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BRIDLE PATH CONSERVANCY TEAMS UP WITH SPROCKIDS BIKE GROUP TO FIX LOCAL MULTI-USE TRAILS

Westbrook, Connecticut, July 7, 2005 – You may think that mountain bike riders and equestrian enthusiasts have little in common, but two Connecticut groups are proving otherwise. The Bridle Path Conservancy (BPC), a non-profit group dedicated to preserving multi-use trails in Connecticut and SprockKids Deep River, a youth mountain biking group, teamed up recently to restore and improve trails in the Weber Woods section of Cockaponset State Forest.

“During our work this year trimming trails, members of the BPC encountered some of the members of SprockKids who were out for a ride. We started talking about the trails and they said they were interested in getting involved. Since our mission is to improve multi-use trails for everyone including bike riders, hikers, runners, dog walkers, as well as horse lovers, it was the perfect partnership,” says Brad Turley, president of the BPC. “The SprockKids thought it would be a great project to help fix up some of the trails so the BPC worked with their leaders and on the weekend of June 25, our two groups spent the day cleaning, restoring, marking and trimming trails. It was a great team effort.”

“It was a great day for our mountain bike club,” says Nestor Barrezueta, president of SprockKids Deep River. “We finally connected with a welcoming and experienced trail users group. As more and more open space is being devastated by development, it is encouraging to witness the cooperation between two diverse groups for the good of all non-motorized trail users. Our club eagerly awaits our next interaction with our new equestrian friends at the BPC.”

Since January, the BPC has been meeting on an almost weekly basis, working to restore the trail system in Weber Woods for all area residents to enjoy. Their projects have included trash pickup, trail trimming, trail marking, the rebuilding of a number of bridges in the park, and the stabilization of some trails. The partnership with SprockKids Deep River was the first cooperative effort with another group to improve the trails, but Turley says it won't be the last.

“These multi-use trails are for everyone to enjoy and the fact that these two groups came together to benefit the larger community shows how partnership can really make a difference,” Turley says. “I know our friends in SprockKids really enjoyed the hard work and had a great sense of accomplishment at the end of the day. The kids really got into it and did a great job. The BPC looks forward to our next project together and we will continue to search out other area groups that are interested in improving the trails to partner with us. Together we can preserve and improve the wonderful trail systems for everyone to enjoy.”

The Sprockids Program is a national program that offers a multi-tiered approach designed to provide participants the opportunity to experience success on a variety of levels. Through the sport of mountain biking students develop a strong sense of self-esteem, while discovering the potential within themselves. For more information on SprockKids Deep River contact Nestor Barrezueta at barrenx62@hotmail.com or (860) 767-7312.

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. While 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, to donate, or to partner with the BPC contact Pat Martin at (203) 318-0400 or email ContactUs@BPConservancy.org.

Suggested Photo Caption: Members of the Bridle Path Conservancy and SprockKids Deep River recently teamed up to restore some multi-use trails in the Weber Woods section of the Cockaponset Forest in Westbrook. Pictured Front L to R are: Cam King, Ivoryton; Curt Manning, Deep River; Brad Turley, Madison; Joe Perrelli, Guilford; Tyler Lutz, Deep River; Max Barrezueta, Ivoryton; Ryan Carufe, Ivoryton; Jack King, Ivoryton Rear L to R Nestor Barrezueta; Ivoryton; Fred Mastele, Durham, Brad Turley, Madison;

Dave King, Ivoryton; Laurie Beth Roberts, Old Saybrook; Cricket Carufe, Ivoryton; Mark Leas, Westbrook.