



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New Orleans District

# News Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **N.O. hurricane tree removal starts in September**

*Orleans Canal and lakefront first, 17<sup>th</sup> St. and London canals later*

NEW ORLEANS—Carrying out a lesson learned from Katrina, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin in the first week of September to remove trees that endanger hurricane levees and floodwalls in New Orleans.

In all, 43 large trees, small trees and woody shrubs will be removed along Lake Pontchartrain and the Orleans Avenue Canal—in coordination with the Orleans Levee District. All are located in the public right of way.

Sixteen trees will be removed from the toe of the hurricane levee along Lake Pontchartrain in the five miles from the Industrial Canal to Jefferson Parish. Another 20 small trees and woody shrubs will be removed along several lakefront segments of hurricane floodwall in the same section.

Seven more trees will be removed along the three-mile-long Orleans Avenue Canal where it borders on City Park. They include five large live oak trees and two smaller hackberry trees.

Trees will be cut at 4½ feet so storm winds cannot blow them over. After the hurricane season, stumps and roots will be removed and the holes packed with clay. Delaying the stump removal will avoid weakening the levee embankment during a hurricane.

The reasons for tree removal are based on principles of science and engineering. Trees and other woody vegetation endanger hurricane protection works in several ways.

--Roots in levees open up pathways for seepage, especially after a tree dies.

--Trees toppled and uprooted create instability by removing grass and soil. This accelerates seepage, promotes erosion and weakens stability.

--Large overturned trees can damage floodwalls.

Tree removal is part of the work to strengthen the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project, which involves New Orleans and St. Bernard, Jefferson and St. Charles parishes.

The work is being done in two phases. In Phase 1, only those trees in the levee section will be removed, as planned in early September for New Orleans along right of way along the lakefront and Orleans Avenue Canal. Phase 1 began in east Jefferson Parish in July, in coordination with the East Jefferson Levee District. Trees were removed from right of way along the lakefront, the Jefferson side of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal and the Kenner Return Floodwall.

Later, trees will be removed along the 17<sup>th</sup> Street and London Avenue Canals in coordination with the Orleans Levee District. Along these canals, the preexisting embankments that support floodwalls extend into backyards of property owners. The Corps is at work determining the trees and structures that must be removed and will soon schedule public meetings to keep the public informed.

Phase 2, which has not yet begun, will assess the impact of trees and structures near the levees and floodwalls. Levee safety may require that some will have to be removed.

See Phase I removal outline and tree inventory link below.

**Summary of Phase 1 tree removal** in New Orleans, lakefront and Orleans Avenue Canal

A. **New Orleans Lakefront Levee** – woody vegetation in levee section

7 Live Oak trees (12-44 inches diameter)  
6 Pine trees (19-22 inches diameter)  
1 Wax Myrtle  
1 Palm tree  
1 Crape Myrtle  
**16 total trees**

B. **New Orleans Marina Floodwall** – woody vegetation within 15 feet of floodwall

5 Palm trees (inside floodwall within grouping of 10)  
5 Oleanders, 2 Sago Palms, 4 Crape Myrtles (entrances to marina)  
7 Holly Trees, 4 Crape Myrtles (inside floodwall at edge of condo building)

C. **Floodwall West of Bayou St. John** - woody vegetation within 15 ft of floodwall

16 Ligustrums  
15 Red-tip Photinia

D. **Orleans Avenue Canal, City Park side** - woody vegetation in levee section

5 Live Oaks trees (36-42 inches diameter)  
2 Hackberry trees (14 & 18 inches diameter)  
**7 total trees**

**Lakefront tree inventory** ([photo overlay maps](#))

Trees dimensions are diameters.

1. Lakefront at West End
2. Lakefront at Orleans Avenue Canal
3. Lakefront at Lake Vista and Bayou St. John
4. Lakefront, UNO east campus to Industrial Canal
5. Orleans Avenue Canal at City Park.