



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. 41

December 2011

THE CHANGING RIO BOSQUE LANDSCAPE



Photo Station 10.1, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park,
Oct. 21, 1999.



Photo Station 10.1, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park,
Oct. 29, 2011.

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park is a dynamic, changing environment. The influence of processes and events in the past, both natural and not, shaped the look of the park today. Processes and events today are shaping the Rio Bosque we'll see in the future.

In 1999, UTEP established 28 permanent photographic stations at Rio Bosque to document changes taking place at the park. Every few years, we take 3 to 5 photos at each station, using the same bearings each time. In all, there are 103 distinct views

captured in these photos. We took the most recent photos this fall.

Now, you can view the [entire archive of repeat photographs](#) on the Rio Bosque website. In some of the photos, the changes since 1999 are remarkable. In others, they are subtle. All provide a valuable record of the evolving Rio Bosque landscape. Check it out! ✈

Friends of the Rio Bosque Membership Application

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

- Bosque Buddy (12 and under) \$6
- Student or Senior (62+)..... \$10
- Individual \$15
- Family \$20
- Bosque Booster \$50
- Cottonwood Commando \$75-\$249
- Restoration Patron \$250-\$499
- Wetlands Society \$500-\$999
- Life Member \$1,000

Please make checks payable to *Friends of the Rio Bosque* and mail to: Friends of the Rio Bosque, CERM-UTEP, 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968-0684.



Next Meetings

Thurs., Jan 26

Thurs., Feb 23

Thurs., Mar 22

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

209-A Burges Hall
UTEP

Info: 915-747-8663

DEALING WITH DROUGHT

You can see it in the 2011 repeat photography: This was a hot, dry, stressful year at Rio Bosque. Intense summer heat, lack of rain and dropping groundwater levels all took their toll on habitat conditions at the park. We spent most of spring-summer-fall trucking water to the park to keep trees alive. Sincere thanks go to Judy Ackerman, Tanya Arispe, Gabriela Cordova, Linda Fellows, Zach Landis, Justin Rogers, Will Rogers, Jarvi Ruiz and Chris Trujillo for all their help. Despite these efforts, we lost a number of mature cottonwoods and willows in the southern part of the park. The future of others is uncertain.

Water deliveries to Rio Bosque resumed Nov 13. Thank you, El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 and El Paso Water Utilities! Still, the effects of the drought continue. With the amount of available water limited and most of it soaking into the parched soil, very little had reached the park's wetland cells as of early December. ✂

RECORD YEAR FOR DUCKS

Excellent habitat in Canada and the northern U.S. this spring meant exceptional numbers of ducks headed south this fall. Surveys conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Canadian Wildlife Service led to a breeding population estimate for the 10 most common duck species of 45.6 million birds in the traditional survey area. That's an 11% increase over 2010, 35% over the long-term average, and the highest estimate since surveys began in 1955. Given the dry conditions in the southern U.S., any local areas with water will be especially important for waterfowl this winter. We are hopeful Rio Bosque's wetland cells can be flooded soon. ✂

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.riobosque.org

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RIO BOSQUE CALENDAR

Join us at the park for a free walking tour or to help with habitat management, park maintenance or faunal monitoring. Coming up:

DECEMBER

Sat., Dec 10	Bird Tour	8 a.m.
Sun., Dec 18	Introductory Tour	3 p.m.

JANUARY

Sat., Jan 7	Bird Tour	3 p.m.
Sat., Jan 21	Community Workday	9 a.m.
Sun., Jan 22	Introductory Tour	9 a.m.

FEBRUARY

Sun., Feb 5	Bird Tour	8 a.m.
Sat., Feb 11	Introductory Tour	3 p.m.
Sat., Feb 18	Community Workday	9 a.m.

MARCH

Sat., Mar 3	Bird Tour	3 p.m.
Sun., Mar 11	Introductory Tour	4 p.m.
Sat., Mar 17	Community Workday	9 a.m.
Sat., Mar 24	Faunal Monitoring	8 a.m.

Meeting place for all activities is a bridge crossing the Riverside Canal. 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.

Return Service Requested

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