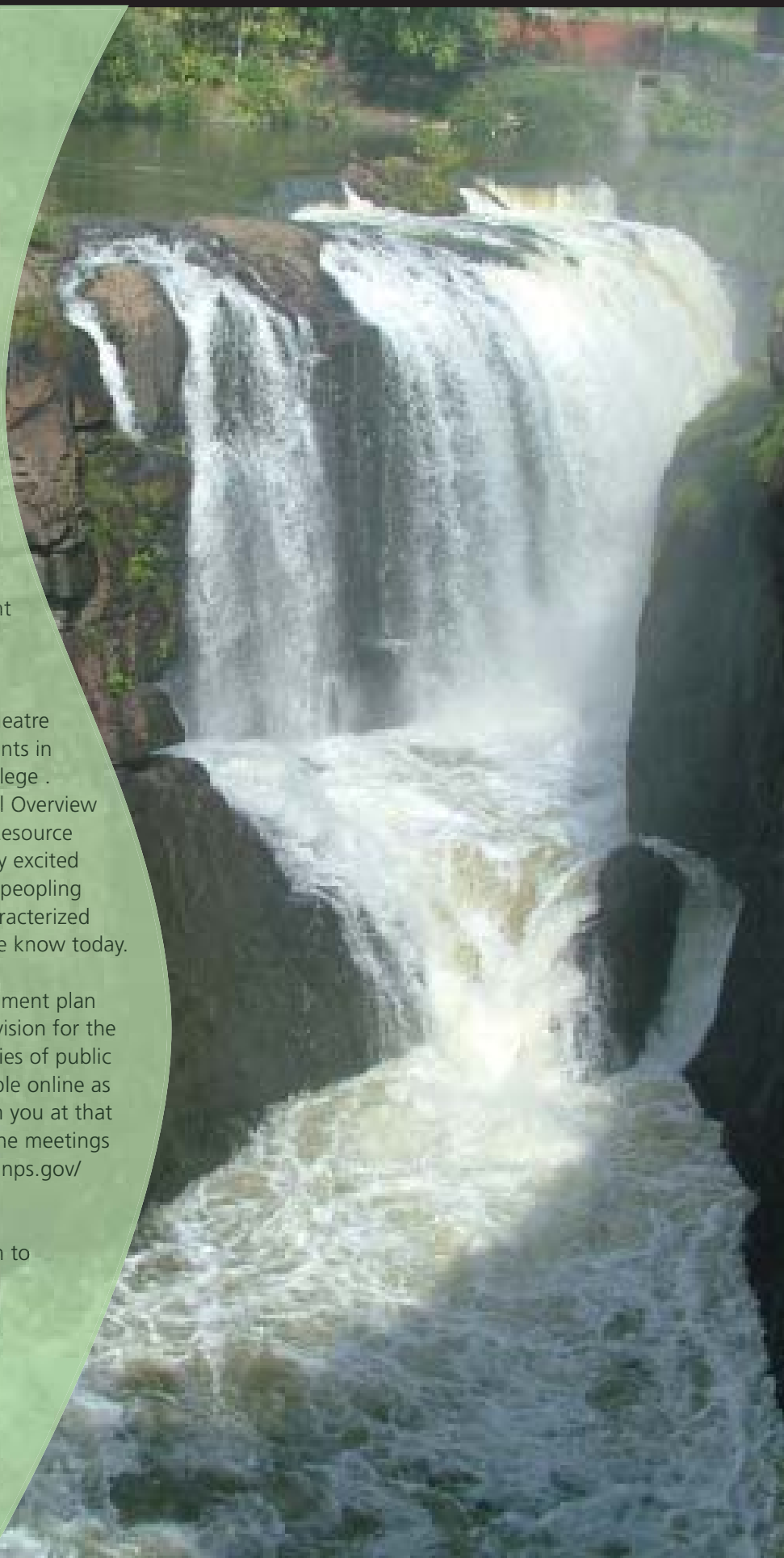
Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park

General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement

Newsletter #3 - Winter 2014

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Dear Friends,

What a great year in our national park, which celebrated its 2nd anniversary of establishment this past November. As the many projects and programs highlighted in this newsletter show, our national park is a place where visitors and locals alike are both educated and enlightened by Paterson's natural and historic treasures. I want to thank our many park partners whose enthusiastic support ensured a successful 2013 and will lead to more funding opportunities in the future.

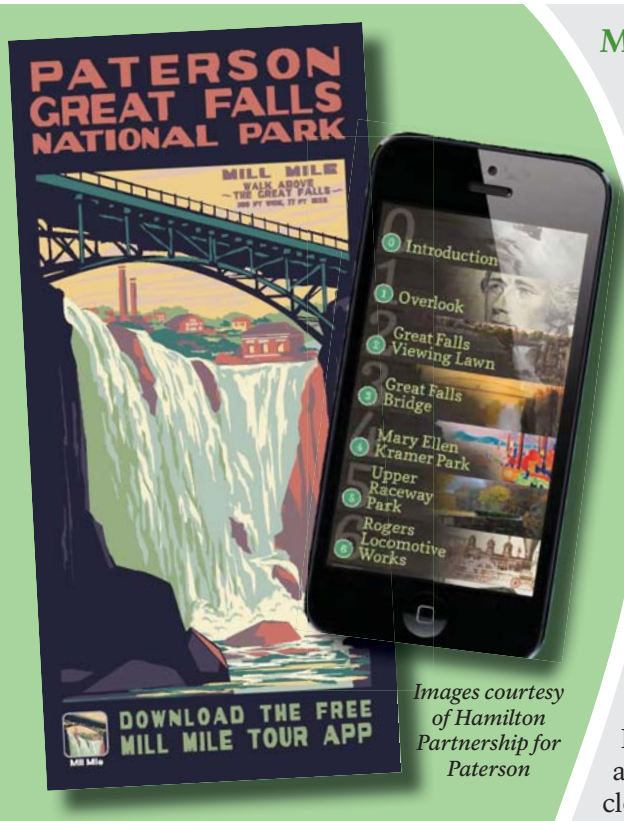
The Great Falls has been made a priority for various National Park Service (NPS) funding in 2014. The NPS is funding the Great Falls Youth Corps again this year, so we'll once again provide a great opportunity for our youth in partnership with the NJ Community Development Corporation. To further our youth outreach, we also anticipate grants for an 'Eco-Explorers' Summer Program in partnership with Montclair State University's Passaic River Institute, and a Theatre Arts and Poetry Project with middle school students in partnership with Passaic County Community College . Additionally, we're completing an Archaeological Overview & Assessment of the park, launching a Historic Resource Study, and an Ethnography Study. I'm particularly excited about the latter project, which will focus on the peopling of Paterson and study the ethnic trends that characterized Paterson from the industrial period to the city we know today.

The NPS will have a draft of our general management plan available this summer. This plan will lay out our vision for the park for the next 15-20 years. We will host a series of public meetings in Paterson and the plan will be available online as well. We want your input and hope to hear from you at that time. The dates for the release of the plan and the meetings will be advertised on the park's website at www.nps.gov/pagr.

I appreciate your time and interest in our mission to create a world-class national park destination in Paterson.

Sincerely,
Darren Boch
Superintendent
Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park

What's Happening at the Park?



Images courtesy of Hamilton Partnership for Paterson

Mary Ellen Kramer Park Groundbreaking

On November 6, 2013, elected and appointed officials from the city, state, county, and federal government broke ground in Mary Ellen Kramer Park to mark the beginning of an extensive landscape-improvement project. The park, which borders the Great Falls and is part of the national park, is named after the late wife of former Mayor Pat Kramer. Mary Ellen Kramer was an early advocate of preserving the landscape around the falls and in bringing recognition to the Great Falls National Historic Landmark District.

The landscape improvements will enhance the aesthetics and access to the park. The project includes soil remediation, new paving, lighting, benches, and a significantly enhanced landscape. Funding for remediation is coming from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) Office of Brownfields Reuse and 'Green Acres' program and the landscape improvements are being funded by the County of Passaic's Open Space Fund. The park will be closed to the public during the renovation, which is expected to last until the end of 2014.

New Audio Tour of Great Falls

Visitors to the national park can now be "escorted" around by the likes of Brian Williams and Victor Cruz. Last April, the park introduced the Mill Mile Walking Tour, a self-guided smart-phone app or cell phone tour for visitors that highlights the remarkable environmental and cultural importance of the Paterson Great Falls. The audio tour is narrated by newscaster Brian Williams and is enriched by the voices of luminaries in government, sports, and the arts, as well as some of Paterson's youth.

The Mill Mile is an educational initiative of the Hamilton Partnership for Paterson, a nonprofit organization that helped launch the Paterson Great Falls NHP. The walking tour and accompanying brochure were funded by the Geraldine Dodge Foundation, the 1772 Foundation, and the Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation. To learn more and to download the free tour, visit www.millmile.org.

Hinchliffe Stadium Named a National Historic Landmark

Paterson has yet another landmark to take pride in! Last March, the NPS designated Hinchliffe Stadium a National Historic Landmark and the City of Paterson designated it a local landmark. The historic 10,000 seat stadium is one of the few remaining stadiums in the country to have hosted Negro League baseball. The stadium, which has been closed to the public since 1996, was built as a public works project between 1931 and 1932. In its heyday, the stadium hosted professional and amateur baseball and football games, high school sports, auto racing, and entertainment.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, which has named the stadium one of the nation's most threatened historic resources, has joined with the City of Paterson, the Paterson Board of Education, the Friends of Hinchliffe Stadium, and the NPS to raise the profile of the stadium and work toward its eventual restoration. Through the efforts of the partners, approximately $1.2 million in funding has been secured to study the stadium and undertake a partial restoration, to include its iconic entrance and sections of seating. The project will provide information as to what it would take to preserve and fully restore the stadium for future use.

Photo courtesy of Terrence McKenna

Paterson Youth Head South on National Park Adventure

Nearly 40 of Paterson's youth headed down south on a June trip that took them to two national parks, two NPS professional centers, and on a white-water rafting adventure. The trip included members of the Great Falls Youth Corps with an additional 22 sophomore and junior representatives selected by principals and teachers from Paterson's secondary schools. The three-day, two-night trip took them to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (NHP), where they witnessed the first successful application of interchangeable manufacture, followed by stops at the Mather Training Center, the Harpers Ferry Interpretive Design Center and the Willowsprings Conservation Facility for career exploration. Students had the opportunity to meet with museum exhibit designers, cartographers, a social media specialist, paper and textile conservators and an interpretive ranger.

The second day ended with a white-water rafting excursion on a stretch of the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers. Their adventure was topped off with a trip back in time to the 1870s as they rode boats down a canal pulled by mules at the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal NHP, which has its own 'Great Falls,' prompting lively debate on which deserved the title "greater." Students had the opportunity to discuss the difference between a canal and a raceway, and discovered how unique their tiered raceway back home in Paterson really is. The trip made possible by the Great Falls Youth Corps, which is a partnership between the Paterson Great Falls NHP and the NJ Community Development Corporation.

William Paterson University Partners with the National Park

William Paterson University and Paterson Great Falls NHP entered into a formal partnership this past summer designed to generate greater use of the park's historical, cultural, and natural resources for educational purposes. The agreement was signed by William Paterson University President Kathleen Waldron and Paterson Great Falls NHP Superintendent Darren Boch during a ceremony on June 25.

The collaboration will include a variety of initiatives. The park will provide internship opportunities for William Paterson students and host university presentations, lectures, courses, and events in the park. In addition, William Paterson University will seek to involve highly qualified faculty and students in collaborative programs with the park, especially those designed to promote and make accessible to the public a deeper understanding of the interpretative themes of the park and its surroundings.

What's Happening at the Park?

The park tests new Junior Ranger Program. More than 120 local youth have become official NPS Junior Rangers at the Great Falls since the program's inception in April.

Under the park's Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program, school teachers work on researching and designing lesson plans linking classrooms and parks.

The 2nd annual Paterson Great Falls Asphalt-Art Competition took place in September in partnership with local artists and schools.

Photo courtesy of Adali Photography

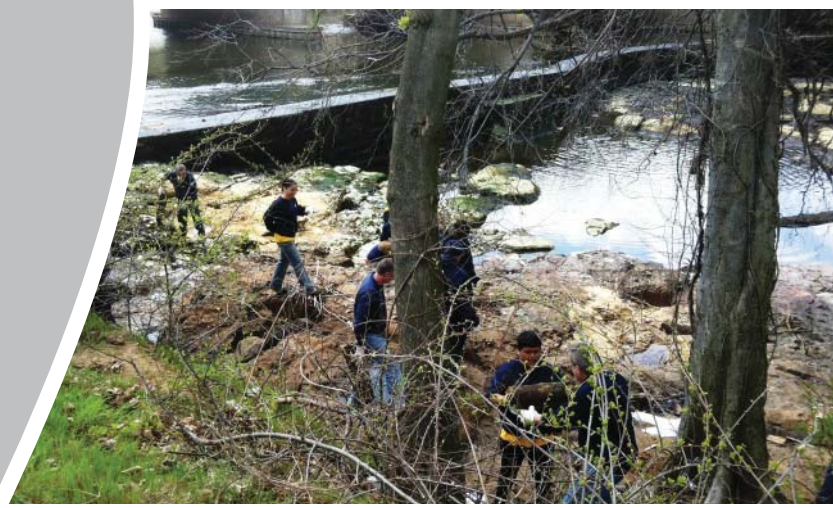
Photo courtesy of Mohamed Khalil

Photo courtesy of Adali Photography

The NPS brought "Rocking the Boat" back to Paterson so students could enjoy and learn about the Passaic River.

The park's "adopted" 2016 graduating class (the Centennial Class), Paterson Public School #7, visited Morristown National Historical Park.

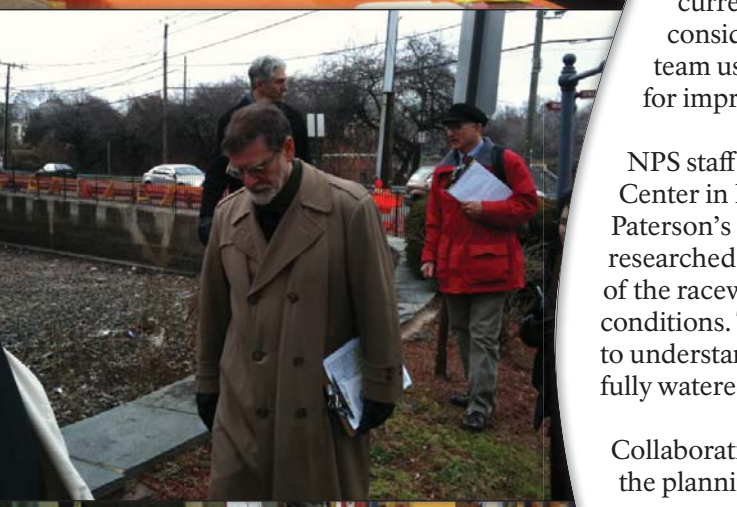
More than 3,300 visitors took part in the park's ranger-led tours and educational programs.
(Photo courtesy of Adali Rosario and NJCDC)



The annual Great Falls Clean-Up took place on Earth Day, April 22, with more than 200 volunteers participating.

What is a General Management Plan?

A general management plan (GMP) identifies the overall direction for the future management of units of the national park system. GMPs take a long-range, broad conceptual view, answering the question, "What kind of place do we want this park to be?" It provides a framework for managers to use in making decisions about such issues as how best to protect various elements which make up the park, what levels and types of uses are appropriate, what types of facilities should be developed, and how people should access the park.



Update on the Status of the GMP

Over the last year, the NPS planning team completed many important activities to advance development of the park's first general management plan. This new GMP will guide development and management of the park for the next 20 years.

Representatives from city, county and state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the Paterson Great Falls Federal Advisory Commission participated in a series of workshops focused on the Passaic River, transportation and access, and economic development and tourism initiatives. The purpose of the workshops was to identify current conditions, potential issues, and opportunities that need to be considered in planning and management of the park. The NPS planning team used the information from these meetings to develop different ideas for improving the experience of visiting the park.

NPS staff from the Historic Architecture, Conservation and Engineering Center in Lowell, Massachusetts produced a preliminary report documenting Paterson's raceway system. With the assistance of local experts, NPS staff researched the historic construction methods and materials; the evolution of the raceways, tailraces, and associated waterworks; and observed current conditions. The information contained in this report helped the planning team to understand the complexities of the raceways and the factors in considering a fully watered sys-tem.

Collaborating with the federal advisory commission and the City of Paterson, the planning team developed different options for protecting the park resources, offering different kinds of education experiences and exploring ways to collaborate with others to make the future vision a reality. These options, called alternatives, offer a different direction for the park and describe possible actions for the park and partners to undertake in the future. The final plan may consist of one of these alternatives, or a combination of parts from several alternatives.

The planning team is now preparing the draft GMP and environmental impact statement (EIS). The draft GMP/EIS is expected to be released for public review during the summer of 2014. A series of public open houses to present the draft GMP and collect public comments will be held following the release of the document.

Federal Advisory Commission

The congressional legislation authorizing the establishment of Paterson Great Falls NHP 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 NHP's Federal Advisory Commission members:

- Dr. Leslie Agard-Jones, former William Paterson University Dean of Education
- Theodore O. Best Jr., Freeholder, Passaic County, New Jersey
- Dr. Susan A. Cole, President, Montclair State University
- Robert Guarasci, Executive Director, New Jersey Community Development Corp.
- Jeffery Jones, Mayor, 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, Hamilton Partnership for Paterson

Upcoming Federal Advisory Commission Meetings:

April 10, 2014 - 6:00 – 9:00 pm
Montclair State University
Dickson Hall - Cohen Lounge

July 10, 2014 - 2:00 – 5:00 pm
Paterson Museum
2 Market Street
Paterson, NJ

October 9, 2014 - 2:00 – 5:00 pm
Paterson Museum
2 Market Street
Paterson, NJ

PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE GENERAL MANAGMENT PLAN

ESTIMATED TIME FRAME	PLANNING ACTIVITY	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.	- Review newsletter and website information - Attend an Open House - Send us comments and suggestions
Summer - Fall 2012	Foundation and Planning Issues – Confirm park's purpose, significance, fundamental resources, & primary interpretive themes; and identify planning issues and resource conditions.	- Review newsletter and website information - Send us comments and suggestions
Summer 2014	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.	- Review the Draft GMP/EIS - Attend an Open House - Share your written comments
Winter 2015	Revise Draft Plan and Prepare a Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (Final GMP/EIS)	- Review the Final GMP/EIS
Spring 2015	Implement the Approved Plan – Prepare and issue a "Record of Decision" and implement plan as funding allows	- Help implement the plan

Staying Connected

There are many ways to learn more and stay connected with the GMP and future events. A summary of the planning process, timeframe and ways for you to participate is provided below:

- ✓ Visit the Paterson Great Falls NHP website at http://www.nps.gov/pagr for updated and expanded information on park and GMP activities.
- ✓ Sign up for GMP email notifications to receive an announcement on the release of the draft GMP and additional information on the public open houses on the park's website - http://www.nps.gov/pagr/parkmgmt/index.htm.
- ✓ "Like" us on the Paterson Great Falls NHP Facebook page - http://www.facebook.com/PatersonGreatFalls.
- ✓ Attend a Federal Advisory Commission meeting or talk with Advisory Commission members about the planning process and express your ideas. Please visit the Advisory Commission's website (http://www.nps.gov/pagr/parkmgmt/federal-advisory-commission.htm) for announcements and upcoming meeting dates.
- ✓ Learn more about this long-range planning effort for Paterson Great Falls NHP by visiting http://parkplanning.nps.gov/pagr and downloading Newsletters #1 and #2. Information includes:
    - A brief history of the park
    - Results from the public scoping workshops held in November 2011
    - The draft foundation document for the park including park purpose and significance statements, interpretive themes and fundamental resources and values
    - Major planning issues and concerns for the park
    - And much more…

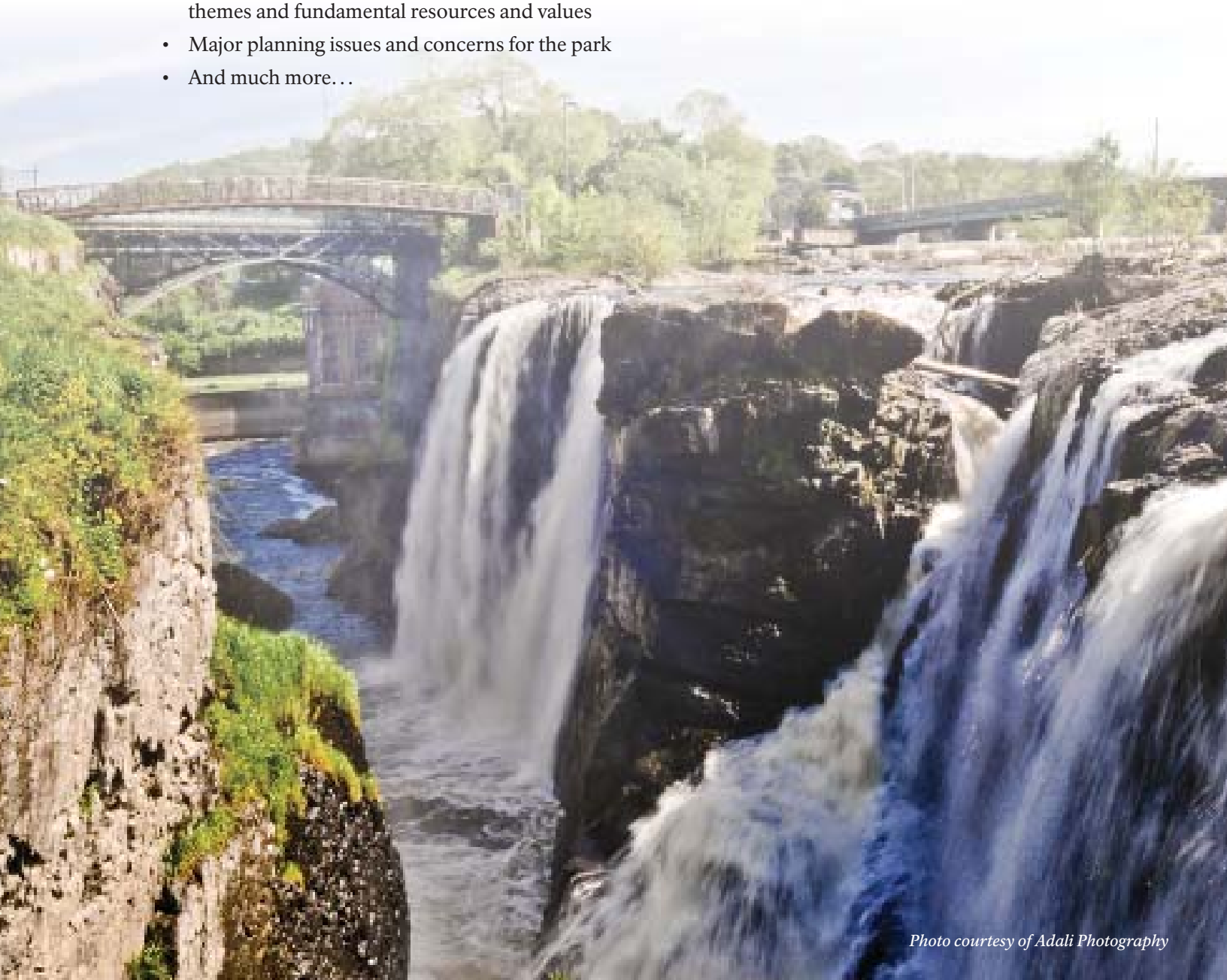


Photo courtesy of Adali Photography