



How PVSC Continues To Heal A Sick Waterway

It is no secret that the Passaic River has been subjected to significant pollution for many years.

Two centuries of industrial dumping is buried in layers of silt and muck at the bottom of the river.

While the river faces one of the most challenging and expensive environmental cleanups in United States history to remove chemicals, pesticides and heavy metals at the bottom, PVSC is making a significant difference at the top.

PVSC's statutory mission is to protect the environment by "relieving the streams and rivers [within the Passaic Valley River Basin] from pollution...."

In furtherance of that mission, PVSC operates its award-winning River Restoration Program, which is comprised of three elements—skimmer vessel floatables removal, volunteer shoreline clean-ups, and community-requested clean-ups.

PVSC pioneered its River Restoration Program in 1998, when it commissioned its first Skimmer Vessel, a 50-foot TrashCat, the *SV Newark Bay*.

PVSC has since removed more than 13,000 tons of debris from more than 100 miles of area waterways and sponsored nearly 1,200 individual cleanups along area shorelines.

Though the Passaic River is the cleanest it has been in decades, debris continues to wash in with the tide every day.





Help has come in the way of PVSC's new, state-of-the-art, Aquarius System Trash Hunter Skimmer Vessel.

The 50-foot long, 13-foot wide, 27,500 pound vessel was launched into Newark Bay by PVSC in the spring of 2018.

The innovative vessel features twin catamaran hulls and a water jet propulsion system.

Together, our two Skimmer Vessels are being used by the agency's River Restoration Program to remove floating trash and debris from the lower Passaic River, its tributaries and Newark Bay.



"This new Skimmer Vessel is a big investment by PVSC to reclaim our waterways," said PVSC Chairman Thomas Tucci, Jr.

"It is helping us pull even more debris out of the water as we continue to improve the health of the environment and make our waterways more inviting and appealing for everyone."

