

new park to help preserve **Old**

Alliance Refinery is helping to preserve the beauty and history of an area in Lower Algiers and Belle Chasse for future generations by providing funding for a public park, the Woodlands Trail and Park. Alliance Refinery partnered with our Government Affairs office in Baton Rouge who provided the \$10,000 donation to the project. As proposed, the Woodlands initiative would create:

- a public park on Plaquemines Parish property that lies between the Metropolitan Developmental Center and Belle Chasse Primary School
- an equestrian center with a covered arena that would provide riding lessons and be available for horse shows
- a portion of the Louisiana Great Gulf

Coast Birding Trail

- interpretive centers to educate others of the great environmental, cultural, and military history of the area
- a primitive camping area that can be used by scouts, 4-H members and others.

In addition, a pathway would allow access to a grouping of ten World War II Ammunition Magazines located within the property that are being nominated as a National Historic site. Future phases of Woodlands Trail and Park will allow access to the ruins of the Stanton Sugar Mill and Plantation, which once served as the largest sugar mill and plantation in Orleans Parish.

Katie Brasted, who is spearheading the project, praised the refinery for supporting the effort in its early stages. "People who

Treasures

are willing to provide seed money are the true angels," she said. "It's the seed money that is going to move us forward."

Refinery employees should be proud of their company's decision to invest in the area's future.

"You've joined our efforts in creating a legacy for future generations. This is about ensuring our quality of life in Plaquemines Parish, of being able to hike and backpack and enjoy the nature of our area. We are being pressed and stressed

with urban development. By supporting the Woodlands project, we're setting aside these cultural treasures for our children and grandchildren," Brasted explained.

The Plaquemines Parish government has provided Woodlands Trail and Park, Inc. with the use of an 80-foot corridor of green space over six miles in length within the 641-acre tract of their bottomland hardwood forest for the development of recreational, educational and historical pathways.

For more information, visit www.woodlandstrail.com or to volunteer, contact Katie Brasted at (504) 433-4000 or at woodlandstrail@aol.com. Volunteers are currently needed to assist with the Veterans' Oral History Project.

