



Paterson Great Falls cleaned up by volunteers in honor of Earth Day

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About 30 volunteers descended on the Great Falls in Paterson as part of an annual event to help clean up the Passaic River and surrounding park land. (4/22/14)

PATERSON - Volunteers helped clean up New Jersey's newest national park site in honor of Earth Day.

About 30 volunteers descended on the Great Falls in Paterson as part of an annual event to help clean up the Passaic River and surrounding park land.

Community leaders and students from Montclair State pitched in to remove debris from the water.

"It can leach toxins, hurt wildlife, it can clog up infrastructure, especially downstream where you're sucking up water," says volunteer Cassandra Archer. "It becomes a huge issue."

The Great Falls cleanup was sponsored by the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, which constantly works to keep the river clean.

Last year, the group removed more than 600 tons of trash and debris from the Passaic.