



**AQUARION**  
Water Company

*For Immediate Release*

*News Event and Photo Opportunity*

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**AQUARION WATER COMPANY EMPLOYEES TO BUILD  
STAMFORD MUSEUM & NATURE CENTER ACCESSIBLE TRAIL  
FOR PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED PERSONS**

*Project Is Partnership With Stamford Museum & Nature Center  
and Wheels In the Woods Foundation*

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., May 2, 2006 – Aquarion Water Company employee volunteers on **Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** will create a universally-accessible nature trail for physically challenged persons at the Stamford Museum & Nature Center (SM&NC) to celebrate Earth Day 2006, water company and SM&NC officials announced today. **Officials of Aquarion and the SM&NC will gather at the project site at 39 Scofieldtown Road in Stamford at 10 a.m. Wednesday to launch the project. If heavy rain is expected, the rain date is Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.**

The trail represents the latest of approximately 40 environmental beautification and enhancement projects that water company volunteers have accomplished in honor of Earth Day in the past 12 years. Aquarion employees devote time and resources to environmental enhancement projects to demonstrate a commitment to environmental stewardship.

Funding for project materials is being provided by the Fairfield-based Wheels in the Woods Foundation, which is dedicated to the formation of wheelchair accessible trails for persons with impaired mobility.

“At Aquarion, we are proud of our dedication to environmental stewardship and protection,”

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said Charles V. Firlotte, Aquarion President and CEO. “We will continue to proactively conserve and enhance our natural resources for the enjoyment of area citizens, because it’s essential to our mission to provide the best quality water and service to our customers,” Firlotte added. “We also appreciate the Wheels in the Woods Foundation for providing the financial resources to make this wonderful project possible,” he said.

“We are honored to be the recipient of funding from the Wheels In The Woods Foundation to bring this very unique nature trail into our network of nearly 80 acres of natural woodland trails,” stated Melissa H. Mulrooney, Executive Director of the Stamford Museum & Nature Center. “We are deeply grateful to Aquarion for their exceptional community support of this partnership between our organizations.” Arnold M. Karp, President of the Board of the SM&NC, continued, “This will be a centerpiece attraction for our visitors, not only for those in wheel chairs, but also our senior visitors and mothers with strollers. This accessibility speaks to the heart of our mission as a nature center and safe haven for families in Fairfield County.”

Aquarion employees at other Connecticut sites completed Earth Day Projects last week. Those activities included enhancing the Mystic Middle School water conservation garden, participating in the Pequotsepos Denison Nature Center Earth Day Celebration in Mystic. Also on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> another Aquarion team will be constructing an amphitheatre and council camp fire ring and trails at the Frederick Sprague Barbour Scout Reservation in Norfolk.

In past years, Connecticut projects have included trails for physically challenged persons in Redding and Fairfield, the renovation of a historic park, downtown area beautification and landscaping and beach improvements throughout Aquarion’s water service areas. The Wheels in the Woods Foundation

provided funding for materials for the Redding and Fairfield trails as well.

Aquarion Company's principal business is public water supply. Through its Aquarion Water Company subsidiaries, it is one of the 10 largest investor-owned water utilities in the U.S., serving

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221,000 homes and businesses, or more than 714,000 people, in 53 Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire communities. Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut provides high-quality water to 176,000 homes and businesses, or approximately 600,000 people, in 36 cities and towns.

The Stamford Museum & Nature Center is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of art, the natural and agricultural sciences and history. The Museum is a vital cultural and educational resource for the community, and a focal point for family activity and interaction. It seeks to inspire creativity, foster self-discovery and nurture an appreciation for lifelong learning through exhibits, educational programs and special events.

The Wheels in the Woods Foundation was formed in 2000 to promote the construction of wheelchair accessible pathways through natural settings. These trails are built with the proper grade, width, slope, and surface to allow persons who use walkers, canes and wheelchairs to enjoy the outdoors.

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*Note: For more information on Aquarion Company and its subsidiaries, please contact us on the Internet at [www.aquarion.com](http://www.aquarion.com) or [www.aquarionwater.com](http://www.aquarionwater.com).*

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