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PVSC Unveils GIS Mapping Platform for Lower Passaic Blueway Canoe and Kayak Trail

Newark, NJ – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (“PVSC”) recently unveiled an interactive, Geographic Information Systems (“GIS”) online platform that graphically maps the burgeoning Lower Passaic River Blueway Canoe and Kayak Trail system.

The Blueway spans the entire 32-mile Lower Passaic River. It begins at Two Bridges Road on the border of Lincoln Park and Wayne and ends at Kearny Point, where the Passaic River and the Hackensack River both empty into the mouth of Newark Bay. The trail includes 20 public launch sites and access points, which are located in riverside parks, on riverbank docks or on walking trails along the meandering route.

The interactive map can be accessed from computers, tablets and mobile devices here: <https://www.nj.gov/pvsc/protect/>.

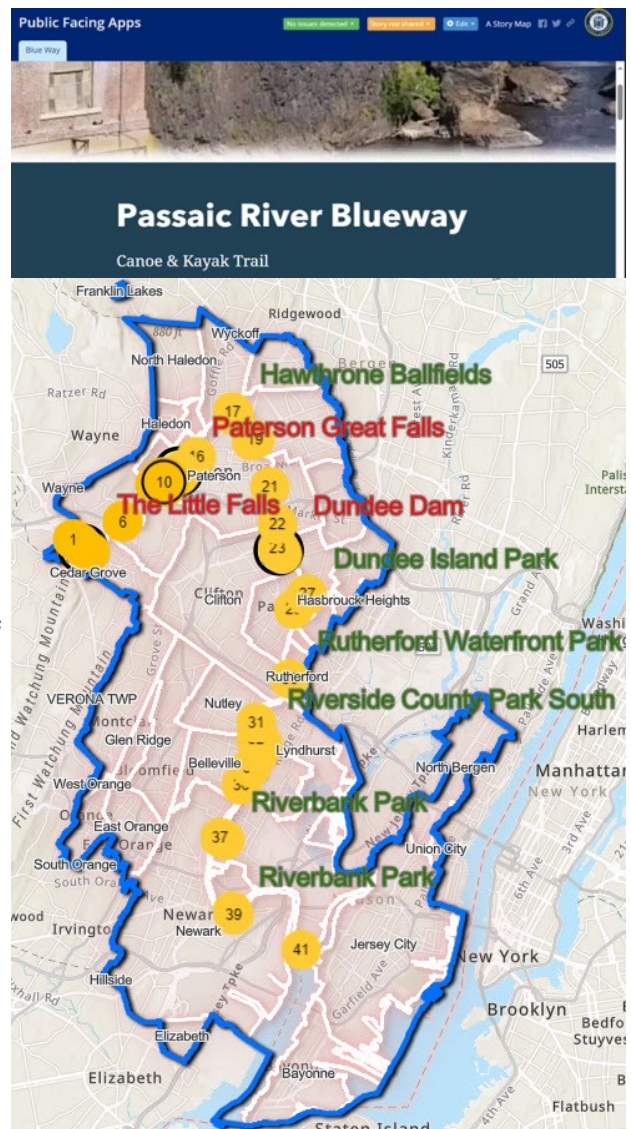
Rather than simply offer some key features on a static map, the interactive map organizes spatially-enabled layers of data into vivid, aerial, digital visualizations. It is printable and customizable and does not need to be downloaded.

The interactive map allows users to navigate their way through the entire length of the Blueway. It features directions to the trail access points, details on riverside park amenities, and



(Dundee Dam Park in Garfield)

information on adjacent walking trails. Users can also zoom in and zoom out on the entire Blueway, including all of the access points. The story map illustrates the history and the natural habitats of various parts of the river and the areas surrounding each access point. The system also uses the viewers current location to



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find the best and fastest route to the access point of choice.

PVSC worked in cooperation with the Lower Passaic and Saddle River Alliance and the National Park Service to create the Blueway in 2016. The project included the identification and development of access sites and the installation of trail signs along the route. The project also included site-specific riverbank stabilization, erosion control, innovative stormwater capture techniques, invasive weed control, and the planting of native plant species at various

locations along the route. Funding for the project was comprised of grants from the State and federal government with an in-kind match provided by PVSC staff.

“The interactive map not only shows the path of the Blueway trail, but also describes the features of the riverside parks and includes a written narratives that outlines historical and background information about the various locales,” said PVSC GIS Engineer Lou Lambe.

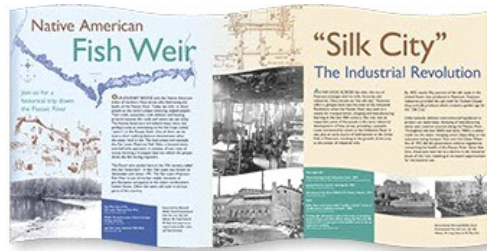
“Using GIS technology, we wanted to create a mapping and communication platform that graphically shows and clearly explains the trail and the positive impact it has had and will continue to have on the communities along the Lower Passaic River,” added PVSC Chairman Thomas Tucci, Jr.



(West Side Park Boat Ramp in Paterson)



(Kearny Boat House)



(Story maps that illustrate the history and the natural habitats of the vicinity near each access point can be found on signage along the route and on the interactive map.)

