

REACH FALLS

Reach Falls, Portland continues to welcome visitors, following on the completion of the interim upgrading by the Urban Development Corporation. Patrons may visit the attraction on Wednesday to Sunday or on public holidays between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Entry fees apply as follows - Residents 4-12 years J\$150 over 12 years, J\$300 and non-residents US\$5 and 10 respectively.

Location

The 4.6 hectare property is located on the Driver's River some 33 km east of Portland's capital, Port Antonio. It boasts tremendous natural beauty, a peaceful atmosphere an engaging waterfall, significant biodiversity and is an ecological sanctuary.

Scope

The Corporation is engaged in the phased development of Reach Falls into a world class recreational facility and tourist attraction to include provision of proper sanitary facilities, improved water and electrical supply systems and administration buildings. Improvements will also be carried out to parking facilities and landscaping.

Status

In continuation of the phased upgrading, the UDC has completed a car park under Phase 1

Other works in progress include:

- A two storey administrative building
- Ticket/Security Office
- Craft Hut
- Food and Beverage Hut
- Nurses Station/Souvenir Shop
- Sanitary Conveniences/Treatment and Disposal System

The attraction continues to welcome visitors during the construction period which is scheduled for completion by the end of 2009.

Under the interim phase, the UDC provided improved sanitary conveniences, temporary administrative facilities, repaired the road leading to the attraction as well as provided electricity service. The property has also been fenced. As part of the improvement works the Corporation has funded the laying of pipelines to the attraction. Additional funding has also been provided to the Portland Parish Council to repair the existing storage tank.

Background

The UDC has since June 1, 2006 taken on the responsibility for the development of the attraction, following the successful conclusion of lease arrangements with the National Land Agency (NLA). The Corporation had previously in 2004, assumed responsibility for the development of the property; however matters pertaining to the lease necessitated its return to the NLA for resolution. The upgrading of Reach Falls is in keeping with the mandate to enhance the tourism offering in the eastern end of the island and will be in line with Portland's designation as a 'green' destination.