4.00 PATERNSON'S OUTDOOR LIVING ROOMS

4.01 ROOMS KEY PLAN

The main strategy of the design is to use a 1 mile long “loop path” to tie together the various parts of the site and link the Great Falls and Overlook Park to the historical ATP site, the River, the Valley of Rocks and Mary Ellen Kramer Park. These distinct areas are described through a metaphor of “rooms” to amplify existing features and assets of the site.

The loop path has a number of outlooks, balconies and terraces that afford special vantage points and access to other locations in the Park.

While each loop offers distinct itineraries, enjoyment of the natural resource and interpretation of the historic resources will be transcendent.
4.02 OVERLOOK PLAZA, BALCONY + STEAM PLANT

The Overlook is considered the premiere entry to the new State Park. The existing Overlook Park components seem to have emerged with minimal public access planning or regard to aesthetic considerations. Fences prohibit entry to most areas due to stabilization issues of the old Steam Plant foundation, steep slopes, or trespassing concerns.

The Overlook Park today is comprised of three terraces structured around the old steam plant foundation. The top terrace is mainly a large Parking lot with a small concrete deck accommodating Alexander Hamilton's statue and a view of the Great Falls. The second terrace is the roof of the old Steam Plant foundation which includes old defunct bathrooms, a steep inaccessible slope and a service road leading to a grassy platform. The third terrace is a flat grassy area overlooking the Passaic and the Great Falls beyond. It is peppered with few picnic tables, surrounded by the steam plant foundation walls, steep slopes and an unattractive chain link fence in front of the River.

THE PROPOSED OVERLOOK PLAZA WILL SERVE AS AN ARRIVAL, WELCOME, FOOD AND EVENTS SPACE

The proposed Overlook Plaza will provide a grove of flowering cherry trees in lieu of the existing Parking lot in order to accommodate large groups and create a beautiful, celebratory entrance to the Great Falls State Park. The existing overlook terrace will be refurbished with new paving, furnishings and lighting. Adaptive reuse of the old Steam Plant foundation will include a dramatic ramp sequence down to the lower "Balcony." The renovated building will house a new welcome and information center, a large restaurant with an outdoor dining terrace, bathroom facilities, and storage. Adjacent to the building will be a new amphitheater and terraced slope for seating and large gatherings.
4.03 THE QUARRY ROOM

The Quarry Room, about 1.5 acres, is the former location of the basalt hill known as "Mount Morris". During the 19th Century the hill was quarried, leaving behind a 50' tall basalt wall that naturally enclosed a flat open-space along the river. Textile dyeing mills were constructed on this small plateau in the early 20th Century and eventually the site was completely covered with mill buildings. Presently there is only one building, the Kriepscher & Maass Dye House, with standing walls partially intact. The remaining area is slowly being colonized by pioneer species that find footing in the cracks and joints in the old concrete foundations.

To the west, the quarry is separated from the Passaic River by a historic River Wall. This area has enormous potential; it is large and contained making it ideal for community festivals, music concerts and informal large gatherings.

THE PROPOSED QUARRY LAWN ROOM IS A COMMUNITY EVENT SPACE, PERFORMANCE SPACE, FESTIVAL SPACE AND PICNIC LAWN

From The Overlook the visitor can either cross the Wayne Avenue Bridge to the "The Landing" and cross the pedestrian bridge over the Falls to Mary Ellen Kramer Park, or they can follow the Great Falls loop into the "Quarry Room". A large open flowering meadow and lawn, perfect for sunning, picnicking and community events, will welcome the visitor to the Quarry room. Encircling the event lawn is a small informal amphitheater cut into the quarry wall and set within a dramatic grove of Locust trees and flowering shrubs. The historic stone river wall along the Passaic will be restored and small cantilevered balconies will allow the visitor to pass through window openings in the wall for amazing elevated views of the river.
THE QUARRY ROOM

VIEW OF RESTORED MILL RIVER WALLS WITH OVERLOOK BALCONIES

GREAT FALLS STATE PARK / field operations
4.04 MIDDLE RACEWAY

The Middle Raceway is a 1000' long by 20' wide channel. This raceway segment begins at Spruce Street, bends to the North just before Mill Street, crosses over Mc Bride Ave and flows to the rear of the Essex Mill before it passes through a spillway, dropping 25' into the Lower Raceway. A short, 100' long segment of the old tailrace that ran along Mill Street is revealed just North-West of the middle raceway in front of the Hamilton Mill.

The water flow in the Middle Raceway is relatively tenuous. This raceway segment is in a state of deterioration, as its once clay lining has eroded and its concrete and brownstone lining is, in parts, completely non-existent. Many pioneer plant species have grown in along its banks, creating habitat for turtles, frogs and birds.

THE RENOVATED MIDDLE RACEWAY CONNECTS THE PARK AND THE CITY

As the oldest leg of the Raceway system, operational since 1794, the middle raceway is historically significant and restoration of the raceway with sensitivity to its original architecture and materiality will progress in a later design phase.
4.05 INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY ROOM / ATP SITE

The area termed the "Industrial Archaeology Room" includes a large portion of the Allied Textile Printing (ATP) site. Extending from the Colt Gun Mill and the Boiler Plant to the soon-to-be-renovated Congdon Mill, the room is approximately 4 acres total.

The Industrial Archeology room contains some of the most significant historical ruins in the Park. Due to the number of resources on this site that contributed to the District's National Historic Landmark status, the National Park Service, through efforts of the federal congressional delegation, provided Urban History Initiative funding, some of which will be used for cultural resource work on this site. Any development in this Room will be completed to meet the standards of the Secretary of the Interior. The cultural resource work that will be completed on the site will inform future uses and give a better sense of the archaeological resources and potential of the site. It is anticipated that many of these ruins will be stabilized and reused to tell stories of early American industry, engineering advancement, energy harnessing, the lives of the immigrant workers, and the origin of the labor movement.

There are a number of visible mill remains within the room - the Boiler Plant, the Colt Gun Mill, the Mallory Mill foundations, Waverly Mill, and the Passaic and Todd Mills. These mills range in history, use, structural stability and cultural value.

THE RENOVATED ATP SITE ACCOMMODATES MANY NEW PROGRAMS INCLUDING HISTORICAL EDUCATION, INTERPRETATION, AND INTERACTIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK.

The ATP site will be renovated as a place to learn about the industrial heritage of Paterson. Proposed uses for this space include renovated mills and pipe-stack structures, with the Colt Gun Mill being restored as a Museum. Any new architectural insertions such as open-air roof structures, stabilization structures and new floor systems will be respectfully and minimally inserted into the existing fabric. The Waverly Mill façade and several other standing walls will be restored to house a café and an interactive children's workshop. It is envisaged that Todd Mill will become an open air exhibit and the Boiler Plant will be stabilized and used as a historical artifact gallery for old industrial equipment or new art.

Other remaining structures with standing walls still intact will be stabilized or partially rebuilt and will be planted with tree bosques (Gray Birch, Sumac, and Mulberry), creating unusual gardens that will fill and demarcate the interior volumes of the original structures.
INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY ROOM / ATP SITE

VIEW OF THE COLT GUN MILL AT NIGHT
4.06 LOWER RACEWAY

The Lower Raceway is a 1500’ long channel starting at the spillway behind the Colt Gun Mill and flowing parallel to Van Houten Street until Memorial Drive, where it returns to the Passaic.

Water flow in this part of the raceway is very slow; some of the water seeps through underground flumes to the Passaic River resulting in a dry tail race along Memorial Drive.

THE RENOVATED LOWER RACEWAY SHOWCASES PAST HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING WORKS AND NEW BIOENGINEERING WORKS

Like the Middle raceway, it is envisaged that the lower raceway will be restored to its original state and flowing with water. Similarly, a restoration proposal will establish an appropriate balance between the reconstruction of the raceways and the creation of contained water gardens that help to demonstrate ecological techniques for water management. Submerged planters with aquatic plants can be positioned in the channel to help green the edge, reduce pollution and noise from the street, clean the water and encourage amphibian and waterfowl habitat without affecting the integrity of the restored raceway.
LOWER RACEWAY

Scirpus longii  Typha angustifolia  Iris versicolor Polygonum virginica  Callicarpa americana

VIEW OF THE RESTORED RACEWAY WITH WETLAND GARDENS
4.07 RIVER ROOM

The River Room is a narrow swath of land on the eastern bank of the Passaic River at the foot of the historic River Wall, between the Congdon Mill and the Boiler Plant. This ledge-like beach, sandwiched between the Passaic and the 6’ tall river wall, has a unique serene quality created by a mossy, rocky terrain that attracts wildlife and waterfowl.

THE RIVER ROOM OFFERS RIVER ACCESS, WADING, FISHING AND KAYAKING

The Great Falls loop follows the historic river wall through the ATP site and along the "River Room". A small arm of the path splits off just behind the Congdon Mill and ramps down beside the historic river wall into the River Room. At the end of the small path, a wooden dock allows access to the water for fishing, wading, and kayaking. Given the narrow space of the River Room, the visitor can intimately experience the width and speed of the Passaic.
4.08 RIVER CROSSING PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE

The new footbridge will begin just past the Congdon Mill, spanning 170' in length over the Passaic River and overflow channel into the forested area on the opposite bank. Currently a small building behind the Congdon Mill prevents pedestrian access along the river and may be demolished by a private landowner prior to Park construction.

Just below where the footbridge crosses the Passaic, a small set of rapids become visible during low water levels. To make this feature evident during periods of high water levels, large boulders will be strategically shifted in the river, creating aquatic habitat and water aeration.

The footbridge sweeps by the S.U.M. Island and above the overflow channel before it dives into the forest and ends at a small clearing. After experiencing passage across the river, the clearing offers a place for picnicking, playing, and learning about river ecology and Native American heritage along the Passaic. Various Native American housing types and agricultural techniques can be exhibited here.
RIVER CROSSING PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE