

Woodlands Trail and Park receives \$5,000 Donation from Chevron Oronite

The Plaquemines Parish Council recently approved an 80-foot right of way for public access to proposed Woodlands Trails and Park. The council also voted to pursue a historic designation for 10 World War II-era bunkers, which are also located inside the tract.

On Wednesday, April 14, 2004, the volunteers advocating for the park held a celebration for a grant from Chevron Oronite Company, the project's first corporate sponsor, at the entrance to the land which is located on F. Edward Hebert Boulevard, across from Cypress Park.

Michael Burnside, Americas Region Manager for Chevron Oronite Company's Oak Point Plant, presented the \$5,000 grant to Katie Brasted, president of the Woodlands Trail and Park Inc., and Plaquemines Parish President, Benny Rousselle, one of the organization's directors.

Oak Point's contribution will be used to support the establishment of the 6.82 mile Louisiana Great Gulf Coast Birding Trail within the Woodlands tract.

Mr. Burnside stressed the importance of Chevron Oronite's efforts and commitment to maintaining the balance between development and nature. In becoming a partner with the Woodlands Trail, Burnside said Chevron Oronite hopes to preserve valuable green space for generations to come.

When completed, nature lovers will be able to enjoy the beauty nature has created, Brasted said. Hikers also will be able to enjoy a little local history along the way as the path wanders in front of the Stanton sugar mill and plantation, the World War II bunkers, Fort St. Leon and other historical locations on the land.

Several partners in the project were on hand to celebrate the event, including Nathan Champagne of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative and New Orleans Mayor's Office of Environmental Affairs; Doug Daigle of the Mississippi River Basin Alliance; Bill Keller of the Mississippi River Trail; Stacey Palmer of the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, Conservation and Assistance Program; and Karen Parsons, senior transportation planner with the Regional Planning Commission.



Pictured here are Woodlands Trail and Park President Katie Brasted, Plaquemines Parish President, Benny Rousselle and Mike Burnside, Americas Region Manager of Chevron Oronite Company's Oak Point Plant.



Woodlands Trail and Park President Katie Brasted and Rebecca Altobelli of Chevron Oronite Company's Oak Point Plant