

RIO BOSQUE NEWS

A newsletter reporting on events at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Center for Environmental Resource Management
University of Texas at El Paso



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BECOME A FRIEND OF RIO BOSQUE

Volunteers at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park have formed **Friends of Rio Bosque**, a new group to provide support for the Park and expand its volunteer base. The group meets the 4th Thursday of every month, with the next meeting **July 25**, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Room 411, Burges Hall, on the UTEP campus.

There are many ways volunteers can help Rio Bosque: habitat management, Park maintenance, leading tours, ecosystem monitoring, monitoring the Park's condition and reporting problems, giving presentations, newsletter production, website maintenance, fundraising, development of interpretive displays, and more. Over time, Friends of Rio Bosque hopes to be involved in all these areas. To learn more: Mike Gaglio (490-8601) or John Sproul (747-8663).



Main channel, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park; June 30, 2002

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Many volunteers are willing to lead tours at the Park but would like training to do so effectively. To meet this need, Friends of Rio Bosque will hold 2 training sessions in July. The first will be a classroom session giving background on the Park and its ecosystems. It takes place **Thurs., July 11**, from

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in 411 Burges Hall at UTEP. The second will be a field session at Rio Bosque on **Sat., July 13**. Participants will take part in a tour, be introduced to the basics of leading an effective tour by Gilberto Campa of Chamizal National Memorial, and get a chance to apply what they have learned. For this session, meet at the bridge crossing Riverside Canal at 8:00 a.m. (See box below for directions.) Even if you don't plan on leading tours at the Park, these sessions should be of interest. Join us for one or both!

PASO DEL NORTE HEALTH FOUNDATION BACKS TRAIL

Work is resuming on our fully accessible trail at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, thanks to the support of the **Paso del Norte Health Foundation**. The Foundation recently awarded UTEP a **\$45,000** grant to complete this project by installing a second footbridge across the Park's main water channel and looping the trail back to its starting point. We expect this trail, as the Park's main walking path, to get heavy use for educational activities, nature study and exercise, especially by citizens living near the Park. Many thanks to the Foundation for its generous and much appreciated support!

TOURS

Twice each month, UTEP offers free walking tours at the Park. Coming up:

7-10 a.m.	Sat., July 6	Birds
8-10 a.m.	Sat., July 13	Introductory Tour
8-10 a.m.	Sat., Aug. 10	Introductory
7-10 a.m.	Sun., Aug. 18	Birds
8-11 a.m.	Sat., Sept. 14	Birds
8-10 a.m.	Sun., Sept. 22	Introductory

The meeting place is a bridge crossing Riverside Canal. To get there from I-10, take Americas Ave. (Loop 375) to Pan American Dr., turn left onto Pan American and travel 1.5 miles to the bridge. Please be prompt.

RESTORATION REPORT

As the photo on the front of this newsletter shows, Rio Bosque again has water! After a 2-month dry spell, the Park began receiving water April 15, thanks to the cooperation and support of El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 and El Paso Water Utilities. At this writing, flows of treated wastewater from the adjacent Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant are expected to continue to the Park all summer. Needless to say, the unexpected availability of water in spring-summer 2002 is a major boon for the Park's ecosystems and for our restoration efforts.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN OK'ed

At its May 7 meeting, the City of El Paso's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approved the Long-range Development Plan for Rio Bosque Wetlands Park and concept plans for 2 of the Park's key features, a visitor center and a permanent pond. Design work for these 2 features is now underway.

GET INVOLVED!

Each month, we have a community workday at the Park. It's your chance to get directly involved in shaping the future of Rio Bosque. Upcoming workdays:

- 8-11 a.m., Sat., July 20
- 8-11 a.m., Sat., Aug 17
- 8-11 a.m., Sat., Sep 21

The meeting location is the same as for the tours: the bridge crossing Riverside Canal.

EDUCATION AT RIO BOSQUE

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park promises to be an exceptional educational resource for El Paso and surrounding communities. Already some schools use the Park as an outdoor classroom. Though education programs at the Park are in their infancy, we are laying the groundwork now for expanded programs in the future.

Go, for example, to the Education page on the Rio Bosque website (see below). There you'll find a series of learning activities that elementary, middle-school and high-school students can carry out before, during and after trips to Rio Bosque. A talented team of local K-12 teachers developed these activities during a curriculum-writing workshop that UTEP's Center for Environmental Resource Management and the UTEP Centennial Museum coordinated in June 2001. Funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency made this workshop possible.

Now that you've looked over the activities, are you ready to bring your students to the Park for a visit? Contact John Sproul (see below).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit us on the Web at:

<http://www.cerm.utep.edu/riobosque>

Want to be added to the mailing list for this newsletter or ask a question about Rio Bosque? Contact:

John Sproul
915-747-8663
jsproul@utep.edu