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*~Established 1902~*

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **IN CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY, PVSC PARTNERS WITH PATERSON'S JFK HIGH SCHOOL'S GREEN CLUB ON PASSAIC RIVER CLEAN-UP**

**PATERSON** -- Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest announced today that the PVSC partnered with the JFK High School's Green Club to clean up the Passaic River and West Side Park in Paterson.

"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 JFK High School Green Club for giving back to our environment. We look forward to continuing to provide assistance toward keeping our waterways clean," said Forrest.

According to Forrest, PVSC's award winning River Restoration Program provided assistance to the JFK High School's Green Club in removing debris to both help improve water conveyance and provide a healthier ecosystem for plants and wildlife. Recently, PVSC assisted two other community groups in several days of clean up at the Paterson Great Falls.

"PVSC understands the importance of partnering with local groups like the JFK High School's Green Club so together we can work towards maintaining a cleaner environment," said Forrest. "PVSC relies on the dedicated volunteers, like the Green Club 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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