

## New hiking trail opens near Paterson's Great Falls

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The Stoney Ridge Trail in Paterson is complete. The wooded .6 mile walking trail begins across the street from Libby's Restaurant off of McBride Avenue and runs on high ground parallel to Upper Raceway Park, ending at the Lou Costello swimming pool. [Viorel Florescu/NorthJersey.com](#)



(Photo: [Viorel Florescu/NorthJersey.com](#))

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PATERSON – Two centuries ago, mill workers started following a path through the woods near the Passaic River to get back and forth between their homes and their jobs.

But by the mid-1800s, local streets provided an easier commuting option and the path pretty much

disappeared.

Now visitors to the national park at the Great Falls can follow in those mill workers' footsteps. Officials Friday celebrated the opening of the new Stoney Ridge hiking trail, a six-tenths of a mile path that replicates the old short-cut.

The project was two years in the making and involved the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, the New Jersey Youth Corps, the Great Falls Youth Corps and the Paterson public works department. The various partners on the project cleared the trail over the past two years, removing dead trees and debris. Their combined efforts cost slightly more than \$20,000, officials said.

The trail starts on McBride Avenue, across the street from Libby's Lunch, and ends in the parking area near Paterson Costello Pool, off Grand Street. At that point, hikers can cut over to one of the paths that parallel Paterson's historic raceways and continue back to where they started for a 1.1-mile round-trip.



The Stoney Ridge Trail in Paterson opened and a dedication ceremony took place on Friday, Oct. 13, 2017. (Photo: Viorel Florescu/NorthJersey.com)

The drone of the traffic can be heard from nearby streets even as hikers walk through areas surrounded by trees and brush.

The highlight of the trail is an overlook area along the side of the ridge, about 60 feet above Spruce Street. "You get great views of Paterson from here and all these years no one knew about this," said national park superintendent Darren Boch.

About 22 years ago, the New Jersey Youth Corps had carved out the same trail. But no one ever maintained it and the path soon became overgrown with vegetation. "There was little of anything left of it," Boch said.

Season national park ranger Erik Sosa stumbled upon the 1995 version of the trail when he was walking through the area two years ago. "It was a forgotten place," he said.