

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. 56

January 2016

PIPELINE CONTINUES TO SHINE

El Paso Water Utilities' new pipeline from the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant is transforming water management at Rio Bosque! This fall/winter – the first with the pipeline delivering water to the park – we've enjoyed a flow the length of the old river channel in the park and extensive flooding of the wetland cells. More than 2,000 ducks are now present. And we've been able to do it all using only ~25% of the Bustamante Plant's winter flows. In prior years, it would take ~50% of the plant's flows to achieve similar results. What made this change possible? Three things: 1) highly efficient direct delivery of water from the pipeline to the wetland cells, 2) soils still wet from water delivered last spring/summer, and 3) minimal water discharge from the park to the Riverside Drain. ✈



Eagle Scout candidate Jonathan Brooks (left) and fellow scouts enjoy the fruits of their labors, October 10, 2015.

¡GRACIAS!

We continue to get great help! Sincere thanks go to:

- Eagle Scout candidate Jonathan Brooks and fellow scouts from Troop 164, who built and installed, on October 10, five stylish new trail benches along the old river channel at Rio Bosque.
- The many generous supporters who donated to UTEP's Rio Bosque Wetlands Park Gift Fund in recent months to help fund operating the park's

wells in 2016. You've made prospects for water during dry periods this year much brighter. ✈

LET IT FLOOD

Seasonal flooding, after spring snowmelt and summer/fall storms, was historically a major force shaping native river-valley ecosystems in our region. And lack of such flooding has played a big role in the loss and degradation of those ecosystems today. Another benefit the new pipeline



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

Wed., Jan 20
6:00 – 8:15 p.m.
The El Paso Club
201 E. Main, El Paso
Thurs., Feb 25
Thurs., Mar 24
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
206 Kelly Hall
UTEP
Info: 915-747-8663

brings is the ability to simulate that seasonal flooding, on at least a limited basis, at the park.

Last year, when water deliveries from the pipeline began in May, we split deliveries to Wetland Cells 1 and 2 more or less equally. In July, curious to see how extensively we could flood Cell 1, we began sending more water in that direction. At the same time, of course, the flooded area in Cell 2 shrank ... just like it would as waters receded after a river flood. Goodding willow seeds that settled on the newly exposed moist soil found favorable conditions to germinate. Now, a fringe of young willows is emerging around the margins of the late-summer flooded area in Cell 2.

Look for Cell 1 to get similar treatment in 2016. ✂

ANNUAL MEETING, JAN. 20

Make plans to attend the joint annual meeting of the Friends of the Rio Bosque and the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition! It takes place **Wednesday, January 20**, at the El Paso Club, 18th Floor, Chase Tower, 201 E. Main in El Paso, from **6:00 to 8:15 p.m.** The speaker is David Soules, [New Mexico Wilderness Alliance](#) board member and a leader in the successful campaign to create the [Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument](#), which includes much of the New Mexico portion of the Franklin Mountains. The dinner price is \$25. Make your reservations by sending a check payable to "Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition" to Pat White, Treasurer, FMWC, 10525 Texwood, El Paso, TX 79925 by **January 14**. ✂



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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:

JANUARY			FEBRUARY			MARCH		
9 (Sat.)	Bird Tour	8 a.m.	7 (Sun.)	Bird Tour	8 a.m.	6 (Sun.)	Bird Tour	3 p.m.
16 (Sat.)	Workday	9 a.m.	13 (Sat.)	Introductory Tour	3 p.m.	12 (Sat.)	Introductory Tour	9 a.m.
17 (Sun.)	Introductory Tour	3 p.m.	20 (Sat.)	Workday	9 a.m.	19 (Sat.)	Workday	9 a.m.
						26 (Sat.)	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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