



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CITY OF PATERSON ANNOUNCES
NATIONAL PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

*In Collaboration with grants from the National Park Service, Passaic County and
NJ DEP*

Paterson -- Mayor Jose "joey" Torres today announced additional improvements to key lands surrounding the Great Falls, including the former Dairy Queen site, Overlook Park and the former Allied Textile Printers (ATP) Site, all located within the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park boundaries. Overall the improvements cover about five acres of new and existing parklands.

"These exciting projects are possible through the cooperative funding and excitement of all those who share our vision of how great Paterson's future park will be," said Mayor Torres, following the announcement by Congressman Bill Pacrell, Jr. last week of a \$679,335 NPS Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to the NJ DEP for improvements within the national park.

Following the completion of Mary Ellen Kramer Park this summer, the City of Paterson is moving forward with improvements to other key lands within the national park boundaries. The improvements include new landscaping, sidewalks, parking lot, fencing, and the creation of additional 2 acres of passive recreational space along the south bank of the Passaic River into a portion of the ATP site called "the Quarry."

The projects are proceeding in cooperation with funding from the National Park Service (NPS), Passaic County and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The new NPS grant will be added to existing grant funding from the DEP's Green Acres program for the establishment of a River Walk running from the S.U.M. Hydroelectric Plant at the base of the falls along the river into the ATP site.

A portion of the grant will also be used for final rehabilitation of the former Dairy Queen site at the corner of Maple and Wayne Avenues. Landscape improvements will make it contiguous with the recently rehabilitated north bank of the Passaic River, giving access to pedestrians to Mary Ellen Kramer Park with the installation of sidewalks, curbing and fencing.

The River Walk project will also address environmental cleanup and rehabilitation of an adjacent portion of the ATP site known as "the Quarry." The opportunity exists to establish a great

meadow of about 2 acres that will function as a multi-use passive recreational space. The space begins at the boundary of Overlook Park and runs to the ruins of the Colt Gun Mill.

Overlook Park environmental investigations and design planning stages are underway, with construction planned for spring and summer of 2016. The park improvement project is funded by the Passaic County Open Space Preservation fund and the NPS.

Its rehabilitation includes landscape redesign that will give visitors the opportunity to view the falls from the most picturesque vantage points along with a variety of other upgrades to its current amenities.

Overlook Park is the primary destination for viewing the falls on the south side of the Passaic River, where the Great Falls Welcome Center is also located.

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