



**US Army Corps
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New Orleans District

News Release

Public Affairs Office, 7400 Leake Avenue
<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/>

Tel. 504-862-2201
Fax 504-862-1724

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Morgan, 504-862-2201 or Michael Stout, 504-862-2554
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Volunteers invited to Trailbuilding School at Bonnet Carré

NEW ORLEANS – Volunteers are invited to attend a Trailbuilding School co-sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, and the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA). The event will take place March 8 and 9 in the Bonnet Carré Spillway in Norco.

Representatives of the Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew will present the two-day Trailbuilding School. It will combine expert instructors, interactive learning, and hands-on trailwork to develop skilled trailworkers.

Cyclists, hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, cyclists, recreation planners, park rangers, Boy and Girl Scouts, students and other trail advocates are welcome to attend the three-hour classroom session, followed by a day and a half of hands-on field instruction and trailbuilding. Field work will focus on building a multi-purpose trail.

Volunteers will meet Saturday morning at 9 a.m. at the Shops Building behind the Corps' spillway office. See next page for Web site address for directions. Volunteers are asked to bring fire rakes (ax on one end, hoe on the other), pulaskis (axe on one side and grub hoe on the other), hoes, shovels, rakes and tree-trimming tools. A free lunch will be provided both days.

“It takes a lot of work to manage natural resources and recreation features on public lands,” said Col. Peter J. Rowan, New Orleans district engineer, “and this partnership with IMBA will benefit our visitors and our natural resources management program.”

ADD 1 – Bonnet Carré Multi-purpose trail

The Bonnet Carré Spillway hosts more than 250,000 visitors each year. Open grasslands, wetlands, forested areas and small to large bodies of ponded water provide opportunities for camping, birdwatching, hunting, fishing and off-road vehicles.

Said Michael Stout, Natural Resource Management chief, “The addition of a new shared-use trail will attract hikers, horseback riders and mountain bikers and provide them the opportunity to enjoy these public lands.” Stout adds that three Corps park rangers manage the spillway to enhance recreational and natural resource activities, and to keep the spillway safe for all users.

The multi-use trail is the result of a memorandum of understanding between IMBA and the Corps to partner on trail projects across the country. The spillway is one of eight Corps recreation sites participating in the program. As part of the agreement, IMBA trail experts travel to Corps recreation sites to help design, construct and maintain shared-use trails and give trail management and education advice. IMBA's visit also features a gathering at West End Cyclery in New Orleans on March 6 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend this event, featuring a slideshow on IMBA's work around the world.

To volunteer, contact the Bonnet Carré staff at 985-764-7484 or 985-764-0126.

Age restrictions: Volunteers must be at least 15 years old. Volunteers between the ages of 15 and 18 years old will need a parental consent form. Download the consent form from <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/usace-docs/eng-pamphlets/ep1130-2-500/a-r.pdf>, page 2, or request the form be faxed or mailed to you.

Parental consent forms from **organized groups**, such as scouts, will be honored. A copy of the form must be presented that morning.

For **directions** and information on the Corps recreation program, visit <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/>, click on Recreation, Recreation Sites, Bonnet Carré Spillway, Driving Directions to Spillway.

The Corps will provide certification of **community service hours** to volunteer students. Additional information on the **IMBA** can be found at <http://www.imba.com/>.