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NEWS

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PVSC, LYNCREST SCHOOL REOPEN OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAMAGED BY ‘SANDY’ Fair Lawn Elementary School Kids Celebrate Earth Week with Nature Walk and Activities

FAIRLAWN, NJ - The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) continues to mark Earth Week by rededicating the Lyncrest School’s Outdoor Classroom. The Classroom was severely damaged by Superstorm Sandy and it - along with the nature trail that joins it - were left unusable by the school’s teachers, staff and students.

The PVSC partnered with the elementary students, teachers and staff from the Lyncrest School to repair and refurbish the trail and classroom. The Outdoor Classroom was first constructed in 2008 to provide Lyncrest students with more hands-on opportunities to interact with nature and study the environment. PVSC River Restoration Program cleared fallen trees, reconstructed the woodchip path, and rebuilt the actual teaching station.

“PVSC is glad to assist the Lyncrest School with repairs to this important teaching resource,” said DeFrancisci. “We initially helped plan and create the original classroom area, and we are proud to be here again for today’s rededication ceremony.”

The work will enable the school to continue its’ outdoor environmental studies. As part of today’s program, the students conducted an Earth Day Walk-a-Thon to raise money for environmental activities. The walk leads from the school through the environmental preserve to the Outdoor Classroom (approximately 1/8 of a mile walk).

“Engaging children in hands-on service projects helps reinforce the important lessons they learn in the classroom,” said PVSC Commissioner Kenneth J. Lucianin. “Once again, the Lyncrest School community will now be able to enjoy all that the Lyncrest Grounds and Nature Preserve has to offer.”

DeFrancisci said the Lyncrest Grounds and Nature Preserve, is a preserved natural area located just adjacent to the school that can be enjoyed by the public and used by students in an environmental curriculum. Prior to these most recent reconstruction activities, PVSC has designed and constructed an observation platform at the site, and supplied the reclaimed natural material for the sculptures, along with removing hazardous trees from the preserve and covering the preserve’s walking path with wood chips.

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In order to protect and preserve local streams and rivers from water pollution, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission operates one of the country's oldest and largest treatment plants for the wastewaters of northern New Jersey, serving over 1.4 million people in five counties.