

# Woodlands Trail Starts Clearing Trees

In an effort to begin recapturing Woodlands Trail, America's Wetland Birding Trail, the park has scheduled a work weekend on February 3 and 4.

Dr. Barbara Benson, professor of University of Louisiana, Lafayette, has volunteered her students in Naturalist and Docent Practices to take on the massive task of re-marking the 13.6 miles of trails within the bottomland hardwood forest in Belle Chasse.

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, Woodlands Trail had completed the work of marking and hand-clearing the trails to be used by birdwatchers, hikers, horseback riders and other outdoor enthusiasts.

Although the forested section provided a major wind damage protection to the surrounding residential areas during the recent hurricane season, approximately 60 percent of the trees have fallen in such a way to mask signs of previous trails and markings.

Navigation Electronics, Inc., Lafayette, has loaned two GPS Trimble Units and agreed to train students in their use to assist in re-staking the trail system. Severn Trent Services of Belle Chasse has also loaned a Trimble Unit for use by the ULL students. Students will be joined by the Louisiana Hiking Club and area volunteers to mark the trails and remove debris. The base for the organized work weekend will be at the future entrance to Woodlands Trail near the WWII Swimming Pool on F. Edward Hebert Blvd. in Belle Chasse.

Anyone interested in showcasing their debris removal skills or just wanting to spend some time in the great outdoors, please contact Woodlands Trail and Park at either (504) 433-4000 or at [woodlandstrail@aol.com](mailto:woodlandstrail@aol.com).