



Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Executive Director Carter Smith, Friends Executive Director Haily Summerford, Friends Board Member Marty Leonard, Friends Board Member George Bristol, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Chairman Ralph Duggins (L to R) pose with a \$200,000 check for improvements to the Greer Island Trail area. BJ Lacrasse Photo.

FRIENDS RECEIVE \$200,000 TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE GRANT

by Haily Summerford, Friends Executive Director

The Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge has received a recreational trails grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The \$200,000 grant will fund additional parking, trail stabilization and restoration, as well as a trailhead kiosk and compost toilet at the southern portion of the Nature Center's 20 miles of trails at Greer Island. This area suffered extensive flooding during 2014 and 2015, rendering the area in need of restoration.

The Friends raised more than \$100,000 in matching funds for the project, including a \$54,000 match required by the state.

On October 10, Carter Smith, executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, presented the Friends with a check for \$200,000 at a reception honoring Fort Worth's own Ralph Duggins, who was recently appointed as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Chairman. The event honored Chairman Duggins and kicked off the Friends' journey to continue preserving the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge as one of the largest urban nature parks in the country—and becoming one of the BEST in the country.

