

Bayonne's Newark Bay shoreline restored after Sandy damage



*DEBRIS CLEARED AWAY by the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission.
(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PASSAIC VALLEY SEWERAGE COMMISSION)*

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Bayonne's Newark Bay shoreline is looking good now that the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) and the Clean Shores Program have completed their river restoration.

The agencies have been working to clean up debris left by Hurricane Sandy last fall.

During the cleanup process in Bayonne, large debris — totaling 313,500 pounds — was removed during the summer, according to Clean Shores. The debris included creosote docks, piers, tires and even an old boat, the PVSC said in a press release.

Shorelines in Newark, Jersey City and Elizabeth also were cleaned.

The navigational hazards in Bayonne were found during an investigation by the PVSC at sites including Robbins Reef, Bayonne Boatworks and other locations on the shoreline near the Bayonne Bridge.

“PVSC is pleased to help the city of Bayonne. Once again we are mindful of the pollution and flooding issues associated with the storm debris, as well as the navigational and safety hazards they pose,” said PVSC Executive Director Michael DeFrancisci. “The removal of this large debris is a significant undertaking. We’re glad that PVSC was able to lend assistance to our neighboring towns and businesses.”

PVSC removed debris with specialized equipment including its 30-ton crane, according to the press release. Tires were recycled through a partnership with Bridgestone Tires, while other debris was sent to landfills, as prescribed by state regulations, according to public information director Hollie A. Gilroy.

The PVSC is also doing post-storm cleanup to clean the Passaic River and related tributaries of blockages, help with flood control and maintain the quality of the river and waterways, according to officials.

“Bayonne is an important commerce hub for the State of New Jersey and the metropolitan region,” said PVSC Commissioner Kenneth J. Lucianin. “We’re glad that PVSC was able to assist in providing cleaner and safer waterways for both the citizens and commercial traffic.”

Clean Shores, a program that used Department of Corrections inmates from the Garden State Youth Correctional Facility in Bordentown, worked in tandem with the Department of Environmental Protection, clearing the shoreline of floatables and other litter and debris.

“The Clean Shores program partnership has long been an important and successful part of keeping New Jersey’s ocean beaches and urban shorelines free of debris and litter,” said DEP Commissioner Bob Martin. “This program has taken on an even more significant role since Superstorm Sandy, removing more than two million pounds of debris and trash from our shorelines.”