

# PATERSON GREAT FALLS NATIONAL PARK

## MILL MILE

WALK ABOVE  
THE GREAT FALLS  
300 FT WIDE, 77 FT HIGH



Mill Mile

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Mill Mile

## MILL MILE AUDIO TOUR APP

There are three ways to enjoy  
the Mill Mile tour.

Have an iPhone, Android phone, or an iPod touch?

Download the free Mill Mile audio tour app on iTunes  
or Google Play to access the audio tour around the  
Great Falls, featuring Brian Williams, Super Bowl  
star Victor Cruz, Pulitzer Prize-winning author  
Junot Díaz, and other friends of Paterson.

Available on the  
**App Store**

ANDROID APP ON  
**Google play**

No smartphone or iPod touch? You can access  
the audio tour from your cell phone by dialing  
(973) 582-0654. At each stop, enter the stop  
number followed by the # sign.

Or you can just follow this brochure. There's a  
map with all of the stops on the other side.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE GREAT  
FALLS, ITS NATURAL HISTORY, AND THE  
STORY OF PATERSON, VISIT:**

**WWW.MILLMILE.ORG**

# ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Born to unwed parents on the Caribbean island of Nevis, Alexander Hamilton was the child of an absentee father and a mother who died when he was twelve. Recognizing his great potential, some islanders sent him to New Jersey for a formal education. He left college to fight in the Revolutionary War, rose quickly to become General Washington's most trusted aide, and later became the new nation's first Secretary of the Treasury.

Hamilton believed that America could never be truly free as long as the nation remained dependent on foreign goods. Fifteen years after the Declaration of Independence, America still relied on English manufacturing for virtually everything from clothing to military supplies. Hamilton created a strategy to secure economic independence. The centerpiece of that strategy was Paterson, which he founded in 1792 to begin implementing his plan for an industrialized America.

Hamilton took the lead in establishing New Jersey's first corporation, the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures (S.U.M.). The S.U.M. acquired the necessary land and constructed America's first waterpower system to attract entrepreneurs and workers. The S.U.M. fulfilled the vision of its founder for more than 150 years, making Paterson one of the great manufacturing cities of the world.

A lifelong opponent of slavery and vigorous proponent of immigration, Hamilton believed the diversity of human talents would strengthen America. True to Hamilton's vision, manufacturing and innovation spread rapidly throughout Paterson and the country, and people of any class, creed, or color soon found the ability to climb higher than they had imagined. In Paterson, Hamilton created what we have come to call the American Dream.

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**“Alexander Hamilton, the founder of Paterson, was the supreme messenger of America’s future. We now inhabit the world that was minted in his teeming imagination two centuries ago.”**

**–Ron Chernow**

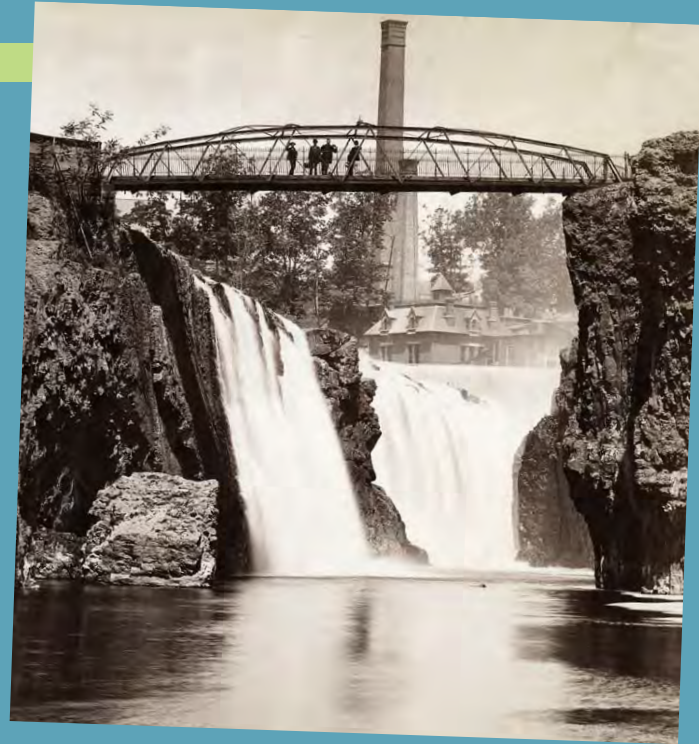
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# NEW NATIONAL PARK

At the Great Falls in Paterson, spectacular natural beauty and American history come together at the heart of one of America's newest national parks.

The Great Falls of the Passaic River towers 77 feet high, stretches 300 feet wide, and pours as much as two billion gallons of water into a canyon each day. This natural wonder is the second most powerful waterfall east of the Mississippi, less than 15 miles from New York City.

Although Paterson's mills today look much like old red brick factories in other cities, it was the work that took place within their walls that put Paterson at the cutting edge of "high tech" in the 19th century. When Alexander Hamilton founded the city, there was virtually no manufacturing in America. Paterson would become America's first incubator for the Industrial Revolution, much like California's Silicon Valley is for tech companies today.



**"THE PATERSON FALLS ARE A NATURAL TREASURE OF ALARMING POWER, A REMINDER OF THE TENACITY OF WILD SPACES, A PLACE WHERE I HAVE REPEATEDLY SOUGHT REFUGE, INSPIRATION, AND A SENSE OF MY SELF."**

**- JUNOT DÍAZ, PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING NOVELIST**

# TOUR STOPS

**1 /** Overlook

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**2 /** Great Falls Lawn View

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**3 /** Great Falls Bridge

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**4 /** Mary Ellen Kramer Park

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**5 /** Upper Raceway Park

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**6 /** Rogers Locomotive Works

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**7 /** Rosen Mill

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**8 /** Middle Raceway

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**9 /** Paterson Museum

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**10 /** The City Beyond

.....





Hinchliffe Stadium

Mill Ruins

Paterson Museum

Ivanhoe Wheelhouse Courtyard for stops:

0

Start Here

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Tour Stop

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Tour Route

Public Parking

- 6
- 7
- 8



# MILL MILE WALKING TOUR

Take the Mill Mile walking tour around the Great Falls, one of the few sites in America whose natural beauty is matched by its historical significance. This tour follows the route by which the nation's first hydropower system powered the Paterson mills for more than 100 years and gives a wonderful overview of the Paterson Great Falls National Park.



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## Great Falls Lawn View

Here you can look up the gorge to see water from the Great Falls crashing onto the rocks below. This view has inspired many famous painters over the centuries.

In 1914, the S.U.M. built the hydroelectric plant you see just to the left of the Falls. Replacing the waterwheels that had powered industry in Paterson for over a century, this was one of the country's first hydroelectric plants. Today this plant provides clean, renewable energy for thousands of homes.

*Walk back through Overlook Park to McBride Avenue and turn right. Continue along McBride Avenue, passing the hydroelectric plant on your right. Veer to the right over the bridge that crosses above the Great Falls.*

3

## Great Falls Bridge

From this footbridge, you can witness the extraordinary power of the Great Falls. As the poet Williams Carlos Williams wrote: "The river comes pouring in above the city and crashes from the edge of the gorge in a recoil of spray and rainbow mists."

About 13,000 years ago, the retreating glaciers of the last Ice Age left a canyon through these basalt cliffs. Through it, the Passaic River found a new course over the rocks, forming the Great Falls.

Before the arrival of Europeans, the area around the Falls was homeland for the Lenni-Lenape Indians, who were drawn by the rich game and fishing below the Great Falls. Even after the first Dutch missionaries and trappers visited the Great Falls, the region was still sparsely settled. When Hamilton founded Paterson in 1792, there were only 10 houses here. By the late 19th century, Paterson was the fastest growing city on the East Coast.

*Continue on the bridge across the chasm to Mary Ellen Kramer Park.*

4

## Mary Ellen Kramer Park

This park is named after Mary Ellen Kramer, preservation activist and wife of former Paterson mayor Pat Kramer. In the 1970s, she launched the campaign to protect and restore the city's historic district.

Oscar Bluemner, *Paterson Factories (View from Monument Rock)* (detail), 1913. Watercolor and gouache on paper, 15 x 21 1/2 in. Vera Bluemner Kouba Collection, Stetson University, DeLand, Florida



During their visit in 1778, Alexander Hamilton, the Marquis de Lafayette, and General George Washington rested here under a tree and had a picnic lunch of cold ham, tongue, and biscuits. They enjoyed the view of the waterfall and the surrounding landscape of forest and farmland. Today, you can walk up to the edge of the chasm, just several feet from the roaring waters, and feel the same heavy mist rising from underneath the Falls that inspired Hamilton more than two hundred years ago.

On weekends in the 1930s and 1940s, mill workers would come to this park to picnic and attend a game at Hinchliffe Stadium just up the hill. Now a National Historic Landmark, Hinchliffe was home field to the New York Black Yankees in the Negro Leagues, and served as recreational playing grounds for baseball teams organized by mill workers. The stadium was also a venue for high school athletics, boxing, midget car racing, and entertainment, including one of Duke Ellington's last performances.

*Retrace your walk back toward McBride Avenue. Cross McBride Avenue at its intersection with Spruce Street and enter Upper Raceway Park. Listen to Stop 5 of the audio tour at the entrance to Upper Raceway Park.*



1

## Overlook

Begin your tour here, where the bronze statue of Alexander Hamilton stands on the viewing platform overlooking the Great Falls.

On July 10, 1778, a young Alexander Hamilton visited the Great Falls with General George Washington, French general Lafayette, and other officers of the Continental Army. Hamilton would return to the Great Falls again as the Secretary of the Treasury. No natural wonder would have a greater impact on our nation's history.

While in Paterson, try to visit the Great Falls Historic District Cultural Center just across McBride Avenue. Enjoy the exhibits on Paterson's industrial and cultural history, and meet the Center's welcoming and knowledgeable staff.

*From the viewing platform, walk across the lawn to the left until you have a clear view into the chasm of the Falls.*

5

## Upper Raceway Park

Alexander Hamilton was determined to harness the power of the Great Falls to carry out his vision for the new city. He hired Pierre L'Enfant, the French-American architect and engineer who created the city plan for Washington, D.C. L'Enfant designed a system of narrow canals, or "raceways." These channeled the rushing waters from the top of the Falls to the mills that were built in the valley below.

The Upper Raceway runs along the path and then curves abruptly at a switchback, where it drops to a lower level. The raceway then passes the buildings of the Barbour Flax Mill, once one of the world's largest flax manufacturers, and the Rogers Locomotive Works.

*You will exit Upper Raceway Park on Spruce Street, with the Ivanhoe Wheelhouse directly to your left.*

*Across the street, at the corner of Spruce and Market Streets, is the Rosen Mill (Stop 7) and directly to the left of the building is the entrance to the Middle Raceway (Stop 8). Head around to the other side of the Ivanhoe Wheelhouse, where you will find a courtyard with several benches in the shade. Rest here as you listen to Stops 6, 7, and 8.*



6

## Rogers Locomotive Works

Founded by Thomas Rogers in 1832, the Rogers Locomotive Works was one of America's largest locomotive manufacturers. In Paterson, Rogers workers assembled over 6,000 engines that traveled railways around the world. These included the "General," the engine that took part in the Civil War's Great Locomotive Chase, and one of the locomotives present at the Golden Spike Ceremony celebrating the completion of the Transcontinental Railway.

The building on the east side of Spruce Street is the old Rogers erecting shop. When a locomotive was finished, a team of horses would pull it through one of the 12 big doors here and down the street to a nearby railway line. This building now houses the Paterson Museum.



On the west side of the street, the renovated Rogers Frame Fitting Building at 32 Spruce Street now houses the New Jersey Community Development Corporation. Number 16 Spruce Street is the old Rogers Administration Building, with restored signage advertising the Paterson Silk Machinery Exchange, a later tenant.

7

## Rosen Mill

This Paterson mill site once housed the Union Works cotton factory and later would be the base of Jacob Rosen & Sons. Founded by a Polish immigrant, Jacob Rosen & Sons became a leading American manufacturer of silk ribbon, with over a hundred looms in this building.

Between the 1880s and 1920, Paterson earned the name "Silk City," becoming the country's center for dyeing and weaving silk. The quality of the fabric was so famous that Theodore Roosevelt's wife wore a Paterson silk dress at her husband's second inauguration.

Silk-making was first brought to Paterson by immigrants from Macclesfield, England. As the silk industry grew, the mills attracted workers from France, Italy, Poland, Syria, and other countries. Although they found the pay low and the work hazardous, many workers were able to build better lives for their families, and some were able to become mill owners themselves.



8

## Middle Raceway

Across the street is the Middle Raceway, the oldest part of the raceway system that channeled water to Paterson's mills. A century ago, most of these buildings produced silk textiles.

In 1913, the silk mills shut down as 25,000 workers angry about long hours, low pay, and poor conditions walked out in one of the largest strikes in American labor history. The strike went on for months. New York artists and writers called public attention to the workers' plight by organizing the legendary Paterson Pageant at New York's Madison Square Garden. After six months of striking, the hungry strikers returned to their looms. Workers soon won an eight-hour day and better working conditions.

Paterson's workers have been at the forefront of the struggle for labor rights since 1828, when the first factory walkout in America occurred here. In 1882, a union leader from Paterson organized the country's first Labor Day celebration.

*Walk to the corner of Spruce and Market Streets and turn left onto Market. The building on the corner to your right is the Paterson Museum, marked by two locomotives in the Museum's parking lot.*



9

## Paterson Museum

The Paterson Museum displays impressive exhibits of products made in Paterson that would help transform both America and the world. Inside, you will find an extraordinary collection of early Colt revolvers and some of the silk looms that helped make Paterson the largest silk manufacturing city in the world. You will also see the first two submarines designed by John Holland, the inventor of the motorized submarine, and aircraft engines made by the Paterson company that produced the engine for Lindbergh's first solo trans-Atlantic flight.



10

## The City Beyond

Paterson's story is not confined to just the blocks around the Great Falls. Paterson today is a culturally rich, vibrant, and diverse city, where the descendants of old Patersonians mix with a continual influx of newcomers to the city. From authentic ethnic cuisine to many shops and markets, the neighborhoods surrounding the Great Falls have much to offer.

If you're hungry after finishing the Mill Mile tour, try a Texas weiner hot dog, invented here in Paterson, despite its name. Along Market Street, the restaurants and groceries of the Little Lima district offer delicious Peruvian specialties. You can enjoy a coffee in Paterson's Little Italy along Cianci Street just north of Market Street. Here you'll also find Lou Costello Park, with a statue of the famous comedian and Paterson native son. And South Main Street has wonderful Turkish and Lebanese restaurants.

Just a short walk from the Paterson Museum you will find the streets of Downtown Paterson lined with magnificent Beaux-Arts, Italianate, and Art Deco commercial and civic structures. The distinguished New York architectural firm of Carrère & Hastings designed Paterson's City Hall, modeling its tower after the city hall in Lyon, France, once the silk capital of Europe.

Paterson is also home to a talented artistic community. Paterson's Art Walk each spring draws thousands of visitors from around the region to enjoy art, music, and events in many of the historic structures around the Great Falls National Historic Landmark District.





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EDUCATIONAL PROJECT OF THE

# HAMILTON PARTNERSHIP *for Paterson*

Enhancing the educational, social,  
and economic benefits of the  
Paterson Great Falls National Park  
for the city and the region

[www.hamiltonpartnership.org](http://www.hamiltonpartnership.org)

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## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

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Senator Bob Menendez  
Congressman Bill Pascrell*



THE 1772 FOUNDATION  
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