

Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission clearing Peckman River

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The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission has begun removing debris from the Peckman River as part of an ongoing initiative to keep waterways clear in an area prone to flooding.

De-snagging work began Jan. 5 in a section of the river along McBride Avenue on the border of Woodland Park and Little Falls, near where it flows into the Passaic River. Work will continue upstream along the road behind the office building that sits at 1225 McBride Ave., in Woodland Park.

Debris, litter and fallen trees are obstructing the flow of the river, contributing to the flooding that has caused trouble in both municipalities for years.

The project is being paid for and overseen by the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission.

Woodland Park Mayor Keith Kazmark and Little Falls Mayor James Damiano were on site when the cleanup efforts began a little more than two weeks ago. Both mayors commended the commission for its efforts.

The Peckman River is a tributary of the Passaic River, which starts in West Orange and flows through Verona, Cedar Grove and Little Falls to where it meets with the Passaic River in Woodland Park.

The de-snagging project is part of the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's River Restoration Program, which the commission started in 1998 to clean and protect local waterways, said Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission Public Information Officer Doug Scancarella.

The commission has removed more than 12,000 tons of debris from the Passaic River and its tributaries and the Newark Bay, Scancarella said.

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