

# RIO BOSQUE NEWS

A newsletter reporting on events at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Center for Environmental Resource Management  
University of Texas at El Paso



No. 13

October 2004

## RESTORATION REPORT

On September 21, water deliveries to the Park resumed for the first time in 5½ months. The flows are likely temporary, but they are sure welcome.

In addition to the long dry period, increased groundwater pumping in the region contributed to another year of sizeable groundwater declines at the Park. Eight of the Park's 14 monitoring wells were dry by early September. Since March, groundwater levels had dropped 17-20 feet at 2 wells along the east edge of the Park near the Riverside Canal, 10-12 feet at 3 wells 600-1200 feet from the canal, and 5-7 feet at 2 wells in the Park's interior.

The Friends of the Rio Bosque trucked water to the Park throughout the summer to maintain this year's and last year's plantings, but many of the other surviving cottonwoods, willows and other riparian plants showed increasing stress as the summer wore on. Once the flows resumed, they began to perk up quickly. It didn't take migrating waterbirds long to find the Park, either. ✕

## FACILITIES UPDATE

In late August, we learned we've been awarded funding from Texas Parks and Wildlife, through its Recreational Trails Program, to surface the final



The Rio Bosque water trailer saw a lot of use during summer 2004.

1100 feet of the Bosque Trail, the Park's hard-surfaced loop trail. As soon as the formal project agreement is in place, our volunteers and partners are ready to go to work to get this project done.

Thanks to UTEP's Carpenter Shop, the Park has a new trailhead kiosk in place at the Tornillo Trailhead (the north entrance to the Park) and new panels for interpretive displays on the exterior walls of the visitor center.

Along its east and north boundaries, the Park continues to take on a new look as we install a post-and-cable perimeter barrier. So far, we've installed 467 dome posts, with 343 yet to

### Friends of the Rio Bosque Membership Application

Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Bosque Buddy (12 and under)	\$4
Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$8
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (62+)	\$8
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$10
E-mail: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$15
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bosque Booster	\$50
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cottonwood Commando	\$75-\$249
	<input type="checkbox"/> Restoration Patron	\$250-\$499
	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands Society	\$500+

Please make checks payable to *Friends of the Rio Bosque* and mail to: Maria Trunk, Treasurer, Friends of the Rio Bosque, 1100 Kelly Way, El Paso, TX 79902.



### Next Meetings

Thurs., Oct 28  
Thurs., Nov 18  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
411 Burges Hall  
UTEP  
Info: 915-545-5214

go. Want some great upper-body exercise digging post holes? The Rio Bosque Gym is now open. ✂

## GRACIAS

Hard-working volunteers and broad community support remain vital to the Rio Bosque project's success. We extend thanks and appreciation to:

- The **Mission Possible Coalition** and **Epson El Paso** for their donations towards construction of an entrance bridge for the Park.
- **El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1** for making water available to the Park in late September and early October.
- **Jane Fowler** and **Joachim Schalk** for staffing our exhibit at the Mission Trail Harvest Market in August and September.
- The **Bel Air High School students** who took part in the Gift to the River clean-up at the Park on September 11.
- **Mike Ross** for leading this summer's reptile-and-amphibian tours.

## TOURS

Upcoming free walking tours at the Park:

### Introductory

**Sat., Oct 9 (9 am)**  
**Sun., Nov 21 (3 pm)**  
**Sun., Dec 12 (3 pm)**

### Birds

**Sun., Oct 24 (9 am)**  
**Sun., Nov 7 (3 pm)**  
**Sat., Dec 4 (9 am)**

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.

- **Ed Dominguez** and **Eric Walker** for their steady weekly watering of native plantings using the Rio Bosque water trailer. ✂

## FRIENDS OF THE RIO BOSQUE

The search for the perfect meeting location continues. For the next three months, the Friends will return to their old haunts at 411 Burges Hall on the UTEP campus. For dates and times, check the blue box at the bottom of the previous page. ✂

## 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](mailto:jsproul@utep.edu)

*Printing courtesy of Epson El Paso.*

## COMMUNITY WORKDAYS

Upcoming community workdays at the Park:

**Sat., Oct 16**      **Sat., Nov 20**

We start at 9 a.m. The meeting place is the same as for the tours: the bridge crossing Riverside Canal.

Also, each Thursday we work on projects needing volunteer help. Come any time; work as little or as long as you want. Call John Sproul (747-8663) for details.