

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. 64

April 2018

WATER NEWS

Water deliveries to Rio Bosque Wetlands Park from the adjacent Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant ended Feb 4. Within 2 weeks, the park's wetland cells were dry. Thanks to our 2 wells, water continued to flow the length of the old river channel within the park. On Mar 26, things got wetter when the park began receiving its first delivery of irrigation water for 2018. Since then, we've been able to flood a small portion of Wetland Cell 2 intermittently. The big day, of course, will be May 1, when water deliveries from the Bustamante Plant will resume, making more extensive flooding of the wetland cells possible. ✂

¡GRACIAS!

We've been getting a lot of great help lately. Hearty thanks are in order:

- Our January and February workdays had record numbers of participants (40-50 for each). Students from UTEP, El Paso Community College and Americas High School; Girl Scouts; Texas Master Naturalists and Friends of the Rio Bosque all helped plant cottonwood and willow poles. Special thanks go to Jesús Placencia with UTEP's Center for Environmental Resource Management. On short



A new squad of Cottonwood Commandos augers holes for pole planting cottonwoods and willows during the February 17, 2018 Rio Bosque workday.

notice, he helped plant 2 Goodding willow poles we weren't able to plant during the February workday.

- Last year, the directional signs to Rio Bosque along Pan American Dr. had a tough time. High winds tore one sign completely off its pole, left another dangling and a third precariously weakened. In January, thanks to the City of El Paso's Street and Maintenance Department, all were replaced.

- The orientation displays at the park's trailheads also take a beating. The signs installed 2 years ago

Friends of the Rio Bosque Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

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

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., Apr 26
Thurs., May 24
Thurs., June 28
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
206 Kelly Hall
UTEP

Info: 915-747-8663

are badly faded from intense sunlight and have water damage. Thanks to the Friends of the Rio Bosque, they are being replaced with more durable signs better able to withstand the elements.

- The Rio Bosque Wetlands Park Gift Fund has received generous and much appreciated contributions in recent months from Mass Audubon, Darron Powell and Chihuahuan Desert Native Wildlife Conservation. Thank you, all!
- In January, Richard Teschner completed 4 years as president of the Friends of the Rio Bosque. These were some of the most eventful years in the park's history. Throughout, Richard guided the Friends with skill and distinction. We thank him for his service and welcome his successor, Bill Hoover. ✂

EPCC EARTH DAY EVENT, APR 21

After 3 years of holding a spring community event at the park, the Friends of the Rio Bosque are trying something different this year: a fall event on Nov 10. That doesn't mean the park will have a silent spring. On **Sat., Apr 21**, El Paso Community College's Mission del Paso campus will celebrate Earth Day at Rio Bosque, including tours and learning activities focused on the park's hydrology and ecology, starting at **10 a.m.** For more info, contact Rob Rohrbaugh (rrohrbal@epcc.edu). And, if Earth Day inspires you to be an active steward of our river-valley environment, Apr 21 is also the day of our monthly community workday at the park (see below). Plan to take part in both! ✂



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El Paso, TX 79968-0684

Return Service Requested

RIO BOSQUE CALENDAR

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

APRIL			MAY			JUNE		
14 (Sat.)	Introductory Tour	4 p.m.	12 (Sat.)	Birding Tour	7 a.m.	10 (Sun.)	Introductory Tour	8 a.m.
21 (Sat.)	Workday	8 a.m.	19 (Sat.)	Workday	8 a.m.	16 (Sat.)	Workday	8 a.m.
29 (Sun.)	Birding Tour	8 a.m.	20 (Sun.)	Introductory Tour	8 a.m.	23 (Sat.)	Birding Tour	6:30 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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