



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

# News Release

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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Deadline to Provide Comments on Development of Bonnet Carré Spillway Master Plan nears**

*Comment period closes Jul. 31, 2008*

**NEW ORLEANS** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, is continuing to accept feedback from current and potential Bonnet Carré Spillway visitors on updates to the project’s Master Plan. Feedback is being accepted through Jul. 31 and may be submitted online or by mail.

“Comments from people who use or have previously used the spillway for recreation will certainly add value to the Master Plan update,” said Chris Brantley, project manager of the Bonnet Carré Spillway. “The project team is already planning to designate a new area for horseback riding, add additional restroom facilities and increase the number of garbage cans in the spillway.”

Updates to the master plan may include allotting space to completely new user-groups, improving the current location of space allotted to user groups and improving road access. Another focus of the master plan update is to improve natural resources management on the project’s nearly 8,000 acres of public lands and waters. These resources include highly productive forested and non-forested wetlands, open fields and a myriad of ponds and canals.

The Corps is updating the spillway’s Master Plan, the official document outlining how the Bonnet Carré Spillway is managed and regulated. Its primary function is flood-control however the Corps also ensures spillway users respect its natural resources and recreate safely. Thousands of people throughout the region travel to the spillway each year to hike, boat, fish, train dogs, watch wildlife, ride all terrain vehicles, hunt, camp and cycle, among other activities.

Comments may be submitted online at:

[www.mvn.usace.army.mil/recreation/Recreation\\_Sites\\_Bonnet\\_Carre.asp](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/recreation/Recreation_Sites_Bonnet_Carre.asp)

By mail at:  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Protection and Restoration Office, Room 142  
ATTN: Mr. Michael Stout  
P.O. Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

The Corps will present a draft of the Master Plan Update document during a public meeting in the fall. A meeting date has not yet been scheduled.

The Bonnet Carré Spillway is located 28 miles west of New Orleans. It was completed in 1936 to protect New Orleans and other downstream communities from Mississippi River floods. During times of operation large timber needles from the 1.5 mile-long structure are raised allowing water from the Mississippi River to enter the spillway and flow six miles north to Lake Pontchartrain. The diverted water relieves pressure on Mississippi River levees and reduces risk associated with flooding. The spillway has been operated a total of nine times since its completion. It was most recently opened in the spring of 2008.

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