



Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges

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News Release

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TPWD Awards \$200,000 Grant to Build Dow Woods Trails

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has awarded the Friends of the Brazoria Refuges a \$200,000 grant to develop trails and supporting facilities at the Dow Woods Unit of the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge.

TPWD recently finalized the grant from National Recreational Trails Grant funds. The grant will be augmented with \$63,000 in matching contributions. The matching funds include a \$20,000 contribution from The Dow Chemical Company.

The funds will be used to construct approximately 3.75 miles of trail that loops through the heavily wooded tract. Plans also call for building a crossing of Bastrop Bayou, parking lots, restroom facilities, and interpretative signage. The Dow Woods Unit will be open to the public once construction activities are completed.

The trail will provide the people of Brazosport community with access to the Columbia Bottomlands, a unique forest ecosystem that is rapidly declining. On the Dow Woods Trail, people will discover how the natural world intertwines with ours and why these bottomland forests provide for both wildlife and people.

The Dow Woods contain old growth stands of oaks providing food, shelter and nesting sites for birds and other animals. This trail will interpret nature for the public and school children about the Columbia Bottomland forest and provide a natural laboratory to learn about ecology and wildlife. The vision of this trail is to inspire visitors, and especially children, who take the opportunity to interact with nature.

The 338-acre Dow Woods Unit is located in the northeast part of Lake Jackson, Texas. Dow Woods is bordered on the east by Old Angleton Road and on the south by FM 2004. The land was donated by The Dow Chemical Company to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Friends of the Brazoria Refuges is a volunteer organization that provides support to the Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The Friends activities include construction of public use facilities at the refuges, the Discovery Environmental Education Program school programs, and the annual spring Migration Celebration.

Additional information about the refuges and the Friends group is available at www.refugefriends.org.

Photo for publication. If desired, other photos are available



Bastrop Bayou in the Dow Woods Unit of the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge.
Contributed Photo by David Plunkett
