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CONTACT: Pat Martin  
(203) 318-0400  
ContactUs@BPConservancy.org

## **DEP COMMISSIONER MCCARTHY THANKS BRIDLE PATH CONSERVANCY FOR HARD WORK IN WEBER WOODS**

**Westbrook, Connecticut August 25, 2005** – Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Gina McCarthy has given a big thanks to members of the Bridle Path Conservancy (BPC). She recently met with the group while she was visiting the Weber Woods in Cockponset State Forest in Westbrook. During the meeting, Commissioner McCarthy was shown some of the trail work done by the BPC in the state forest and thanked the group for their efforts.

“The Bridle Path Conservancy really shows how the state and private groups can work together to better our state forests for everyone to enjoy,” Commissioner McCarthy commented. “The BPC has been hard at work this year, repairing the multi-use trails in Weber Woods, rebuilding a number of bridges that had fallen into disrepair. The group has been supported by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection which provided materials to rebuild the bridges and oversight for the projects. Because of the Bridle Path Conservancy’s hard work, the multi-use trails in Weber Woods can be better enjoyed by all residents in the state of Connecticut.

Members of the BPC were pleased with the meeting, saying it was a great way for them to tell Commissioner McCarthy about their future plans for rehabilitating multi-use trails in area and their hope to continue their relationship with the state DEP.

“Our group’s mission is to improve multi-use trails in Connecticut so that everyone can enjoy them, whether they are equestrians, mountain bike riders, hikers or dog walkers,” says Brad Turley, President of the BPC. “The State of Connecticut has been very supportive of our work in the Weber Woods and without that support much of this work could not have been done. I told Commissioner McCarthy that we had great hopes for improving even more trails throughout Cockaponset State Forest over the next year and I was happy to hear the state will continue its support of our group.”

The Bridle Path Conservancy is a non-profit group dedicated to the preservation, enhancement, and acquisition of multi-purpose, passive-use, recreational trails on public

and private land in Connecticut and southern New England. Although the Conservancy was founded by equestrian enthusiasts, it seeks to support all open space and trail initiatives. By managing, educating, and cooperating with others to create opportunities to facilitate and preserve trails, the Conservancy strives to keep recreational land available for present and future generations to enjoy. For more information contact Pat Martin at (203) 318-0400 or visit [www.BPConservancy.org](http://www.BPConservancy.org)

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**Suggested Photo Caption:**

**Members of the Bridle Path Conservancy meet with Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Gina McCarthy and Cockaponset State Forest Park Supervisor Eric Sokolow to discuss the Conservancy's on-going efforts to improve multi-use trails in the State Forest. Pictured left to right are Brad Turley from the BPC, Commissioner McCarthy, Kristin Elliot-Leas with the BPC, Pati Martin with the BPC, and Supervisor Sokolow.**