

# Woodlands Trail Nominated for President Award

Woodlands Trail and Park, currently recognized as one of three American Heritage Rivers Initiative "Keystone" projects for Louisiana, was nominated for the Preserve America Presidential Award by the board of Directors of Algiers Economic Development Foundation. The stated mission of AEDF is to "foster, coordinate and advance economic growth through industrial, commercial

and tourism development; help retain existing business; protect and encourage residential development; and promote civic pride and awareness of Algiers."

According to AEDF President Glenn Orgeron, "Woodlands Trail and Park meshes with that mission to increase tourism while maintaining the quality of life elements that Fortune 500 Company executives evaluate when making

decision about relocating to a new community."

Laura Bush, who chaired the Preserve America Summit in New Orleans in mid-October, helped to start Preserve America, a national program to protect our cultural and natural heritage. The program recognizes through awards and supports through grant programs, efforts across the nation to encourage Americans to get involved in preserving main streets, parks and community heritage treasures. Woodlands Trail and Park President Katie Brasted said, "Plaquemines Parish has demonstrated its passion and pride in Louisiana's natural and historic treasures by its longstanding support of Woodlands Trail and Park through resolutions and ordinances beginning with the first presentation of the project in 2001."

When Councilwoman Lynda Banta heard of the nomination of the award, she insisted on introducing a resolution supporting the nomination by AEDF. The resolution, passed by the Plaquemines Parish Council, proclaimed support for Woodlands Trail and Park's nomination "in view of the longstanding dedication of [Woodlands Trail and Park] to form a coalition of local, regional and national partnerships with governmental entities, private citizens and corporations

to preserve, protect and celebrate our priceless and natural heritage."

The nomination packet also included supporting letters by Plaquemines Parish President Benny Rousselle and U.S. Sen. David Vitter. The awards are generally announced during the early part of May.



*Plaquemines Parish President Benny Rousselle (left) and Councilwoman Lynda Banta (right) present a certified council resolution supporting Woodlands Trail and Park's nomination for the Preserve America Presidential Award to Woodlands Trail and Park President Katie Brasted (center).*