

KENNETH J. LUCIANIN
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Acting Clerk



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600 Wilson Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07105
www.pvsc.com

WAYNE J. FORREST
Executive Director

JAMES M. PIRO
General Counsel

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News Release

PVSC Responds to Flooding Concerns Along Third River

Bloomfield, NJ – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's (PVSC) Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest announced today that crews were deployed from the PVSC's River Restoration Department to remove debris from the Third River in response to concern expressed by a resident that the waterway was in danger of flooding due to obstructions caused by this winter's large amount of heavy rain and snow.

The PVSC will be using a 30-ton crane, multi-terrain loader and other heavy equipment to remove a collapsed streambank on the Third River which is impeding the flow of the waterway. The project is in response to a resident's concern that the obstruction is causing water from the stream to enter their basement. This is the first of three sites where the PVSC will be performing similar work over the course of two weeks.

"PVSC is proud to continue to assist in providing a cleaner and safer waterway for members of the community to enjoy and a healthier habitat for wildlife," said the PVSC Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest. "As with similar work we did on the Third River in 2010, we remain committed to protecting the tributaries that feed the Passaic River and understand the importance of partnering with communities to ensure the long-term viability of these restoration efforts," explained Forrest.

In addition to the site at the intersection of Baldwin St. and Broad St., crews will be performing similar work on the Third River at two other locations - the intersection of Broughton Ave. and Watchung Ave. and a site at the end of Lakewood Terrace. Officials were notified of the concerns at these sites by local residents.

Rosemary Roclore, the owner of the property adjacent to the site of today's work, is familiar with the history of the site. "My mom and dad have been trying to get this clean-up started for about ten years," Roclore explained. "It's been a long time coming, but we're happy that the PVSC along with the Township have been so effective in negotiating the proper channels to get it done. Hopefully the clean-up of the river will help alleviate some of the water pressure against the river banks," said Roclore.

"The PVSC encourages input from citizens regarding conditions throughout our service area," said the PVSC Commissioner Ken Lucianin. "The agency is glad we are able to not only be responsive to citizen concerns, but also assist in improving our environment," stated Lucianin.

In order to protect and preserve local streams and rivers from water pollution, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission operates one of the country's largest treatment plants for the wastewaters of northern New Jersey. With many expansions, and recent upgrading to secondary treatment, the facility has been striving, since its initial operation in 1924, to improve local water quality in accordance with federal and state water quality standards. Since the creation of the PVSC's River Restoration Program in 1998, which is charged with preserving and protecting over 100 miles of area waterways, the PVSC has removed over 8,000 tons of debris from the Newark Bay, the Passaic River and its tributaries, and sponsored over 650 individual clean ups along shorelines and in communities, along with educating over 180,000 students on how they can help protect the Passaic River and our environment.

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Contact: Tom Pietrykoski; Cell: (973) 985-3216, Office: (973) 817-5735