

PSVC survey identifies issues in Rochelle Park, Saddle Brook, Lodi and Wallington

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The Passaic Valley Sewage Commission (PSVC) has completed its survey of the Saddle River and have identified issues in Rochelle Park, Paramus, Saddle Brook, Lodi and Wallington that pose "significant flooding risks," officials reported.

The survey, which commenced on April 9, was undertaken in response to flooding concerns and the potential for environmental impacts caused by debris in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, according to a press release.

"In April, PVSC began a survey of the Saddle River in cooperation with the Bergen County Mosquito Control Division (BCMCD) to identify any areas containing debris, fallen trees and other material that could exacerbate flooding of the Saddle River," said PVSC Executive Director Michael DeFrancisci. "We have been in constant communication with mayors and local officials in PVSC's service area and have been working diligently to assess what areas pose safety and environmental hazards."

The agencies will prioritize the problem areas and remove the various blockages in the river at 19 various sites identified by the survey. This will increase the Saddle River's ability to convey water in an effort to mitigate much of the flooding that affects many Bergen County communities along the Saddle River.

Sites located in Paramus, Saddle Brook, Lodi and Wallington reportedly pose the most significant flooding risks, although a timeframe for cleanup of all locations has not been established yet. PVSC spokeswoman Hollie Gilroy said that the agency is currently working with the BCMCD on scheduling, and the projects will be based on when resources are available and when the sites are accessible.

"One location has an issue with trout season," she said. "We're working with the EP [New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection] to get a waiver."

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The site that the PVSC has determined to pose the most immediate flooding threat and warrants high priority action is in Paramus, located near milepost 0.2 on the Saddle River Park walking path. A large tree fell across the entire width of the Saddle River and has begun to accumulate debris and silt.

According to DeFrancisci, "PVSC personnel will use specialized equipment to assist in the removal of the obstructions."

The blockages, which include fallen trees, capsized boats, and other vegetative matter, threaten to block the stream's flow. Much of the debris was deposited in the channel as a result of the region's recent hurricanes - particularly Superstorm Sandy.

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- See more at:

http://www.northjersey.com/news/211244881_PVSC_survey_identifies_issues_in_Rochelle_Park_Saddle_Brook_Lodi_and_Wallington.html#sthash.31paXCCi.dpuf