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**PVSC PARTNERS WITH LINK COMMUNITY SCHOOL STUDENTS**  
**ON PASSAIC RIVER CLEANUP IN NEWARK**

**NEWARK, NJ** – Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's (PVSC) Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest announced today that the PVSC partnered with students and staff from the Link Community School on a two-day cleanup of the banks of the Passaic River and the adjacent Riverbank Park in Newark. PVSC Educational Outreach Staff also spent the morning in the school teaching students what they can do to help keep our waterways clean.

"It is fitting that PVSC continues to partners with school-based organizations such as the Link Community School to fulfill our mission of keeping the Passaic River and our environment clean," stated Forrest. "I commend the Link Community School students and staff who participated today for giving back to our environment. We look forward to continuing to provide assistance toward keeping our waterways and parks clean," said Forrest.

According to Forrest, PVSC's award winning River Restoration Program provided assistance to the Link Community School students and staff in removing debris and trash from the area in and around the Passaic River. As set forth in their website, Link Community School was founded in 1969 by the Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell, New Jersey, in response to a civil disturbance and the resulting devastation of Newark's Central Ward community. The non-denominational independent middle school was established in Newark to help rebuild the community by providing an exceptional educational opportunity for young people left in poverty. Link has grown into a thriving scholarship-based independent school serving up to 128 seventh and eighth grade students.

"PVSC understands the importance of having long-term partnerships with local groups like the Link Community School students and staff so together we can work towards maintaining a cleaner Passaic River and a healthier environment," stated Forrest. "PVSC relies on the dedicated volunteers, like the students and staff of the Link Community School Students and Staff here today, to assist us with keeping our waterways clean, and I applaud and thank them for 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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