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PVSC Launches New Skimmer Vessel To Help Clean Waterways



Newark, NJ – A new, state-of-the-art, Aquarius System Trash Hunter-34 Skimmer Vessel was launched into Newark Bay by the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) last week. The new vessel will be used by the agency’s River Restoration Program to remove floating trash and debris from the lower Passaic River, its tributaries and Newark Bay.

It is no secret that the Passaic River has been subjected to significant pollution for many years. Two centuries of industrial dumping is buried in layers of silt and muck at the bottom of the river. While the river faces one of the most challenging and expensive environmental cleanups in United States history to remove chemicals, pesticides and heavy metals at the bottom, PVSC is making a significant difference at the top.

PVSC pioneered its River Restoration Program in 1998, when it commissioned its first Skimmer Vessel, a 50-foot TrashCat, the *SV Newark Bay*. Since then, the program has been an enormous success. PVSC has removed more than 12,000 tons of debris from more than 100 miles of area waterways. In the last year alone, PVSC removed 12,960 tons of debris from those waterways.

Though the Passaic River is the cleanest it has been in decades, debris continues to wash in with the tide every day. Help will come in the way of PVSC’s new, 50-foot long, 13-foot wide, 27,500 pound vessel. This innovative vessel features twin catamaran hulls and a water jet propulsion system.

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Over the next several weeks, the new vessel will be put through rigorous river trials. It will be commissioned and named in the early spring. In tandem with the *SV Newark Bay*, it will travel up and down the lower Passaic, its tributaries and Newark Bay, collecting debris and trash on its conveyor belts. The materials will be stored onboard and then offloaded at a dock in North Arlington or at PVSC’s plant in Newark before being disposed of at a landfill.

“This new Skimmer Vessel is a big investment by PVSC to reclaim our waterways,” said PVSC Chairman Thomas Tucci, Jr. “It will help us pull even more debris out of the water as we continue to improve the health of the environment and make our waterways more inviting and appealing for everyone.”

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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.

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