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PRESS RELEASE

PVSC PARTNERS WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS ON YANTACAW BROOK PARK and BONSAI PRESERVE CLEAN UP

Montclair/Clifton, NJ – Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission’s (PVSC) Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest announced today that the PVSC partnered this morning with The Fairway Association, Friends of Yantacaw Brook Park and Friends of Bonsal Preserve to clean up the brook and embankment of two separate locations - Yantacaw Brook Park in Upper Montclair and Bonsal Preserve on the Clifton/Montclair border.

“PVSC understands the importance of partnering with local groups like The Fairway Association, Friends of Yantacaw Brook Park and Friends of Bonsal Preserve so together we can work towards maintaining a cleaner environment,” said PVSC Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest. “The PVSC relies on the dedicated volunteers seen here today to inform us of concerns with our waterways and I applaud them on their efforts,” said Forrest.

The River Restoration Program of the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission provided assistance to the neighborhood organization in a cleanup effort to restore the Yantacaw Brook in Yantacaw Brook Park and the Pearl Brook in the Bonsal Preserve for better flow and substantial debris pickup. PVSC personnel had specialized equipment on site to remove larger debris clogging the waterways.

Janet Shapiro, a resident in The Fairway who monitors the park’s condition and is a community member of the Montclair Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, requested that the Commission inspect the brook and assess the potential for their participation. Laura Gardner, another resident in The Fairway and president of the neighborhood association, noted that "the brook is a natural waterway from the Third River tributary that has a unique ecosystem. We appreciate that the Commission recognizes the value of this unusual resource and will help us with beautification efforts".

In order to protect and preserve local streams and rivers from water pollution, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission operates one of the country's 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 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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