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PRESS RELEASE

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IN CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY, PVSC PARTNERS WITH LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL CREW TEAMS ON PASSAIC RIVER CLEAN-UP

KEARNY -- Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest announced today that the PVSC partnered with the Kearny, Belleville and Nutley High School Crew Teams in cleaning up portions around the Passaic River in Lyndhurst, Kearny and North Arlington.

"As our nation celebrates Earth Day, it is fitting that PVSC partners with school-based organizations to fulfill our mission of keeping the Passaic River and our environment clean," stated Forrest. "I commend the Kearny, Belleville and Nutley High School Crew Teams for giving back to our environment. We look forward to continuing to provide assistance toward keeping the Passaic River clean and available for recreation and sports activities, such as crew," said Forrest.

According to Forrest, PVSC's award winning River Restoration Program also provided assistance to the JFK High School Green Club who were doing a similar clean up at West Side Park in Paterson. PVSC routinely assists organizations who are interested in removing debris, litter and improve water conveyance in and around the Passaic River.

"PVSC understands the importance of partnering with local groups like the Kearny, Belleville, and Nutley High School Crew Teams and the approximately 200 individuals who participated in cleaning up portions of the Passaic River in Lyndhurst, Kearny and North Arlington. As partners, we can work together in maintaining a cleaner environment," said Forrest. "PVSC relies on the dedicated volunteers, like the crew team members here today, to assist us with keeping our 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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