



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New Orleans District

# News Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Dredge Wheeler open for tours May 19-20**

*Corps vessel will be at Woldenberg Park, New Orleans*

NEW ORLEANS – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, is hosting an open house and free tour of its flagship, the dredge Wheeler, Friday and Saturday, May 19-20, here at Woldenberg Park. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Crewmembers will complement shipboard displays and exhibits in chronicling the role that Wheeler plays in maintaining open and unobstructed navigation channels in the Mississippi River, the main transport artery for the nation's grain exports.

One of the largest hopper dredges in the United States, the Wheeler operates like an enormous vacuum cleaner that draws sediment into its hopper and moves it elsewhere. In operation, the Dredge Wheeler operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, scooping up and holding about 8,000 cubic yards of river bottom materials, enough to fill 700 large dump trucks.

The Wheeler's major role is dredging Southwest Pass, the big ship entrance to the Mississippi River. The Corps relies upon the Wheeler and private contract dredges to keep open the largest port complex on earth, from Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico.

**Wheeler on the Web**