

Debris cleared from shoreline in time for Barclays at Liberty National Golf Course



Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission workers pull a tire from the shoreline near Liberty National Golf Course. (PVSC photo)

By Paige Morris/The Jersey Journal

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Golfers play the 15th hole at Liberty National Golf Course in Jersey City, site of the Barclays golf tournament in 2009. John Munson/The Star-Ledger

When PGA golfers tee off at the Liberty National Golf Course next week for the Barclays Tournament, they'll never know the amount of debris that sat for months just beyond the course.

That's because workers from the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission have spent the past few weeks pulling tires and other large items from the shore and shallow, murky water of New York Bay.

PVSC officials say the 60 cubic yards of debris, which included more than 300 large commercial tires, was left by superstorm Sandy last October. When TV cameras show an aerial view of the waterfront course during the first round of the PGA playoffs, viewers will see a pristine shoreline, PVSC officials said.

The restoration crew used "buffalos," specialized 6-wheel amphibious ATVs designed to get into water and difficult territory, and other specialized equipment to tackle the arduous work. Most of the work, however, was painstakingly performed by hand.

"The PGA Tour and the Barclays are important to the sport of golf and to our local economy. I'm very pleased that PVSC – through our River Restoration Program – has been able to remove all of these unsightly tires so that the players and spectators alike can enjoy the outstanding course at Liberty National and the breathtaking views of the New York skyline," said PVSC Executive Director Michael DeFrancisci.

The Barclays gets under way Thursday, with the final round scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 25