Official Boardwalk Dedication Ceremony Slated for March 10

Chris Smith, Friends of the Nature Center President

Having the ability to walk far out onto a natural, marshy area of the Trinity, be surrounded by canopy trees and water plants, and view egrets, blue herons, and other aquatic
wildlife thriving among the lotus has provided a one-of-a-kind experience for many visitors to the Nature Center’s Lotus Marsh Boardwalk for decades.

With passage of time and lack of funds needed to maintain the facility, however, the Nature Center was forced to close the boardwalk in 2015. Loose and missing planks, unstable handrails, and other issues eventually caused the structure to become a potential safety hazard. Some even wondered if this beautiful walkway would have to be demolished.

In summer 2013, the Fort Worth City Council voted to sell certificates of obligation to fund several necessary projects, including $500,000 for reconstruction of the Lotus Marsh Boardwalk. With funding from various sources—certificates of obligation, capital improvement program, and park mitigation/license fees—the Nature Center embarked on a complete reconstruction of the boardwalk. And thanks to the vision and tireless efforts of Nature Center staff, Friends of the Nature Center board members, and city council members, this comprehensive redevelopment project has recently been completed.

Please join us for the official ribbon (vine) cutting ceremony to be held on Friday, March 10 at 11 a.m. in the open area at the top of the ramp to the boardwalk. Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price, Fort Worth City Councilman Dennis Shingleton, Nature Center Manager Rob Denkhaus, and Friends of the Nature Center President Chris Smith will speak at the event. Admission for non-members is $5.