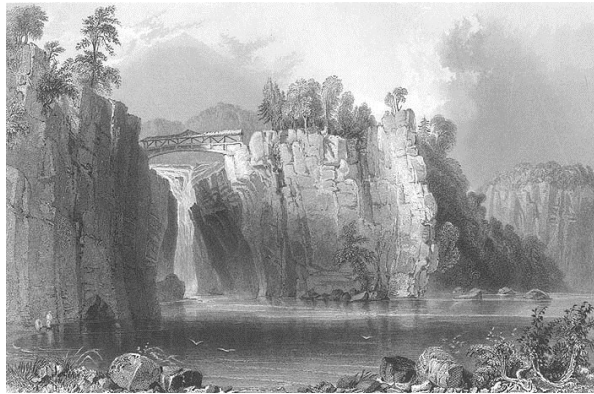




The Paterson Great Falls - A National Historic Park: Fast Facts



From natural wonder to the birthplace of the American industrial revolution, the Great Falls remains a jewel of New Jersey and the nation.

The Passaic River flows in a highly circuitous route, meandering through northern parts of New Jersey. In Paterson, it drops over the Great Falls.

The Great Falls are 77 feet high and 260 feet wide. More than 2 billion gallons of water rush over it daily. It is the 2nd largest waterfall, by volume, east of the Mississippi River, behind only Niagara Falls.

The Great Falls were carved by glaciers that receded 13,000 years ago at the end of the last Ice Age.



The immediate vicinity surrounding the Great Falls was first inhabited by the Lenape Indians and later Dutch Settlers.

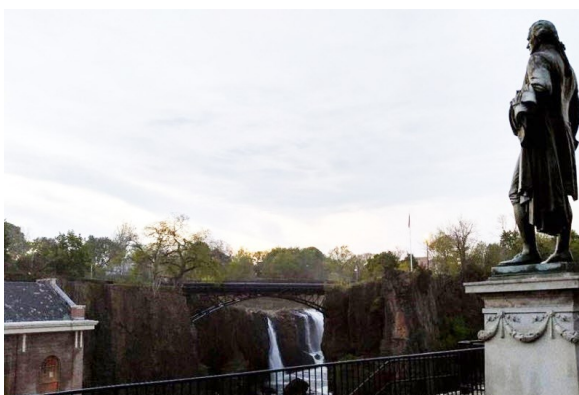
During the American Revolution, Alexander Hamilton visited the falls with George Washington. Hamilton returned in 1791 to plan America's first industrial city — Paterson.

In the next 200-plus years, the falls powered manufacturing plants in Paterson and played a major role in the industrial development of New Jersey.



The Great Falls was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976. President Gerald Ford attended the ceremony. In 2009, the falls were designated a National Historic Park. In 2016, more than 177,000 people visited the falls.

Since its creation in 1998, PVSC's award-winning River Restoration Program has been charged with preserving and protecting over 100 miles of area waterways. The signature effort consists of at least two cleanups per year of the Great Falls.



Images: 1. Artists rendition from 1838, 2. The Falls in 1896, 3. The Falls today, 4. The Falls from above, 5. Statue of Alexander Hamilton.



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