

KENNETH J. LUCIANIN  
Commissioner



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Executive Director

GREGORY A. TRAMONTOZZI  
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*“Protecting Public Health and the Environment”*

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## NEWS

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**MAJOR DEBRIS REMOVED FROM BAYONNE WATERFRONT:**  
*PVSC Sponsors Shoreline Cleanups with Schools ‘Cleaner and Greener’ Program*  
**NOTE TO EDITORS: PHOTOGRAPH ATTACHED**



(Bayonne)– The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) recently announced the successful removal of floatables, debris and trees – including several wood pallets and two orange 55-gallon construction drums – from the Newark Bay and shorelines. The debris is from illegal dumping, pollution and recent storm activity.

This year’s cleanup is the result of PVSC’s partnership with Bayonne’s “Cleaner and Greener” program, which was started by a Bayonne High School science teacher. This is PVSC’s 10<sup>th</sup> year of participation. The goal of the program is not only to provide an opportunity for the students to clean up their community’s shoreline, but also to teach students about the importance of a clean environment.

"PVSC’s partnership with school-based organizations such as Bayonne’s K-12 system, demonstrate the good work that can be done to keep our waterways and shorelines clean," said Michael DeFrancisci, PVSC’s Executive Director. "I want to commend all the students and staff for giving back to the community and helping the environment. We look forward to continuing to provide assistance toward efforts to keep our waterways clean," he added.

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According to DeFrancisci, PVSC's award-winning River Restoration Program provided assistance to the Bayonne school students and staff by lending staff support and supervision, as well as gloves, bags, waders, rakes, and dumpsters. PVSC staff also disposed of the waste collected.

During the two weeks in May, nearly 1,000 students from Woodrow Wilson, Washington Community School, Horace Mann School, Robinson School, Bayonne High School, Lincoln Community School, Midtown Community School, Bailey School, Mary J. Donohoe School, and Henry Harris School spent designated school class periods cleaning up neighborhood parks and beachfront. Among the areas addressed were: Rutkowski Park, Stephen Gregg Park, BHS Shoreline, Don Ahern Stadium, 16th Street Park, Robbins Reef Yacht Club and Dennis Collins Park. The students removed enough garbage and debris to fill a 30-yard dumpster.

The ‘Cleaner and Greener’ program is in its 20th year of operation. Over the years, “Cleaner and Greener” has strived to empower residents to make Bayonne a model urban community where trees, flowers, shrubs, and natural wildlife can flourish without risk, and the community can remain clean and free of pollution. The program runs twice a year, one time for two weeks in the fall and then again in the spring under PVSC’s River Restoration program.

Since the program’s inception, PVSC’s River Restoration Program, which is charged with preserving and protecting over 100 miles of area waterways, has removed over 11,100 tons of debris from the Newark Bay, the Passaic River and its tributaries, and sponsored over 970 individual clean ups along shorelines and in communities. These are accompanied by classroom lessons through PVSC Outreach Program.

The PVSC has embarked on an intensive, strategic cleanup campaign to free the Passaic River and related tributaries including the Hudson River and Newark Bay of blockages, help with flood control and maintain the quality of the River and waterways.

“PVSC relies on the dedicated volunteers, like these enterprising Bayonne School students and staff, to assist us with keeping our waterways clean, and I applaud them for their efforts,” said PVSC Commissioner Kenneth J. Lucianin.

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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 over 1.4 million people in five counties.***