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## PVSC Takes Part In Stem Expo And Cleanup At Great Falls In Paterson

Newark, NJ – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission ("PVSC") recently participated in a *Science Expo* at the Great Falls in Paterson (right) in conjunction with the National Park Service. Many government agencies, local businesses, and community clubs were involved in this initiative. Each group showcased an exhibit aimed at informing the public about safeguarding our waterways and protecting the environment.

PVSC's Educational Outreach Program Coordinator assisted students in constructing and hanging birdhouses in the vicinity of the Great Falls (bottom left). Attracting birds can improve the atmosphere of any outdoor environment. Not only do birds bring beauty and life, but they also provide a natural solution for managing various forms of weeds and pests.



Scientists from PVSC's Process Control Department (bottom right) demonstrated exactly how the *Clean Waterways, Healthy Neighborhoods* initiative is reducing water quality impacts of combined sewer overflows on receiving waters. This project is a joint effort between PVSC and the North Bergen Municipal Utilities Authority. Also participating in the Science Expo were the New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program, the Bergen County Zoo, the Flat Rock Brook Nature Association, the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club, NASA Solar System Ambassadors, the New Jersey Audubon Society (Lorrimer Sanctuary), Passaic Valley Water Commission, Paterson P-Tech Planetarium/Paterson Public School, the Ramapo College of New Jersey - STEM Center, the Passaic County Technical Institute Environmental Club, the Morristown National Historical Park, and the Thomas Edison National Historical Park.

The annual event also included an extensive and well-organized cleanup effort. Keeping the waters above the Great Falls clear of potential blockages, helps to ensure that the

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water continues to beautifully cascade over the Great Falls and mitigate threats of flooding. Members of PVSC's River Restoration Program (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. Volunteers (below right), including nearly 500 students from the Paterson school system, also took part in the large-scale cleanup effort. Garbage and other debris filling 200 large trash bags was removed from the areas surrounding the falls.

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. The program's signature efforts include at least two cleanups per year at the Great Falls.

"PVSC prioritizes environmental stewardship in everything it does. As the largest wastewater treatment facility in the State, one of our primary missions is to reduce pollution in our local waterways," said Executive Director Gregory Tramontozzi. "The Great Falls are a cherished national treasure. They played a significant role in the American Industrial Revolution and also boast stunning, natural beauty. Regularly maintaining the Great Falls is an essential aspect of fulfilling that commitment."



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