

KENNETH J. LUCIANIN
Commissioner



MICHAEL DeFRANCISCI
Executive Director

GREGORY A. TRAMONTOZZI
General Counsel
Acting Clerk

“Protecting Public Health and the Environment”

600 Wilson Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07105
(973) 817-5700
(973) 817-5738- fax
www.pvsc.nj.gov

NEWS

**For Immediate Release:
June 2, 2014**

**Contact Information: Hollie A. Gilroy
hgilroy@pvsc.nj.gov
Office: 973-817-5735**

June is National Rivers Month

PVSC’s Shoreline River Cleanups Offer Students, Volunteers a Chance to Help Communities

NEWARK, NJ – June is National Rivers Month and, to commemorate it, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) — along with American Rivers is encouraging local citizens, youth groups and schools to celebrate their local rivers by participating in or organizing a river cleanup. Hundreds of river cleanups across the country are scheduled during June and throughout the year. Volunteers can find a nearby river cleanup or information and tools to organize their own at www.AmericanRivers.org/Cleanup. Residents within PVSC’s 48 municipal area can schedule a cleanup by contacting the agency directly at: cleanriver@pvsc.nj.gov.

Each year, millions of tons of trash end up in the nation’s rivers. National River Cleanup was launched in 1991 to help keep the country’s rivers clean and trash-free. Since then, the program has grown significantly and more than 800,000 volunteers have participated in 6,000 cleanups across the country.

Locally, PVSC has encouraged participation through its River Restoration and Educational Outreach programs to make cleaning up the Passaic River and local tributaries easy and fun. PVSC often sends a member of its crew to help organize and supervise the cleanups; PVSC provides trash bags, gloves, rakes and even specialized equipment, if needed.

“Healthy rivers mean healthy communities. By participating in a river cleanup, people can help serve their communities and make an immediate impact,” said PVSC Executive Director Michael DeFrancisci. “Residents of all ages can volunteer – for an hour or a day – to help clean the river they care about.”

The PVSC’s River Restoration Program was created in 1998 and charged with preserving and protecting over 100 miles of area waterways. To date, the PVSC has removed over 11,100 tons of debris from the Newark Bay, the Passaic River and its tributaries, and has sponsored over 970 individual clean-ups along shorelines and in communities, along with educating about 250,000 students on how they can help protect the Passaic River and our environment.

KENNETH J. LUCIANIN
Commissioner



MICHAEL DeFRANCISCI
Executive Director

GREGORY A. TRAMONTOZZI
General Counsel
Acting Clerk

“Protecting Public Health and the Environment”

600 Wilson Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07105
(973) 817-5700
(973) 817-5738- fax
www.pvsc.nj.gov

In addition to the American Rivers web site, potential volunteers can find river cleanups near them on Facebook, VolunteerMatch.org and USAService.gov. Last year was American Rivers’ most successful year yet with more than 300,000 volunteers removing more than 2,400 tons of trash from more than 50,000 miles of our rivers. This year, American Rivers is on track to clean even more river miles. This year alone, several hundred cleanups across the country have already taken place to help protect and restore our nation’s rivers.

Visit www.AmericanRivers.org/Cleanup today to join in and make a difference in your community.

“PVSC is happy to provide to participate in National Rivers Month and lend our expertise to help clean up our rivers and waterways. Events like National Rivers Month are good reminders for adults and kids that it is important to take care of our sensitive ecosystem and keep our water in clean,” said PVSC Commissioner Kenneth J. Lucianin.

###

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.