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PVSC Participates In Cleanup And Science Expo At The Great Falls In Paterson

Newark, NJ – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (“PVSC”) recently participated in a cleanup of the



Great Falls in Paterson (top left) in conjunction with the National Park Service. Members of PVSC’s River Restoration Program (bottom right) spent the day removing fallen trees, litter and other debris that have accumulated along the shores and in the rocks above the Great Falls. By keeping the waters above the Great Falls clear of potential blockages, PVSC is helping to ensure that the water continues to beautifully cascade over the Great Falls and mitigate threats of flooding. Volunteers (middle), including more than 200 students from the Paterson school system, also took part in the large-scale cleanup effort.

The event also included a *Science Expo* featuring government agencies, local businesses, and local clubs. Each group hosted



an exhibit designed to educate the public about protecting waterways and preserving the environment. Scientists from PVSC’s Process Control Department (bottom left) showcased how the *Clean Waterways, Healthy Neighborhoods* initiative (a collaboration between PVSC and the North Bergen Municipal Utilities Authority) is reducing water quality impacts of combined sewer overflows on receiving waters. PVSC’s Educational Outreach Program Coordinator assisted students in



constructing and hanging birdhouses near the Great Falls. Attracting birds can improve the ambiance of any outdoor environment. Birds also provide an all-natural means for weed and pest control.

The United States Geological Survey, the Great Swamp Watershed

Association, the Thomas Edison National Historic Park, the Morristown

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National Historical Park, NASA's Solar System Ambassadors, the Bergen County Zoo, the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club, and New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors also participated in the Science Expo.

"At PVSC, environmental stewardship is central to everything we do," said PVSC Chairman Thomas Tucci, Jr. "As the largest wastewater treatment facility in the state, it is our mission to alleviate pollution to local waterways. Routinely cleaning up the Great Falls, a significant national treasure, is a critical part of that process. We are very pleased to participate in this event every year."

PVSC's award-winning River Restoration Program has been charged with preserving and protecting over 100 miles of area waterways. Since its creation in 1998, the program has removed more than 4,000 tons of debris. Their signature efforts include at least two cleanups per year at the Great Falls.

The Great Falls, which plunge 77 feet over a shelf of basalt, are the second largest falls in the northeast after Niagara Falls. For more than 200 years, the Great Falls have powered manufacturing plants in Paterson and played a major role in the industrial development of New Jersey. They were designated a National Historical Landmark in 1976 and were added to the National Historical Park System in 2009.

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