



## Paterson's Great Falls to be Unplugged for Debris Cleanup



*Credits: PVSC*

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PATERSON, N.J. - The Great Falls of Paterson will be temporarily reduced to a trickle tomorrow to enable the removal of trees and garbage at the site, said authorities.

To stop the water, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) will divert the flow of the Passaic River, forcing the water through an adjacent hydroelectric power plant, it said. The plant is owned and operated by Eagle Creek Renewable Energy.

"PVSC River Restoration Program team members will then

remove fallen trees, litter and other debris that has accumulated along the shores and in the rocks above the falls," said the PVSC today.

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"The Great Falls, which plunge 77 feet over a shelf of basalt, are the second largest falls in the Northeast after Niagara Falls," noted the commission. "For more than 200 years, the Great Falls have powered manufacturing plants in Paterson and played a major role in the industrial development of New Jersey. They were designated a National Historical Landmark in 1976 and were added to the National Historical Park System in 2009."

The river restoration program was created in 1998 and is in charge of preserving and protecting more than 100 miles of area waterways, according to the PVSC. The commission said more than 12,000 tons of debris have been removed from the Newark Bay, the Passaic River and its tributaries and PVSC has also sponsored nearly 1,200 individual cleanups along area shorelines.

"In the last two years, PVSC removed 1,000 tons of debris from these waterways," said the commission. This will be the 20th Great Falls cleanup conducted by PVSC.

"The Great Falls are not only an important symbol representing the Paterson community, but also a significant national treasure," said PVSC Executive Director Greg Tramontozzi. "In addition to playing a vital role in the American Industrial Revolution, they boast natural beauty and are also surrounded by a quiet, forested area. As one of the largest wastewater facilities in the country, it is PVSC's mission to act as good environmental stewards at all times. Routinely cleaning up the Great Falls is a critical part of that process."