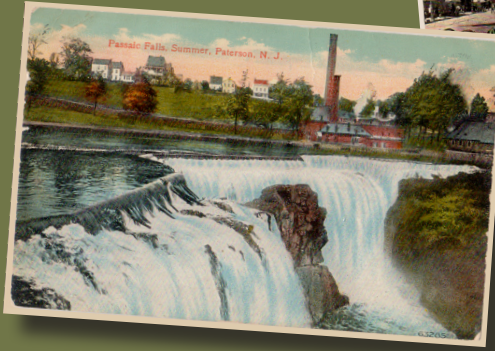


# The Future of Paterson's Past: What Can a National Park Do?

Sunday, October 31, 2010  
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

William Paterson University  
David and Lorraine Cheng  
Library Auditorium

FREE (for further information, visit [wpunj.edu/friends](http://wpunj.edu/friends))



## Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park—America's Newest Gem

The evolving Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park connects the city of the present with the city of the past. The Great Falls themselves couple Paterson to distant geological time, to its political and economic origins, and to adjacent raceways and factories. America's newest national park will preserve and interpret artifacts from the City's historic past, beginning in the late 1700s as an industrial dynamo to the present day as a manufacturing and labor center.

Beyond preserving, revealing, and interpreting the past, however, the Park represents an opportunity to affect the future, to provide a focal point for the City circled by the curve of the Passaic River below and Garret Mountain above. This discussion with two principal actors in the unfolding story of the Park—Leonard Zax and Bill Bolger—explores the question “What Can a National Park Do?” What are the unique challenges and promises of this Park? How does it compare to other Parks and how does it differ in possibilities? What does recognition of a “National Park” mean? Who will benefit, and how?

Most importantly, this conversation will not only celebrate the contribution of people from diverse backgrounds and talents, of high social status and low, who forged the history of the City, but will engage the question of how people can help to shape the future of the City.

## Leonard A. Zax

A native son of the city of Paterson and a 1967 graduate of its Eastside High School, Leonard A. Zax has had a distinguished career forging public/private partnerships for community development and historic preservation, including service as a government official, city planner, educator, and partner in the international law firm of Latham & Watkins, and, since 2008, his leadership of the Hamilton Partnership for Paterson. His tireless efforts resulted in the designation of the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in 2009.

From Eastside High, Mr. Zax went on to study at the University of Chicago, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1971, and, then, to Harvard, where he earned both a master's degree in city planning and a juris doctor degree in 1975. Later, at Harvard, he served as a lecturer in urban planning in 1977-1978 and 2008-2009, as well as a member of the visiting committee of the Graduate School of Design from 2000 to 2007.

One of the primary achievements of his career has been the many historic preservation projects he has initiated or shepherded to completion, thereby using preservation not only to bring back the past, but also to benefit communities now and in the future. Projects include the restorations of buildings from Washington, D.C., to San Francisco for affordable housing, an historic Los Angeles hotel adapted for senior housing, and his assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to the Rebuild New Orleans Commission.

Most recent and most notable of his contributions is one that most closely affects his hometown of Paterson: the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park. Having drafted the legislation and testified before Congressional committees to secure the designation of America's newest national park, Mr. Zax founded and became president of the Hamilton Partnership for Paterson to enhance the educational, social, and economic benefits of the national park for the community, the region, and the nation. He continues the quest simultaneously to celebrate the past and revitalize neighborhoods of the city and to restore the narrative of its history through its landscape and architecture.

## Bill Bolger

Bill Bolger is, since June 1, 2009, the project manager for the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park. In early 2009, Congress passed legislation designating the site as part of the National Park System and, on March 30, 2009, President Obama signed legislation authorizing the falls as a national park. At present, he works with the city, state, and other organizations to fulfill the terms of the legislation that established the park.

Bill Bolger is a twenty-six-year veteran of the National Park Service and has extensive experience with historic properties, ranging from small eighteenth-century houses to large twentieth-century industrial complexes. He joined the National Park Service in 1983, reviewing rehabilitation projects under the historic preservation tax incentives program in seventeen states. In 1995, he became manager of the National Historic Landmarks program for the Northeast Region, advising on the eligibility of properties to become National Historic Landmarks (NHLs), monitoring the condition of over 1,200 NHLs in the region, and providing technical assistance for the preservation of historic resources.

Bill Bolger is a 1975 graduate of Temple University with a bachelor's degree in art and architectural history and, in 1983, he studied historic preservation at Columbia University.