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PVSC To Conduct Cleanup at the Great Falls in Celebration of Earth Week

Newark, NJ – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) will conduct a cleanup of the Great Falls in Paterson on Monday, April 29th beginning at 10:00 am. The cleanup is being conducted in conjunction with the National Park Service and Eagle Creek Renewable Energy, in celebration of National Park Week and Earth Week, both of which occur in the final week of April.

Since its creation in 1998, PVSC’s award-winning River Restoration Program has been charged with protecting over 100 miles of area waterways. The signature efforts consist of at least two cleanups per year at the Great Falls. PVSC River Restoration Program team members will remove fallen trees, litter and other debris that have accumulated along the shores and in the rocks above the falls.

The Paterson Museum, the Academy of Earth and Space Science (Panther Academy of Paterson), the Green Club from the STEM Academy at John F. Kennedy High School, the Great Swamp Watershed Association, the Bergen County Zoo, the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club and New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors are volunteering to assist with cleanup efforts along the shoreline.

The Great Falls, which plunge 77 feet over a shelf of basalt, are the second largest falls in the northeast, behind only Niagara Falls. For more than 200 years, the Great Falls have powered manufacturing plants in Paterson and have 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.

“As one of the largest wastewater facilities in the country, it is PVSC’s mission to act as good environmental stewards at all times. Regularly cleaning up the Great Falls is a critical part of that process,” said PVSC Chairman Thomas Tucci, Jr.

“The Great Falls boast natural beauty and are also surrounded by a quiet, forested area. The continued partnership between PVSC, the National Park Service and the Paterson community ensures that this unique historical site will be enjoyed by local residents and visitors. We expect to return here within the next several months to build on today’s volunteer cleanup.”



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