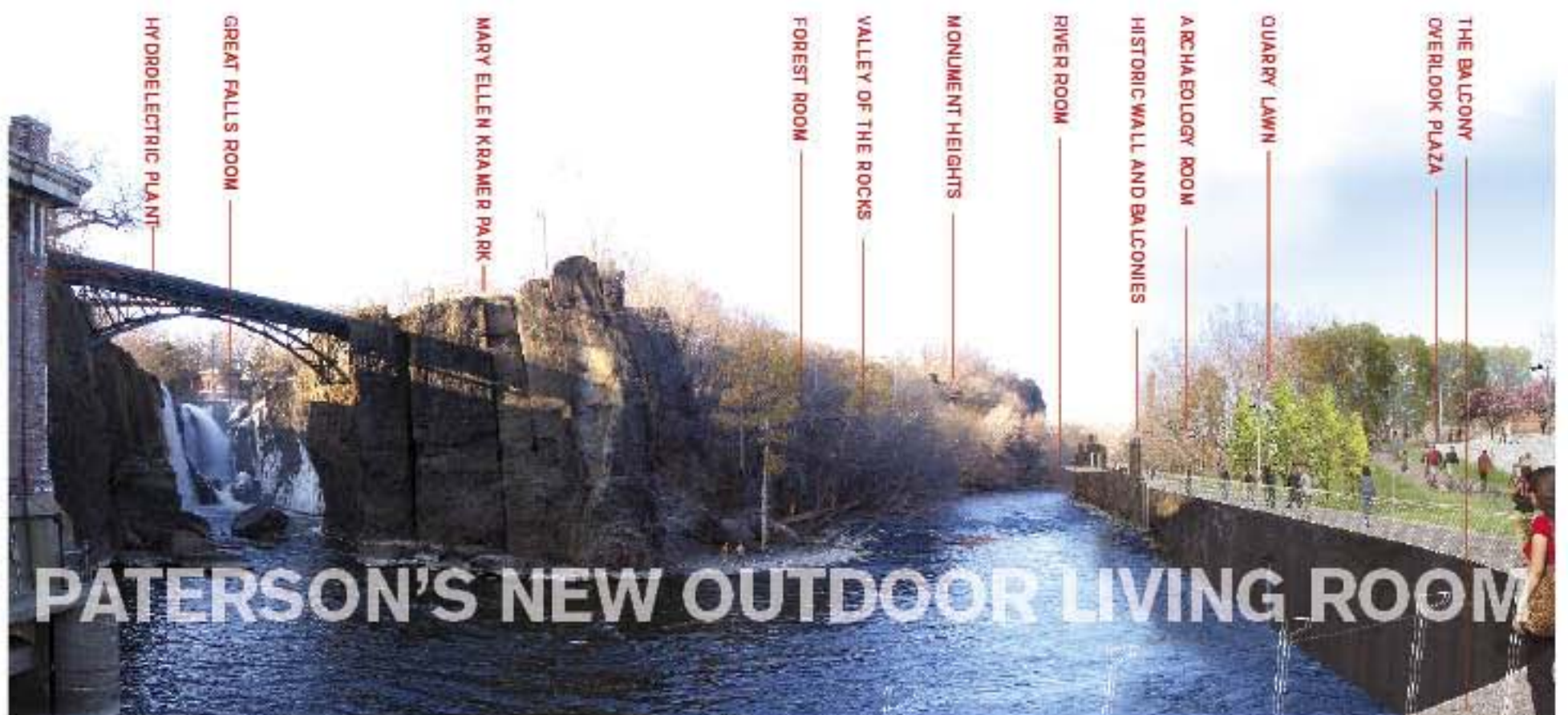


# GREAT FALLS STATE PARK MASTER PLAN

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

APRIL, 2008

AMENDED AUGUST 2008



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**GREAT FALLS STATE PARK MASTER PLAN**

APRIL 2008  
AMENDED AUGUST 2008

PREPARED FOR:

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AND  
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY  
DIVISION OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION

PREPARED BY:

**FIELD OPERATIONS**  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN

WITH

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CENTER FOR URBAN RESTORATION ECOLOGY  
PLANT AND SOIL ECOLOGY; HYDRAULICS AND RIVER RESOURCES

**MOFFATT & NICHOL ENGINEERS**  
CIVIL, MARINE AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

**MARY DELANEY KRUGMAN ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge the interest in and support for this project demonstrated by Governor Jon S. Corzine, NJDEP Commissioner Lisa P. Jackson and NJDEP Deputy Commissioner John S. Watson, Jr.

We also wish to express our gratitude to the members of the Master Planning Steering Committee and the organizations they represent for their guidance which helped to shape this document.

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We would also like to give a special thanks to all members of the public that provided comments, with special recognition to Dr. Ella Filippone of the Passaic River Coalition and the Paterson City Council.

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## 1.00 INTRODUCTION TO MASTER PLAN

The Great Falls of Paterson is a natural gem that is also the cornerstone of America's legacy of economic independence. A source of local pride and national renown, the site interests a broad base of stakeholders. The State of New Jersey designated this site a state park in 2004 and commenced a national design competition in 2005. Governor Jon S. Corzine announced Field Operations, a New York-based landscape architecture practice, as the winner of the national design competition to develop the master plan for this site in 2006. Two years of consultation, public outreach and multiple-agency review crafted this comprehensive Master Plan. The Plan proposes to transform 42 acres of land nestled in Paterson's Great Falls of the Passaic/Society for Establishing Useful Manufacturers National Historic Landmark District, into a contiguous public park that celebrates the nation's birthplace of planned industry and the ideal of economic independence while showcasing the spectacular Great Falls.

Coupling local and landowner interests with a potential designation as a unit of the National Park Service, this Master Plan introduces a comprehensive design vision for the future park. We believe that the integration of all these interests is critical to realizing the full potential of this magnificent resource. The optimal result would be designation as a unit of the National Park Service with management by a partnership between the National Park Service and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in collaboration with local landowners and stakeholders.

Organized around the idea of an "outdoor living room," Field Operations proposes the park as a place where a complex interweaving of Native American, industrial and labor histories with natural and cultural heritage serves both tourist and local interests. The metaphor of an "outdoor living room" is intended to highlight the public, civic characteristics of the park, encouraging everyday use by the local community while dramatically showcasing the site's many extraordinary assets for a broader regional and national audience.

The master plan outlines this pivotal opportunity to recover the Great Falls, a portion of the Passaic River, and the various surrounding landscapes and cultural industrial heritage sites, and to reassemble these presently disconnected places and multiple interests into one spectacular new public space. Focused upon implementation, the Master Plan also details how this vision can become a reality, built in multiple logical phases, over the next several years.



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## **AN INVENTORY OF FACTS AND TALES ABOUT PATERSON REVEALS EXTRAORDINARY DEPTH AND RICHNESS.**

Paterson is of great interest to many people for a diverse set of reasons – part historical, part scenic, part natural, and part recreational. Its diverse characteristics are captured in several esteemed designations, including a National Historic Landmark District, a National Natural Landmark and a National Civil and Mechanical Engineering Landmark. Paterson is one of the nation's rare places that holds these multiple coveted distinctions.

The Great Falls are a natural wonder. At approximately seventy-seven feet tall, rushing up to two billion gallons of water each day off of basalt cliffs, the Great Falls is the second largest waterfall by volume and width east of the Mississippi River. The Great Falls is an aesthetic and spectacular scenic attraction, but its prominence extends to its utility at the dawn of our new nation, where sheer energy and power of the Falls played an integral role in America's history and economic independence.

The tremendous force of the Great Falls inspired Alexander Hamilton to propose the first major water power system in the United States and to create the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures (S.U.M.), the chartered organization responsible for attracting industry. Conceived in 1791 and designed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant and implemented by Peter Colt, this innovative raceway and power system set the framework for one of the first American communities to integrate water power, industrial development and urban planning. Previously dependent on foreign industrial powers, the planning and development of Paterson was America's first attempt to develop an industry-based city in a previously solely agrarian economy.

The abundance of inexpensive energy provided by the Great Falls water power system attracted entrepreneurs who built industrial factories and facilities. These included the Roger's Locomotive Works, the Colt Gun Mill, various textile and silk manufacturing mills, facilities that built the first motorized submarine as well as the early Wright aircraft engines, and many more productive working mills.

Throughout the nineteenth century, Paterson emerged as the place that forged America's industrial-economic base. These are sweeping themes in the history of the United States, and the new Great Falls State Park should be a place where the visitor can learn about past achievements, stories and their importance for current times.

The Master Plan for the new Great Falls State Park unleashes the power of these sublime legacies to create a modern-day destination experience. Paterson's "outdoor living room" weaves together a series of stories and places to create a whole that is more than the sum of its parts. Importantly, this new Park will not simply interpret and exhibit the past but will also help create the conditions for a new, contemporary Paterson, with new spaces for social interaction, education and experience.



Eastern riverbank at ATP site



The Quarry area



Middle Raceway



Passaic River looking upstream from W Broadway



Colt Gun Mill ruin



Upper Raceway

