



## March 2007

### Bossier Community Gains Natural Area for a Park and Trail Network

Bossier City, LA (February 14, 2007) – A 11.59-acre wooded parcel (shown in the aerial photo) is the first park to be jointly owned by both the City of Bossier City and Bossier Parish, Louisiana. Thanks to the National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) program, this green space has been transferred, at no cost, to both the City of Bossier City and the Bossier Parish Police Jury for public park and recreation use.



Valued at just over \$10,000, acquisition of this facility will help the City and Parish provide a wooded natural area for the residents in the southern portion of their Parish. In addition to a trail network, there will be a picnic shelter for neighborhood gatherings. The transfer was negotiated by NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff. For more information, please contact Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager, Atlanta, GA, at [bill\\_huie@nps.gov](mailto:bill_huie@nps.gov) or 404-562-3175.

### Central Park Wetland Restoration



Park Forest, IL (February 2007) – A unique 45-acre suburban wetland/peat bog is being restored through the efforts of an active volunteer force. Most recently, local students planted several thousand individual plants representing more than 20 species at the site.

Described as a “swamp” in the 1950’s and “improved” with turf seeding and grading in the 1960’s, it wasn’t until the 1990’s that the Village of Park Forest recognized restoration as the best treatment of the wetland parcel. Through their efforts, the efforts of over 50 volunteers

(who are the heart of the management program), a variety of grants, and partnerships with resource agencies, the site has seen a revitalization.

As part of this effort, the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program has provided assistance with finding funding sources and is working with the Village to have the work serve as a demonstration project for other local communities. Since 2001, the number of bird species has increased, native wetland conditions have returned, *and* over 240 students have come to learn about the value of wetlands and participate in the restoration process. For more information, please contact Diane Banta, NPS RTCA, at [diane\\_banta@nps.gov](mailto:diane_banta@nps.gov) or 312- 863- 6287.

## New Trail Tools:

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### **Website: *Cool Trail Solutions***

Have you ever wondered if your trail design and construction issues have already been met and creatively solved by others? Wouldn't it be great if you could go to a website, and with a few clicks find some Cool Trail Solutions? Good news- -

Based on the concept developed by an NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Rivers and Trails staff member, American Trails has launched *Cool Trail Solutions*, a website dedicated to sharing what its title suggests: "Cool" solutions to issues trail managers face every day, or once in a lifetime. Visit the site at:

<http://americantrails.org/resources/cool/index.html>.

For more information contact American Trails at [trailhead@americantrails.org](mailto:trailhead@americantrails.org) or Mark Weaver, Rivers and Trails Wisconsin Field Office at [mark\\_weaver@nps.gov](mailto:mark_weaver@nps.gov) or 414- 297-3617.

### **Publication: *Managing Mountain Biking: IMBA's Guide to Providing Great Riding***

"What makes one trail a success, while another is unpopular or the source of conflict? Why do some trails last for decades with minimal maintenance, while others require expensive repairs? *Managing Mountain Biking: IMBA's Guide to Providing Great Riding* gives solutions for these and dozens of other trail- related dilemmas. Written for professional land managers, volunteers, and recreation providers alike, this...book offers an essential collection of best practices for planning, designing, and managing successful trail networks and bike parks."

Edited by Pete Webber, IMBA, the project was supported by a grant from the U.S. Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program along with sponsorship from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program and the states of Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Minnesota. NPS RTCA staff contributed several case studies. For more information, contact Cherri Esperesn, NPS RTCA, or visit [www.imba.com](http://www.imba.com).

(excerpted from IMBA press release)

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