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*~Established 1902~*

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**April 30, 2011**

### **PVSC PARTNERS WITH FAIR LAWN MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR SEVENTH ANNUAL PASSAIC RIVER CLEANUP**

**FAIRLAWN, NJ** – Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's (PVSC) Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest announced today that the PVSC partnered with students and staff from the Fair Lawn Memorial Middle School on a cleanup in the area around the Passaic River in Fair Lawn. This is the 7th annual bi-yearly cleanup PVSC has co-sponsored with the Memorial Middle School.

"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 students and staff of the Memorial Middle School 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 students and staff of the Memorial Middle School in removing debris and trash from the area in and around the Passaic River.

"PVSC understands the importance of having long-term partnerships with local groups like the students and staff of the Memorial Middle School 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 Memorial Middle School 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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