

The Bonnet Carré Spillway is a vital element of the comprehensive plan for flood damage reduction in the Lower Mississippi Valley. The southernmost floodway in the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project (MR&T), Bonnet Carré Spillway protects New Orleans and other downstream communities during major floods from the Mississippi River.

The Bonnet Carré Spillway was constructed in 1929 and is a 7,623-acre floodway nestled between the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana.

Recently, the Bonnet Carré Spillway has been used as a source of clay material for levee rebuilding following the devastating Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The clay excavation areas, known as borrow pits, are as deep as 25 feet and

provide ideal areas for game fish habitat. By collaborating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Natchitoches Fish Hatchery, we are able to stock the borrow pits with Bluegill, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish and Hybrid Striped Bass.

The Bonnet Carré Spillway offers areas for both freshwater and saltwater fishing, and at times anglers are able to catch sunfish, bass, speckled trout and redfish from the same area. The Spillway also offers areas to catch blue crabs, shrimp, and crawfish. Check Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries regulations for licenses, methods of take and size or possession limits.



From Baton Rouge:

Take the second LaPlace exit off Interstate 10 east. Take a right at the bottom of the ramp and follow U.S. Highway 51 south to U.S. Highway 61 (Airline Highway). Take a left on Airline Highway and go approximately 4 miles until you see the signs for the Bonnet Carré Spillway.

Driving Directions to the Bonnet Carré Spillway

From New Orleans:

Take Interstate 10 west toward Baton Rouge. Take the Interstate 310 exit, and go about 2 miles and then take the Norco exit onto U.S. Highway 61 (Airline Highway). Go west toward Norco until you see signs for the Bonnet Carré Spillway.

