

Woodlands Trail & Park Receives National Award

Woodlands Trail and Park, Inc. received a national honor with a grant from the Kodak American Greenways Awards Program in Arlington, Virginia. The \$1000 grant will help preserve over 6 miles of corridors of greenspace to be used for hiking, birdwatching, horseback riding and activities of other non-motorized nature enthusiasts. Funding from Kodak will help develop trails leading to a grouping of ten WWII Ammunition Magazines nestled in the bottomland hardwood forest in Belle Chasse. In addition to the grant award, Woodlands Trail and Park will be showcased as a national model for its innovative efforts to unite the river communities of Orleans and Plaquemines Parish with a series of educational, recreational and historical greenways.

The Kodak American Greenways Awards, administered by the Conservation Fund, a recognized leader in working with local communities to expand the nation's network of linked open spaces, provides small grants of up to \$2,500 to nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies to help develop new action-oriented greenway projects. The Kodak Awards provide seed money to spark creativity in conservation, outdoor recreation and trail and greenway development.

Woodlands Trail and Park is one of only 47 groups awarded nationwide for their innovative local efforts to connect greenway corridors that help preserve a sense of place to a growing community. "In view of the devastation to the forest from Hurricane Katrina", says

Katie Brasted, Founder of the Woodlands organization, "this prestigious award is even more meaningful when others are just now seeming to grasp the role of bottomland hardwood forests in terms of their vital habitat, flood protection and their overall essential role in the quality of life to current and future generations".

According to the Conservation Fund's President, Larry Selzer, "The projects selected this year represent some of the best grassroots efforts conservation and greenway development efforts in the United States. The Fund supports these local initiatives because they are thoughtful, action-oriented projects that will serve as models for other communities around the country."

The Kodak American Greenways Awards are made possible through the generous support of the Eastman Kodak Company. As the world's imaging leader, Kodak sets the standard in traditional picture taking, while working to bring the latest in digital imaging technologies to the marketplace. The Kodak American Greenways Awards Grants Review Committee consists of conservation experts from around the country. The committee selected grant recipients from a pool of nearly 300 qualified applicants.

Since 1985, The Conservation Fund and its partners have permanently protected more than 4 million acres of important wildlife habitat, working landscapes, and recreational areas. For the fourth year in a row, the Fund was named the nation's top-rated environmental nonprofit by the American Institute of Philanthropy. With a 1 percent fundraising cost, the lowest of all environmental groups in the country, and a program allocation of 96 percent, the Fund is unmatched for its efficiency and effectiveness.