



Katie Brasted
Woodlands Trail & Park
1112 Engineers Road
Belle Chasse, LA 70037

9 December 2010

Dear Mrs. Brasted,

On behalf of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, I would like to voice our support for your ongoing efforts to restore and protect the bottomland hardwood habitats of Woodlands Trail & Park.

BTNEP is committed to the restoration and protection of our great estuary, and so we stand with you in working to maintain the urban green space and vital habitat for migratory birds that Woodlands represents. As our once vast coastal forests are slowly destroyed by natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, man-made disasters such as the BP oil spill, and ongoing encroachment by developers, Woodlands Trail & Park becomes ever more valuable for the ecosystem services it provides.

Woodlands Trail & Park received recognition as a registered natural area by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries in 2006. It is the largest contiguous tract of bottomland hardwood forest between the city of New Orleans and the open waters of the gulf, making its wind-absorbing canopy a vital component of the storm protection system for local communities. Furthermore, its proximity to open water makes it a vital stopover for neotropical migratory birds.

Your work in protecting this great ecological and community resource by removing harmful exotic vegetation, planting native trees to ensure future habitat value, and establishing trails and signage to make the visitor experience better has been invaluable and must continue. BTNEP wholeheartedly supports your activities.

Gratefully,

Michael Massimi
Invasive Species Coordinator
Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program