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**NEWS**

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**PVSC Receives Prestigious AEA WAVE Awards**

**Newark, NJ** – Once again, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) has been recognized by the Association of Environmental Authorities of New Jersey (AEA) for consistently demonstrating excellence in the public wastewater sector in New Jersey.

Throughout 2016, PVSC continued to effectively and efficiently operate the 5th largest wastewater treatment facility in the United States, while remaining fully committed to fulfilling its role as good environmental stewards. At their 2017 annual spring awards luncheon in Atlantic City, the AEA honored PVSC with a “Best Management Practices” Wave Award for PVSC’s River Restoration Program and a “Public Education” Wave Award for PVSC’s Lower Passaic River Blueway Canoe and Kayak Trail, Trailhead Maps, and Signs Project. PVSC has won 20 such WAVE Awards since 2000.

As part of its ongoing efforts to preserve and protect more than 100 miles of local waterways, PVSC’s River Restoration Program regularly removes debris from the Newark Bay, the Passaic River and its tributaries. It has removed over 12,000 tons of debris from these waterways since 1998 and it removed some 1,000 tons of debris last year alone.

Besides the aesthetic, ecological and public health and safety benefits of these activities, such cleanups also dramatically improve recreational and economic uses of these waterways. Years ago, the Passaic River was a wildlife refuge and a boating and fishing haven. Working in cooperation with the Lower Passaic and Saddle River Alliance, the National Park Service, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and many local communities, PVSC created a Blueway Trail and installed signs along the way to help the Passaic River reclaim its reputation for significant recreational use. The signs were designed to map locations that are appropriate for providing public access to the river.

“PVSC takes tremendous pride in the critical service it provides and these awards are a testament to that fact,” said PVSC Chairman Thomas Tucci. “Routinely cleaning up the waterways and the creation of this Blueway are critical in fulfilling our mission to act as good environmental stewards. We are justifiably proud that these efforts were recognized by such a prestigious organization.”

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