Great Falls Historic District Cultural Center

65 McBride Ave. Ext.
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www.patersonnj.gov

About the Center

The Great Falls Historic District Cultural Center is a division of The Paterson Museum, a statutory agency funded by the City of Paterson.

The Center provides a variety of services to educators, students, researchers, and visitors to the Great Falls. Information from the Center’s archives are available for review and knowledgeable staff are on hand to answer questions and assist with research.

The Cultural Center offers interpretive exhibits based on Paterson’s history. A selection of information is made available for distribution by the Center and is updated regularly.

The Great Falls Historic District Cultural Center is open year-round and conveniently located at the corner of McBride Avenue Extension and Spruce Street — directly across from the Great Falls and Harry B. Haines Overlook Park. Parking is available at no charge for both automobiles and buses at the Center and across the street near the overlook.

Operating hours:
Monday—Friday 9 AM — 5 PM
Saturday/Sunday (seasonal) 12:30 — 4:30 PM
Closed Holidays

Note: The Cultural Center may be closed at times when staff persons are out on tour. We suggest you call for an appointment if you are planning to do research, view videos, or have a special information request.

For further information or to download a PDF brochure on Paterson’s Great Falls Historic District visit
www.patersonnj.gov
Click on the tab for Historic Paterson.

Directions

Route 80 West: Exit 57 B-A. Follow signs for Downtown Paterson. Make 1st left at Cianci Street. Turn left onto Market Street. Go to end and turn right onto Spruce Street. Go one block — Cultural Center is on right.

Route 80 East: Exit 57 B to Grand Street. Turn left onto Grand and then right at Spruce Street. Go three blocks to McBride Ave Ext. Center is on the right.

Garden State Parkway South: Exit 159 onto Route 80 West. Follow directions for Route 80 West above.

Garden State Parkway North: Exit 155 to Route 19 North. Follow signs for Downtown Paterson. Make 1st left onto Cianci Street. Turn left onto Market Street. At the end of Market Street turn right onto Spruce Street. Cultural Center is on the right comer of McBride Ave. Ext.

Route 4 West: Follow signs to Paterson via Broadway. Cross Passaic River bridge into Paterson and continue on Broadway to Memorial Drive. Turn right onto Memorial Drive then right onto Van Houten Street, which turns into Mill Street. Turn right onto McBride Ave. Ext. The Cultural Center is the last building on the left.
For well over two decades Paterson’s Great Falls Historic District Cultural Center has welcomed visitors and groups from many areas of New Jersey and the greater New York metropolitan area to tour the historic district and the Great Falls. Thousands of educators, students, seniors, and community clubs have taken advantage of our guided tour services.

We suggest teachers visit the Center for an introduction to Paterson’s history and the relationship of the Great Falls to American industrial history prior to visiting the area with a group. Printed information is available by request to assist educators with class discussions, assignments, and research projects.

### Group Tours

- Guided tours are tailored for every age, school grade, or senior group. A minimum of 10 persons is required to reserve a tour. The maximum number of persons per group is 35.
- Group tours are available Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:30 AM—11:30 PM and 1:00 PM—3:00 PM. Other times may be possible depending on staff availability.
- Special interest requests, depending on your group’s focus, are possible within both the Great Falls Historic District and the Downtown Commercial Historic District with advance arrangement.
- Cultural Center staff can also help to coordinate your group’s visit with The Paterson Museum, Lambert Castle, the S.U.M. Hydroelectric Station, and The American Labor Museum/Botto House.
- Guided tours are popular and we urge you to make reservations well in advance, especially if you are considering a springtime tour.
- There is no charge for Cultural Center services for Paterson-based groups.
- For groups based outside Paterson, one of our staff persons can assist with determining a group price depending upon how many persons are in your group and whether you are also visiting The Paterson Museum.
- Staff can also provide information to teachers who wish to conduct their own tours.

Flood levels at the Great Falls in April 2007.

A winter scene at the Great Falls of the Passaic River lures many visitors to its icy gorge.