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*~Established 1902~*

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## PVSC PARTNERS WITH BRANCH BROOK PARK ALLIANCE ON RIVER AND PARK CLEANUP

NEWARK -- Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest announced that the PVSC partnered with the Branch Brook Park Alliance on a cleanup of the waterways in Branch Brook Park in Newark.

"It is fitting that PVSC partners with the Branch Brook Park Alliance to fulfill our mission of keeping the areas in and around the Passaic River, such as Branch Brook Park, clean," stated Forrest. "I commend the Branch Brook Park Alliance for continuing to give back to our environment. We look forward to continuing our partnership far into the future and to provide assistance toward keeping our waterways clean," said Forrest.

According to Forrest, PVSC's award winning River Restoration Program provided assistance to the Branch Brook Park Alliance in removing debris to both help improve water conveyance and provide a healthier ecosystem for plants and wildlife. PVSC has partnered with the Branch Brook Park Alliance many times over the last few years in cleanups of the park. As set forth in their website, the Branch Brook Park Alliance is a public/private partnership organized in 1999 that provides design expertise and funding support to help Essex County restore and revitalize the park.

"PVSC understands the importance of partnering with local groups like the Branch Brook Park Alliance so together we can work towards maintaining a cleaner environment," said Forrest. "PVSC relies on the dedicated volunteers, like those here today and from previous cleanups, to assist us with keeping our parks and waterways clean, and I applaud them on their efforts," said Forrest.

In order to protect and preserve local streams and rivers from water pollution, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission operates one of the country's oldest and 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 creation in 1902 and 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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