

RIO BOSQUE NEWS

A newsletter reporting on events at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Center for Environmental Resource Management
The University of Texas at El Paso



No. 50

July 2014

WATER CURRENTS

The prospects for year-round water at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park took some big steps forward in May. In early May, El Paso Water Utilities made the new well near the park's visitor center fully operational by installing a new pipeline from the well to the old river channel within the park. Now, for the first time in 12 years, we have water flowing during summer almost the entire 2-mile length of the channel.

Also, the planned pipeline from the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant to Rio Bosque is moving closer to fruition. The project went out for bid May 5, and the City's Public Service Board (PSB) is expected to award the contract in July, with construction starting later this summer.

Finally, on May 20, the board of directors of El Paso County Water Improvement District #1 (El Paso #1) passed a resolution to reclassify approximately 179 acres within Rio Bosque as irrigable land, with water rights. This important action makes it possible for the park to receive annual allocations of irrigation water, once the land owner (City of El Paso) pays El Paso #1 "an amount equal to the entire amount [in taxes] that would have been charged to the owner if the land had been originally classed as irrigable" (\$55,677, Texas Water Code). The PSB is expected to discuss the matter of this payment soon. ✂



Rio Bosque's first collared peccary, or javelina, appeared in early June. Photo: June 12, 2014.

WILD THINGS

The water now flowing through the park has been a factor in many noteworthy recent wildlife observations. **Black-necked Stilts** and **American Avocets** nested this spring for the first time in 12 years. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** on June 8 was the first for the park since 2007. Last October, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed listing western populations of the cuckoo, including those in the Rio Grande Valley in southern New Mexico and Trans-Pecos



Friends of the Rio Bosque Membership Application

Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Bosque Buddy (12 and under)\$6
Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Student or <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (62+) \$10
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual\$15
E-mail: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Family\$20
_____	<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-\$999
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> 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., Jul 24
Thurs., Aug 28
Thurs, Sep 18
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
209-A Burges Hall
UTEP

Info: 915-747-8663

Texas, as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Cuckoos nested at Rio Bosque into the mid-1990s but not since. Finally, a **collared peccary**, or javelina, first seen in early June was a new addition to the mammal fauna of the park. ✂

¡GRACIAS!

Rio Bosque's many partners continue to do great things for the park! Sincere thanks go to:

- **Girl Scout Troop 2201** and the Sierra Club's **Inner City Outings** program for making a big dent April 26 in the accumulations of old broken glass along the Bosque Trail.
- The **El Paso Sundance community**, with special thanks to Dan and Kim Pettit and Xoxi Nayapiltzin,

for planting 15 cottonwood seedlings along the old river channel on May 3.

- The **Egyptian delegation** that visited El Paso May 10-14 through the auspices of the U.S. Department of State and the El Paso Council for International Visitors. On May 11, the group helped install rip-rap where water from the new well near the visitor center discharges to the old river channel.
- The **Friends of the Rio Bosque** for yeoman work clearing tumbleweeds and saltcedar seedlings along newly wet portions of the old river channel during recent community workdays.
- **Epson El Paso** for its consistently professional work printing this newsletter. Take a look at the "flag" atop the previous page. This is the 50th edition of this humble publication. Epson has printed every issue since No. 5 in October 2002! ✂



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Return Service Requested

RIO BOSQUE CALENDAR

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

JULY			AUGUST			SEPTEMBER		
12 (Sat.)	Bird Tour	7 a.m.	3 (Sun.)	Introductory Tour	8 a.m.	6 (Sat.)	Bird Tour	8 a.m.
19 (Sat.)	Workday	8 a.m.	16 (Sat.)	Workday	8 a.m.	13 (Sat.)	Workday	8 a.m.
20 (Sun.)	Introductory Tour	8 a.m.	17 (Sun.)	Bird Tour	8 a.m.	14 (Sun.)	Introductory Tour	8 a.m.
26 (Sat.)	Faunal Monitoring	7 a.m.	23 (Sat.)	Faunal Monitoring	7 a.m.	18 (Th.)	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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.riobosque.org

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