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News Release**

PVSC Responds to Flooding Concerns Along Third River

Bloomfield, NJ – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners' Chairman Tony Luna announced today that three crews were deployed from the PVSC's River Restoration department to remove debris from the Third River in response to concerns from residents that the waterway was in danger of flooding due to obstructions caused by heavy rain last week.

PVSC received several reports from Bloomfield property owners earlier this week indicating that there were obstructions caused by debris at two separate locations along the Third River. Upon visiting the first site at 225 Belleville Avenue, PVSC staff discovered heavy amounts of woody debris and litter accumulated against a bridge spanning the stream, almost blocking the entire flow of the stream under the small overpass. At the second location River Restoration personnel observed several trees had fallen across the stream and were accumulating additional debris and litter. Upon further investigation a third obstruction was discovered along the stream in Brookside Park that was impeding the flow of the waterway.

"I've witnessed blockages at this bridge in the past but this is by far the worst I have ever seen", explained Harry Miller, owner of the property at 225 Belleville Avenue, which is adjacent to one of the obstructions. "Hurricane Floyd brought over three feet of water in our building from this stream and we are grateful that PVSC's efforts have prevented this from reoccurring."

Crews utilized special equipment including a flat bottom boat designed for shallow water work, chainsaws and a wood chipper to clear the blockages. PVSC's Line Maintenance Department partnered on the project by deploying a truck equipped with a small crane and clamshell bucket to assist in the debris removal.

"PVSC is proud to continue to assist in providing a cleaner and safer waterway for members of the community to enjoy and a healthier habitat for wildlife," said PVSC Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest. "We remain committed to protecting the tributaries that feed the Passaic River and understand the importance of partnering with communities to ensure the long-term viability of these restoration efforts."

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 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 has sponsored over 650 individual clean ups, along with educating over 150,000 students on how they can help protect the Passaic River.

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