



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Corps to temporarily close West End Park Floodgate

NEW ORLEANS – Due to ongoing construction of the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in coordination with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and the Orleans Levee District, will temporarily close the West End Park floodgate on West Roadway Street on Tuesday, June 14, 2011, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The road closure will allow crews to install the gate's mechanical closure features.

"There will be no vehicular traffic access during the setting of the gate," said Capt. Brock Schmidt, officer in charge of Orleans Parish construction. "Limited foot traffic will be able to access West End Park through an opening about 100 yards west of the gate."

The West End Park floodgate allows access to West End Park, which is located near the Orleans and Jefferson Parish boundary at the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain. A vehicular detour will not be available during the closure.

Last week the Corps achieved a major milestone with the attainment of 100-year risk reduction on the east bank of Orleans Parish, meaning the system in that area can now defend against a storm surge event that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year, or a 100-year storm surge event. Construction of additional supporting features on some Orleans Parish east bank projects will continue through 2014.

Safety is the Corps' number one priority. As construction of the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System continues, residents and commuters are reminded to use caution near active construction sites. If at any time there are questions about construction of the system, call the Corps' toll free Construction Hotline at 877-427-0345.

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – TEAM NEW ORLEANS

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