



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

# News Release

Public Affairs Office  
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## **Dredge Wheeler On Display**

*Friday visitors can inspect large hopper dredge*

The public is invited this Friday to tour the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Dredge Wheeler in celebration of the Army's 228th Birthday and Corps of Engineers' 201<sup>st</sup> Birthday. The Dredge Wheeler is the largest and most sophisticated dredging ship in the United States.

The Wheeler will be open for tours Friday, June 20, at Woldenberg Park from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be numerous displays and videos explaining how the dredge operates to keep the Mississippi River open to navigation.

By dredging, the Corps keeps the nation's waterways open to commerce and recreation. Last fiscal year, the Corps dredged 213 million cubic yards of material, a \$925-million job.

Dredged material often is shifted a short distance and released into the current. Dredged material is also used to restore wetlands or create habitat.

The Wheeler's major role is dredging the Southwest Pass, the entrance channel to the Mississippi River. The Corps uses the Wheeler and private contract dredges to keep open the largest port complex on earth, from Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico. Most U.S. grain exports use the Mississippi.

The district dredged 70 million cubic yards of material in fiscal year 2002, or one third of the total Corps dredging nationwide. About 25 percent of the material is used for wetland restoration or habitat creation.