



501-C-3

WOODLANDS TRAIL AND PARK

Creating a Legacy

Board Members: Benny Rousselle, President, Plaquemines Parish, Katie Brasted, M.A., Ed Theriot, Plaquemines Parish, David Muth, Orleans Audubon Society, P. Michael Smith, Entergy Policy Consultant, Dr. Jane Andrews, UNO, ReproGen, Dr. Hank Bart, Director and Curator of Fishes, Museum of Natural History, Tulane University

www.woodlandstrail.com

Vol. I No. 3

Woodlands Trail and Park - The Legacy Begins

CONTENTS

.....	1
Greenway Corridor Dedicated . . .	1
Tauzin & Rousselle Secure Initial Funding	1
BTNEP Funds Birding Trail	2
Benefits of Woodlands Trail and Park	2
Lindy Boggs Volunteers support and assistance	2
American Heritage Rivers Initiative	3
Supporting a Vision	3
Partnerships	3
Join us in: "Creating Legacy"	3
Mississippi River Trail adopts Woodlands' concepts . . .	4
Woodlands Trail to present at SETC	4
Results of Land Use Survey	4
Website Data	4

Greenway Corridor Dedicated

On April 11, 2002, Councilman Ed Theriot introduced Ordinance No. 02-73 to the Plaquemines Parish Council which supports the Woodlands Trail and Park initiative to improve public access to the recreational opportunities of the Lower Coast Algiers and Belle Chasse communities in a manner appropriate to the preservation of the natural beauty and unique character of this wilderness area. This Ordinance, which was passed on April 25, 2002, grants Woodlands Trail and Park use of an 80 foot wide tract of land extending 8 miles in length through Parish owned property near the Donner Canal. This dedication allows the beginning of Woodlands Trail and Park's efforts in "Creating a Legacy" for future generations. It is anticipated that trails established within this corridor will provide unique wilderness recreational opportunities for hikers, birdwatchers, equestrians, and other outdoor enthusiasts. Additionally, pathways will allow access to a grouping of ten World War II Bunkers.

Tauzin & Rousselle Secure Initial Funding

Thanks to the support of Congressman Billy Tauzin and Plaquemines Parish President Benny Rousselle, the Legacy of Woodlands Trail and Park will be a reality. With their support and assistance, funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development was secured through the Regional Planning Commission. Under the direction of Walter Brooks, RPC Deputy Director, Karen Parsons, Transportation Planner, applied for and received funding from HUD for pathways in multiple parishes. A Scope of Work is currently being finalized by the Regional Planning Commission to guide the use of \$33,000 in HUD funds to be used for environmental work and initial planning for Woodlands Trail and Park.



World War II Bunker - Belle Chasse

BTNEP Funds Birding Trail

At the Action Plan meeting of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program in Raceland on May 29, 2003, \$30,000 in funding was approved for Woodlands Trail and Park to utilize for establishment of a birding trail within the Plaquemines Parish Property. With nominations by Plaquemines Parish President Benny Rousselle, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin and Orleans Audubon Society's Vice-president, David Muth, the Woodlands Trail Route is being considered for inclusion in the Great Louisiana Gulf Coast Birding Trail. This area is considered an Important Birding Area by the Orleans Audubon Society as this bottomland hardwood forest serves as one of the first "fattening up" areas for over 400 species of Migratory Birds. With consultation and interpretive information provided by our partners, BTNEP, Kiosks will be located along the pathway to provide interpretive information regarding migratory birds and other abundant wildlife.



Egret

Benefits of Woodlands Trail and Park

Trails and greenways provide a community with a linear park which can promote healthy lifestyles by providing opportunities to engage in recreational and fitness activities in a scenic environment. Widening River Road/Hwy. 406 for the Mississippi River Trail would provide increased safety for motorists as well as cyclists. It is hoped that grants and fund raising efforts will allow the connection and expansion of inner greenway corridors in order to fulfill the requirements for long-term survival of this unique ecosystem that will sustain the current variety of vegetation, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians in the Belle Chasse/English Turn/Lower Coast area. The connection of greenway corridors will prevent wildlife from being trapped between "islands" of development which would lead to the rapid dropout of species. Additionally, by acting as a sink and a filter, greenways and open space provide a functional "sponge" to absorb excess water in times of heavy rains while also serving to filter pollution in an area which is largely without public sewerage. The proposed Woodlands Trail would allow increased community access to the river and its accompanying educational opportunities such as access to the Algiers Pumping Station, Intracoastal Canal Locks, site of Stanton Sugar Mill and Plantation, World War II Bunkers, wetlands, ruins of Fort St. Leon and others.

Lindy Boggs Volunteers support and assistance

During a Prayer Breakfast in Plaquemines Parish at which Ambassador Lindy Boggs was the Keynote speaker, Katie Brasted, Founder and President of Woodlands Trail and Park, introduced the mission of WT&P to Ambassador Boggs and requested her assistance. Later that day, Ms. Brasted received a phone call from Ambassador Boggs who expressed her support and offered her assistance. Bob Tannen and Jeanne Nathan arranged a luncheon meeting with Ambassador Boggs at Galatoire's to discuss Woodland Trail and Park in further detail. Following that discussion, Ambassador Lindy Boggs, noted that what Woodlands Trail and Park is advocating, "preserving Louisiana's cultural and natural resources", is what Hale was all about and thus she is committed to assisting WT&P in achieving its mission.



Nature's many wonders!

American Heritage Rivers Initiative

The American Heritage Rivers Initiative was enacted by President Bill Clinton to assist communities in increasing access to the river and identifying funding sources for enhancement along the river and its watershed. Through a nomination by the Mayor's Office of Environmental Affairs in Orleans Parish, Woodlands Trail and Park is recognized as an American Heritage Rivers Initiative. In June, 2002, Woodlands Trail and Park was presented as part of a "Rivers Uniting Communities" package to a meeting of the Undersecretaries in Washington, D.C. We received letters of support for recognition of "Keystone" status from: U.S. Senators John Breaux and Mary Landrieu, U.S. Representatives William Jefferson, Billy Tauzin, and David Vitter, Governor Mike Foster, State Representatives Mitch Landrieu and Ernest Wooton, Plaquemines Parish President Benny Rousselle and Councilman Ed Theriot. We are now described on the Environmental Protection Agency's Website with recognition as one of three "Keystone" projects in Louisiana.



Congress' American Heritage Rivers Initiative:
Increase Community Access to the River

Supporting a Vision

Thanks to the generous support from the following who share in the vision of Woodlands Trail and Park and have expressed their desire to be an active part of creating and leaving a legacy for future generations:

- ▶ Bank One
- ▶ Troy Carter
- ▶ Chevron Oronite Company
- ▶ ConocoPhillips
- ▶ General Marine Leasing
- ▶ Jesuit Bend Helicopters, LLC
- ▶ Harry S. Kaufman, III
- ▶ Kiwanis Club of Algiers Morning Edition
- ▶ Gary and Paula Lee
- ▶ John W. Stone Oil Distributor
- ▶ Lowe, Stein, Hoffman, Allweiss, Hauver, L.L.P.
- ▶ New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, Ofc. of Economic Dev.
- ▶ David and Gisele Prados
- ▶ Print-All
- ▶ Purina
- ▶ Villere C. Regio, Jr.
- ▶ Office of Plaquemines Parish President Benny Rousselle
- ▶ Patrick M. Smith
- ▶ Frank Stuart
- ▶ SurgiMed, Inc.

Partnerships

- ▶ American Heritage Rivers Initiative
- ▶ Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
- ▶ Mississippi River Basin Alliance
- ▶ Mississippi River Trail Organization
- ▶ National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, Conservation and Assistance Program
- ▶ Orleans Audubon Society
- ▶ Plaquemines Parish
- ▶ Regional Planning Commission

Join us in: "Creating Legacy"

Woodlands Trail and Park is organized as a nonprofit, 501-C-3 corporation with the mission to: "establish and embellish an educational, historical and recreational greenway, within the Lower Coast Algiers and Belle Chasse areas."

We are in need of matching funds for pending grants as well as operating costs to implement Phase One. Join the efforts in "Creating a Legacy" for future generations by making a tax deductible contribution to :

Woodlands Trail and Park, Inc.
106 Avenue G
Belle Chasse, Louisiana 70037

Phone: (504) 453-4934
Fax: (504) 394-9541
E-mail: woodlandstrail@aol.com
www.woodlandstrail.com



Intracoastal Canal

This publication of "Woodlands Trail and Park", was made possible by the generous support of:

Chevron Oronite Company, LLC
Oak Point Plant
John W. Stone Oil Distributor
Conoco Phillips

Mississippi River Trail adopts Woodlands' concepts

The Mississippi River Trail is a bike pathway which begins at the headwaters of the Mississippi River in Lake Itasca. It plans to travel the 2552 miles along the river to reach the Gulf of Mexico. The organization has targeted 2004 for reaching its goal of route establishment. The state of Louisiana has incorporated the Mississippi River Trail into its State Comprehensive Recreational Plan. Both sides of the Mississippi River have been designated as targets for the Mississippi River Trail.

In recognition of Woodlands Trail and Park's efforts to plan for the MRT in a manner to address the desires of other trail users as well as the infrastructure needs of a growing community, Bill Keller, Governor's Advisory Committee, Bicycle Awareness Committee, asked WT&P for their input. As a result, in December, 2001, Woodlands Trail and Park was presented to the Mississippi River Trail organization at the Capitol Building in Baton Rouge. Following that meeting, Woodlands Trail and Park received a letter of support



MRT planned to provide increased safety for motorists as well as cyclists

from the national MRT office in Tennessee supporting Woodlands Trail and Park's version of the MRT for the Lower Coast Algiers/English Turn/Belle Chasse corridor.

During the 107th Congressional Session and again in the 108th, U.S. Representative Betsy McCollum introduced a Bill, cosponsored by nine other states which asks for the route along the Mississippi to be studied by the National Park Service for potential inclusion in the National Trail system.



Algiers Locks/Intracoastal Canal

Woodlands Trail to present at SETC

Katie Brasted, President of Woodlands Trail and Park, was asked to represent Louisiana in Gainesville, Florida at the Southeastern Equestrian Trail Conference on July 19, 2003. Following a conference call with trail planners in 9 other states, the SETC organization has redrawn their logo to include Louisiana. When reluctant to attend due to a lack of operating funds, Woodlands Trail and Park was offered and provided with funding from a Federal Highways Grant in Florida through the Friends of San Felasco.

Results of Land Use Survey

In the Spring of 2001, the English Turn Civic Improvement Association, Inc. sent out over 1100 land use surveys to property owners in English Turn Golf Course Community, Lower Coast and Riverside Subdivisions. According to the results of this survey, 88% of the respondents positively endorsed the statement:

"I am in favor of the installation of Woodlands Trail and Park".

Website Data

Thanks to the generous assistance of Robert J. Stengl, Logistics Engineer and Carter Wilson, E-Commerce Web Specialist for Website consultation services, problems with our Website have been corrected. Below is a summary of data which has resulted from those respondents to the support petition:

Preferred activities:

79%	Hiking/Nature trails
72%	Biking
69%	Horseback riding
45%	Running
34%	Bird watching
31%	Roller blading

99.9% Express desire to have access to City of New Orleans' Wilderness Park.