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MEDIA RELEASE

**PVSC Holds Summer Educational Program Session:
Program Highlights History and Significance of Passaic River, With a Volunteer
Clean-Up of Clark's Pond**

Bloomfield, NJ – Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) Executive Director, Michael DeFrancisci, announced that today that the agency held an event as part of their 2012 Educational Outreach Program at the Bloomfield Middle School in Bloomfield.

“PVSC is honored to not only come and talk to students about the ways they can help us keep our waterways clean, but also to host a volunteer clean-up of Clark’s Pond,” explained DeFrancisci. “It is critical to teach our children the importance of engaging in the stewardship of our environment as they are the future leaders within our communities.”

According to DeFrancisci, the program included an Assembly Program for Students in the School’s Enrichment Program. The curriculum included the history of the Passaic River, its uses and the PVSC’s mission to promote and protect the health of the Lower Passaic River. Students and Educators participated in hands-on environmental games, created a large-scale habitat web to illustrate how all animals, plants and elements in the Passaic River Watershed are connected with one another. Students also participated in a volunteer clean-up of Clark’s Pond in conjunction with the PVSC’s River Restoration Program.

“PVSC understands the importance of working with local groups like the students and staff of the Bloomfield Middle School; so together, we can work towards maintaining a cleaner environment,” DeFrancisci said. “PVSC relies on dedicated volunteers to assist River Restoration Staff with keeping our waterways clean and I applaud them on their efforts.”

DeFrancisci concluded by stating that since its inception in 2002, the PVSC Educational Outreach Program has educated over 150,000 students on how they can help protect the Passaic River. The program highlights the ways that students can take a hands-on approach to preserving and protecting the water bodies in their neighborhoods through an interactive, multimedia presentation. The PVSC Educational Outreach Program maintains a full schedule every school year and as shown by today’s event, has also expanded into the summer season.

In order to protect and preserve local streams and rivers from water pollution, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners operate one of the country's largest treatment plants for the wastewaters of northern New Jersey. With many expansions, and recent upgrading to secondary treatment, the facility has been striving, since its initial operation in 1924, to improve local water quality in accordance with federal and state water quality legislation. Since its inception in 1998, PVSC's River Restoration Program has removed over 8,000 tons of debris from the Passaic River and Newark Bay and sponsored over 650 individual clean ups, along with educating over 150,000 students on how they can help protect the Passaic River and our environment.

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