



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New Orleans District

# News Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Dredge Wheeler open to public

NEW ORLEANS -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Dredge Wheeler will be open to visitors at the riverfront on Friday, June 14, in honor of the Army's 227<sup>th</sup> birthday. Visiting hours will be from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Reservations are not required and there is no entrance fee.

The dredge will be parked at the Bienville Street Wharf with easy access from Woldenburg Park.

Self-guided tours are offered with dredge personnel stationed along the way to explain the vessel's operations. The tour will include the pilot's house, where visitors can view the hopper and dredging equipment.

The Wheeler is the largest seagoing hopper dredge in the United States. It keeps waterway channels clear for navigation from Florida to Texas and responds to urgent dredging requirements anywhere in the country. It spends most of its time in the Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River, where dredges remove an average of 22 million cubic yards of shoal material each year, enough to fill more than four Superdomes.

Operating like a huge vacuum cleaner, the Wheeler's giant arms suck water and sand from the channel bottom and into its hopper before transporting the material to an authorized containment area, where it is deposited onto the ocean floor.

Visit our Web site for additional information on:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District,  
<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/>
- Dredge Wheeler, <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/ops/odt/wheeler.htm>