

KENNETH J. LUCIANIN
Commissioner

THOMAS F. FLANAGAN
Acting Clerk



~Established 1902~

WAYNE J. FORREST
Executive Director

JAMES M. PIRO
General Counsel

600 Wilson Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07105

www.pvsc.com

MEDIA RELEASE

May 8, 2011

Contact: Tom Pietrykoski, Director of Public Affairs

Cell: (973) 985-3216, Office: (973) 817-5735

E-mail: tpietrykoski@pvsc.com

**PVSC PARTNERS WITH PASSAIC VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL FOR CLEANUP OF
PASSAIC RIVER IN PATERSON'S PENNINGTON PARK**

PATERSON, NJ – Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's (PVSC) Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest announced today that the PVSC partnered with students and staff from the Passaic Valley High School on a cleanup of the Passaic River in Paterson's Pennington Park.

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

According to Forrest, PVSC's award winning River Restoration Program provided assistance to the Passaic Valley High School students and staff in removing debris and trash from the area in and around the Passaic River. As set forth in the school's website, the regional district, which is served by Passaic Valley High School, is comprised of the communities of Little Falls, Totowa and Woodland Park.

"PVSC understands the importance of having long-term partnerships with local groups like the Passaic Valley High 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 Passaic Valley High School students and staff 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.

#####