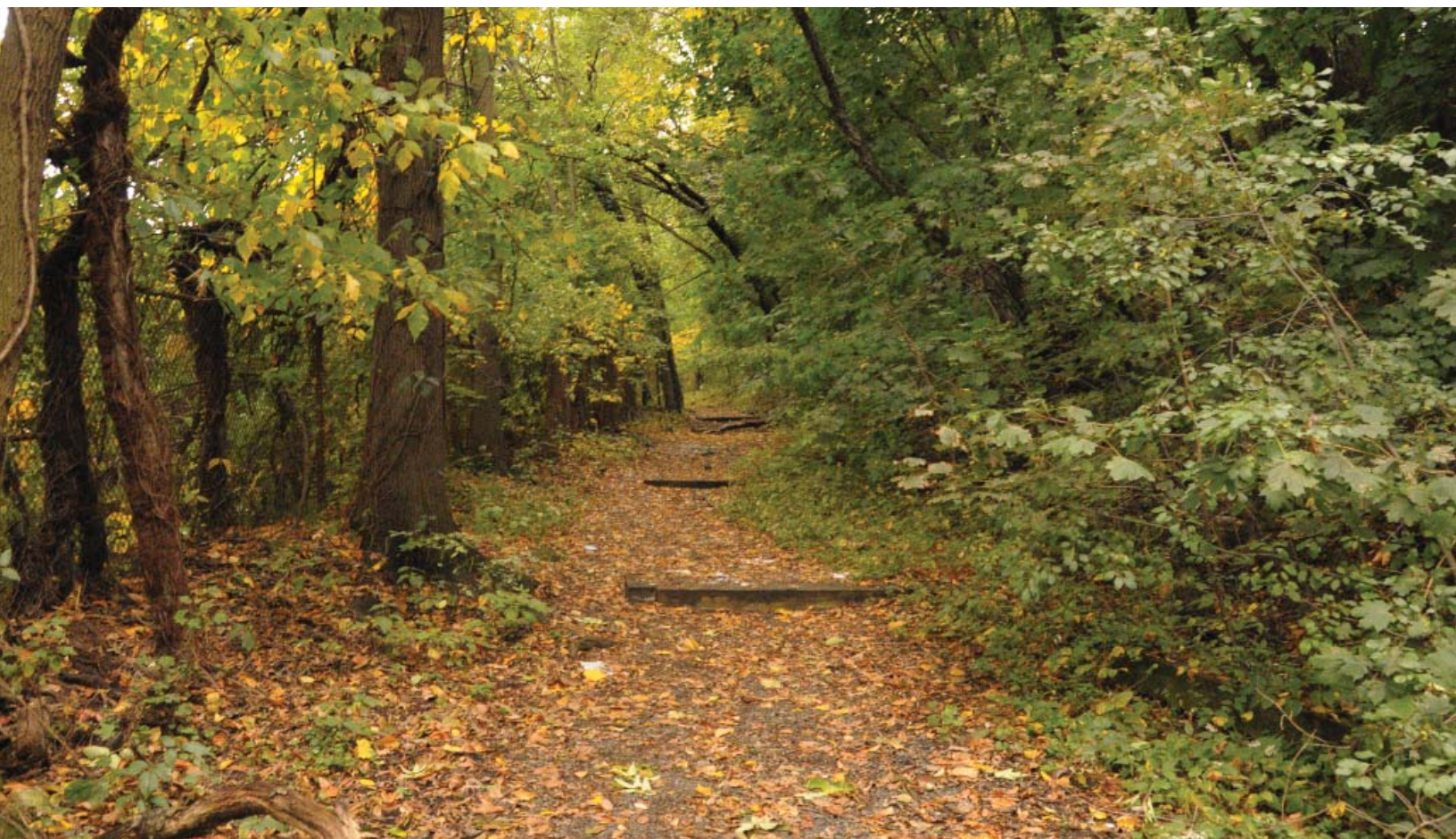
## Interpretive Themes

Primary interpretive themes describe broad concepts to be interpreted to provide people and visitors with opportunities to understand and appreciate park resources.

**The Great Falls: Source of Power and Inspiration** – The Great Falls in the heart of Paterson have drawn people [for thousands of years] and inspired them – both for its natural beauty and for the power and energy that it promises.

**Economic Vision and Legacy** – Founded on Alexander Hamilton's vision that freedom and independence for the United States would be based in a manufacturing economy that promised a better life for its people, through diversification of industries, a diversity of talents, technological innovations, waves of industry and immigration, and cycles of boom and bust, Paterson defined, refined, and reinvented this vision for more than two centuries.

**Cycles of Industry and Changing Economies** – While Paterson marks a beginning for US industry, its landscape tells stories of cycles of American industrialization and deindustrialization and an "unplanned end" to European immigration and manufacturing in the United States.





## Next Steps

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 relationships among those organizations, agencies, and individuals interested in the National Historical Park and its future.

The heart of the GMP is the alternatives that provide different management options for Paterson Great Falls. Your ideas, expectations, and concerns about the future of the site are important to us and carefully considered in decision-making. In order to create the best possible future for the park, these ideas and comments are matched with scholarly and scientific information and analysis. We will take what we learned from you and begin the development of management alternatives which are options for how the park should be managed over the next 10 – 20 years.

The GMP must also comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This means that impacts to the social, cultural and natural environments at the site 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 site. A summary of the planning process, time frame, and ways for you to participate is provided in the chart below.

### Staying Involved

Your input is critical throughout the process. Your comments and suggestions will assist the NPS in the process of creating and refining management alternatives for Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park. We will be holding additional Open Houses this winter to present preliminary alternatives for your review. We hope you will join us to share your thoughts and ideas. Please visit our park website ([www.nps.gov/pagr](http://www.nps.gov/pagr)) and planning website ([parkplanning.nps.gov/pagr](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/pagr)) frequently for announcements of upcoming meetings. See you there!

Want to know when something new has been added to our websites? Join the electronic mailing list. Sign up on the park's website to receive e-blasts. The National Historical Park is also on Twitter! You can follow us at [www.twitter.com/GreatFallsNPS](https://www.twitter.com/GreatFallsNPS)

GENERAL TIME FRAME	PLANNING PHASE	HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED
Fall 2011 - Winter 2012	Scoping – 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 and website information</li><li>• Attend an Open House</li><li>• Send us comments and suggestions</li></ul>
Summer - Fall 2012	Foundation and Planning Issues – Confirm park's purpose, significance, fundamental resources, & primary interpretive themes; and identify planning issues and resource conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review newsletter and website information</li><li>• Send us comments and suggestions</li></ul>
Winter 2013	Develop and Present Preliminary Alternatives – 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>• Provide comments on the draft alternatives</li></ul>
Summer 2013	Prepare and Distribute a Draft General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (Draft GMP/EIS) - Review and comment by public, partners, government agencies and other stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review the Draft GMP/EIS</li><li>• Attend an Open House</li><li>• Share your written comments</li></ul>
Fall 2013	Revise Draft Plan and Prepare a Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (Final GMP/EIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review the Final GMP/EIS</li></ul>
Winter 2013	Implement the Approved Plan – Prepare and issue a "Record of Decision" and implement plan as funding allows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Help implement the plan</li></ul>

*The National Park Service and Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park are grateful for the many excellent photographs taken by Adali Photography, Zach Honoroff, and Daniel C. Krebs.*



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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; or email us 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)



*Celebrating Paterson Great Falls  
National Historical Park's first year!*