



US Army Corps
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New Orleans District

News Release

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Bonnet Carré opens second ATV area

Temporary ATV recreation area now closed; levee work under way

NEW ORLEANS - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has opened ATV Area 2 for recreation use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) at the Bonnet Carré Spillway near New Orleans.

Area 2 is a wooded tract of 412 acres north of Airline Highway (U.S. 61). These vehicles now have almost 900 acres, along with the original ATV Area 1, opened in 1999, that is located south of Airline Highway.

Because ATV Area 2 is now open, the temporary areas that were to the east and west of the designated ATV Area 1 will be closed starting August 3rd.

“Our park rangers have worked from the start of this program to keep the public informed of the changes as they are being implemented,” said Greg Malon, the Corps’ senior park ranger at Bonnet Carré Spillway.

To be certain that everyone is informed of these changes, park rangers will be present at the new parking area to provide information and answer questions on the weekends.

The Bonnet Carré is New Orleans’ second line of defense as water rises on the Mississippi River levees. The project, 1.3 miles wide at the river, is designed to divert floodwater six miles north to Lake Pontchartrain.

However, the 12-square mile project does not divert the river 99 percent of the time, so it is used by hundreds of thousands of recreation enthusiasts, who enjoy fishing, camping, boating, water skiing, dog training, hunting, ATVs and more.

A levee restoration project is in progress on the East Guide Levee. Recreational users are asked to be cautious when they approach the construction area and heavy equipment that will be on the spillway roads.

The levee construction is routine restoration to bring the levees back to their design elevations. Work on the section of the East Guide Levee that runs from Airline Highway to Lake Pontchartrain is first. This section leads to the back boat ramp and fishing jetty area.

Maps and contact: Maps of the new ATV trail system are located on information boards at the spillway and on the Corps' Web site at www.mvn.usace.army.mil/recreation. The public may also contact Bonnet Carré Spillway office at 985-764-0126, for information and map copies.