



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New Orleans District

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Open house at Bonnet Carré set Sunday, April 3

Corps offers public the opportunity to comment on an update for the Master Plan

NEW ORLEANS – The public is invited to an open house at the Bonnet Carré Spillway to comment on an update of the Bonnet Carré Spillway Master Plan.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has scheduled the open house on Sunday, April 3, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the St. Charles Parish Recreation Area in the spillway. The recreation area is located just north of Airline Highway (U.S. 61) on the Norco side of the spillway.

The Master Plan is the Corps' official document outlining how the Bonnet Carre Spillway will be managed and regulated in the interests of its primary flood-control function, natural resources, public recreation and public safety.

Officials of the New Orleans Engineer District will attend to hear public comments and discuss the update of the Master Plan. Among them will be Michael Stout, chief of natural resource management, including recreation, for the district, and the spillway's park ranger staff.

Key issues and possible changes will be discussed. Topics include the ATV or all-terrain vehicle area, the 4-wheel-drive area and changes in hunting regulations, bikeways and other trails, facility upkeep and needs, camping, fishing, dog training and trials, natural and cultural sites, education and interpretation and other project uses.

The Bonnet Carré Spillway was completed in 1931 to protect New Orleans and other places downstream from Mississippi River floods. During times of operation, a 1.5-mile long spillway structure along the river is opened, and flows six miles north to Lake Pontchartrain.

Most of the time, more than 99 days out of 100, however, the river's flow does not necessitate openings, which have occurred only eight times. In non-flood times, the public swarms into the spillway for many of the recreational uses listed above. It is estimated that well more than 250,000 people a year visit the spillway for these purposes.

[Bonnet Carré brochure](#)