

Proclamations Support Regional Greenway

At the New Orleans City Council Meeting on May 25, 2006, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and the New Orleans City Council issued proclamations to Katie Brasted, president and founder of Woodlands Trail and Park in support of "implementation of conservation efforts that will protect and improve the environment for the future well-being of our children and the wildlife we treasure".

Woodlands Trail and Park is a nonprofit, 501-C-3 organization that is uniting the river communities of Orleans and Plaquemines Parish with a series of educational, recreational and historical greenways in one of the regions' last stands of bottomland hardwoods.

In recognition of May being America's Wetlands Month, Councilman-at-Large Oliver Thomas, who chairs the Riverfront Development Committee, initiated a supporting proclamation by the New Orleans City Council. He noted that the Woodlands project provides an "economic opportunity to deal with our wetlands, ecosystem and national treasures."

After presentation of the framed proclamation by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Edgar Veillon, LWF official and representative to the National Wildlife Federation, reiterated the support for Woodlands Trail and Park's efforts to establish greenway corridors by noting that such forested

properties "are our first line of defense against hurricane winds" and that the Woodlands effort "presents a wealth of opportunities for recreation and in doing so generates millions of dollars for the state economy."

Accepting the proclamations on behalf of Woodlands Trail and Park, Brasted expressed gratitude for the recognition by the City Council and the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. After noting the recent release of the Mignon Faget Palmetto

jewelry to bring attention to America's Wetlands and benefit Woodlands Trail and Park, Brasted remarked, "It will take coalitions such as this; of governmental entities, nonprofits and private enterprise working together, now more than ever, to move quality of life efforts forward".

After lavish praise by New Orleans City Council members of his expertise in handling the recovery effort in Plaquemines Parish, President Benny Rousselle expressed the impor-

ance of setting aside green space as the region grows.

"Our argument has been...for some time now that if we had protected America's wetlands, we probably wouldn't have suffered the damage that we have suffered," Rousselle said. "This is a small part of putting a green space aside, some 600 acres, and we look forward to the City Council joining us in putting property into the project so we have a greenway space into Orleans and Plaquemines"



(Left to right) Councilman-at-Large Oliver Thomas, Councilwoman Jackie Clarkson, Councilman Jay Batt, Councilman-at-Large Eddie Sapir, Woodlands Trail and Park President Katie Brasted, Plaquemines Parish President Benny Rousselle, Louisiana Wildlife Federation official and representative to the National Wildlife Federation Edgar Veillon.