

AUGUST 13, 2015 LAST UPDATED: THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2015, 12:31 AM

De-snagging work complete in Passaic River



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEITH KAZMARK

Totowa Mayor John Coiro, left, and Woodland Park Mayor Keith Kazmark, observe the finishing touches on a project that removed debris and garbage from the Passaic River.

BY LINDSEY KELLEHER
STAFF WRITER | PASSAIC VALLEY TODAY

Silt, tires, garbage, unhealthy trees, vegetation and other shrubs were removed from a section of the Passaic River that flows through Woodland Park and Totowa as part of a project to maintain the river.

The project was completed in an effort to prevent the river from flooding during major storms. Debris was cleared out of the river from the part that runs underneath McBride Avenue, north of Brophy Lane.

"Our goal is to keep the river flowing," said Woodland Park Mayor Keith Kazmark so debris doesn't back the river up and prevent it from flowing during major storms.

Totowa Mayor John Coiro called the project a proactive effort with both communities.

Both municipalities were jointly awarded \$159,000 in grant money from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the project.

CMS Construction Inc. was the contractor for the project.

De-snagging the Passaic River is not the only river restoration project that has made efforts to prevent flooding in the communities.

Totowa works with the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission River Restoration Team to remove fallen trees, tree stumps, vegetation and other growth in the Passaic River on an as-needed basis.

In Woodland Park, municipal officials are working with township officials in Little Falls to de-snag a section of the Peckman River. The towns are working to secure a \$150,000 grant for the project. Alaimo Group, based in Paterson, will oversee the work.