

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. 60

January 2017

DUCK SEASON

The 2016 [spring survey of North American breeding ducks](#), carried out by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Canadian Wildlife Service, yielded a population estimate of 48.4 million breeding birds in the traditional survey area, comparable to 2015's record estimate of 49.5 million birds. What have duck numbers been like at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park this fall and winter? After a brief dry spell, water deliveries to the park from the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant resumed October 23. For several weeks, few waterbirds arrived, but that changed with cooler weather. With 2,000-2,500 ducks currently wintering at Rio Bosque, it's a great time to visit the park! ✂



Fall colors arrived late at Rio Bosque in 2016 and extended into winter. Photo: December 15, 2016.

¡GRACIAS, EPSON EL PASO!

Since our 5th issue, in October 2002, Epson El Paso has printed this publication. Its support has been invaluable but now must end. Epson is closing its El Paso operation by merging it into Epson Portland. The move to Oregon is to be complete by May 31. Epson's support has not been limited to this newsletter. It also helped the Friends of the Rio Bosque start the park's faunal monitoring program; provided native plants for the park; printed interpretive posters for the park's visitor center,

using inks that can hold up under the El Paso sun; and more. ¡Muchas gracias, Epson El Paso! ✂

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

If you've visited Rio Bosque this fall or winter, you probably noticed work taking place in the Riverside Canal upstream of the park. Since 2009, El Paso County Water Improvement District #1 (El Paso #1) has had a [multi-year project](#) underway to concrete-line some 3 miles of the canal,



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
E-mail:	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual.....\$15
	_____	<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 18
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
The El Paso Club
201 E. Main, El Paso
Thurs., Feb 23
Thurs., Mar 23
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
206 Kelly Hall
UTEP
Info: 915-747-8663

including 1.5 miles next to Rio Bosque. The work has been taking place in fall and winter to avoid the irrigation season.

Segments completed in prior years include ~600 feet along the park's east boundary in 2009-10; 4,370 feet largely along the park's south boundary in 2010-11; and ~3,280 feet upstream of the bridge at the entrance to the Jonathan Rogers and Roberto Bustamante water-treatment plants in 2015-16. This winter, El Paso #1 is lining ~1,600 feet immediately downstream of the bridge.

In 2017, El Paso #1 plans to seek additional funding to complete the project. If successful, it intends to line the final ~6,150 feet, including 4,230 feet along the park's east boundary, next fall and winter. ✂

ANNUAL MEETING, JAN. 18

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 18**, at the El Paso Club, 18th Floor, Chase Tower, 201 E. Main in El Paso, from **6 to 8 p.m.** Learn about the dramatic changes in the Rio Bosque environment in recent years and what lies ahead in 2017 and beyond. Learn the latest on efforts to conserve Castner Range in the Franklin Mountains! The dinner price is \$25. Make reservations by sending a check payable to "Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition" to Pat White, Treasurer, FMWC, 10525 Texwood, El Paso, TX 79925 by **January 13**. ✂



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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		
14 (Sat.)	Birding Tour	8 a.m.	5 (Sun.)	Birding Tour	8 a.m.	5 (Sun.)	Birding Tour	3 p.m.
21 (Sat.)	Workday	9 a.m.	11 (Sat.)	Introductory Tour	3 p.m.	18 (Sat.)	Workday	9 a.m.
22 (Sun.)	Introductory Tour	3 p.m.	18 (Sat.)	Workday	9 a.m.	18 (Sat.)	Introductory Tour	4 p.m.
						25 (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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