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*Commissioners*



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***“Protecting Public Health and the Environment”***

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## **NEWS/PHOTO OP**

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### **PVSC To Conduct Cleanup At The Great Falls**



**Newark, NJ** –The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) will conduct a cleanup of the Great Falls in Paterson (72 McBride Avenue, Paterson, NJ/Intersection of Wayne Ave and McBride Ave) on Thursday, June 22 (10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.). This will require diverting the flow of the Passaic River through an adjacent hydroelectric plant owned by Paterson and operated by Eagle Creek Renewable Energy. PVSC River Restoration Program team members will then remove fallen trees, litter and other debris that have accumulated along the shores and in the rocks above the 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.

Since its creation in 1998, PVSC’s award-winning River Restoration Program has been charged with preserving and protecting over 100 miles of area waterways. PVSC has removed over 13,000 tons of debris from the Newark Bay, the Passaic River and its tributaries. PVSC has also sponsored nearly 1,200 individual cleanups along area shorelines. In the last two years, PVSC has removed 1,000 tons of debris from these waterways. This will be the 20th Great Falls cleanup conducted by PVSC since the inception of the River Restoration Program.

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“The Great Falls are not only an important symbol representing the Paterson community, but also a significant national treasure,” said PVSC Executive Director Greg Tramontozzi. “In addition to playing a vital role in the American Industrial Revolution, they boast natural beauty and are also surrounded by a quiet, forested area. As one of the largest wastewater facilities in the country, it is PVSC’s mission to act as good environmental stewards at all times. Routinely cleaning up the Great Falls is a critical part of that process.”

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***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 nearly 1.5 million people in parts of five counties.***