

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. 82

July 2023

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

The history of Rio Bosque Park is closely intertwined with the history of the Rio Grande/Río Bravo in the Paso del Norte region. When the International Boundary and Water Commission channelized the river between El Paso and Little Box Canyon below Fort Quitman in the 1930s, it realigned the international boundary. Some lands formerly in the United States became Mexican territory, and some Mexican lands became U.S. territory. One example of the latter was a 276-acre parcel near Socorro known as U.S. Parcel No. 18. On December 14, 1973, the U.S. Department of the Interior conveyed that parcel to the City of El Paso under the Federal Lands to Parks Program...and Rio Bosque Park was born. That, of course, means the park turns 50 years old this year! We will be celebrating. Watch for details in our next newsletter. ✨

WATER NOTES

After a very dry and difficult late winter and early spring, water conditions at Rio Bosque have improved. El Paso Water began delivering treated water from the Bustamante Plant on May 1, and El Paso County Water Improvement District #1 began delivering irrigation water from the Riverside Canal on May 23. On June 12, we began receiving groundwater from dewatering activities associated with construction at the Bustamante Plant. And both electric-



The western population of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo is federally listed as Threatened. In 2023, for the 6th straight year, cuckoos are summer residents at Rio Bosque. (Photo: Ad Konings, Rio Bosque, 5 July 2022)

powered wells at the park are back in action. We put most of this water in the rebuilt former bend of the Rio Grande that winds through the park. But with the dry channel absorbing much of the water, the flow advanced only slowly. It did not reach the downstream end of the channel until June 25. The final 1,000 feet had not seen water since February 2022.

What about our beaver? Unfortunately, it appears the completely dry conditions during February through April prompted it to leave. Our opportunity to manage water at the park jointly with the beaver looks to be gone.

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.



FRIENDS OF THE

Next Meetings

Wed., July 26
Wed., Aug 23
Wed, Sep 27
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
206 Kelly Hall
UTEP

Info: 915-747-8663

Or is it? Even without the beaver – and with openings now cut in its dams to increase flow – the dams are still having a big impact on water movement in the park. Also, keep in mind that, since 2000, beavers have colonized Rio Bosque on four separate occasions. Sooner or later, we can expect one to do so again. ✂

LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK

[Latino Conservation Week](#), an initiative of the Hispanic Access Foundation, promotes and celebrates the Latino community’s passion for the outdoors and commitment to protection and stewardship of our land, water and air. 2023 marks the 10th year of this annual celebration. This year, Latino Conservation Week takes place **July 15-23**. In El Paso, the Frontera

Land Alliance will be hosting a special kick-off event on **July 15**. The place? Rio Bosque Wetlands Park!

Hours will be 9 a.m. to noon. Community partners will have educational booths at the park’s visitor center featuring our local environment. You can explore Rio Bosque on guided tours. And you can get your hands dirty joining in our monthly community workday at the park.

Parking for the event will be at El Paso Water’s treatment plants just north of the park. A shuttle van will carry visitors to the park’s visitor center. In keeping with tradition, workday participants will gather at the entrance to the water-treatment plants at 8 a.m. and caravan to the park. The morning’s work session will be along the Bosque Trail near the visitor center, the hub for the Latino Conservation Week activity. ✂



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

RIO BOSQUE CALENDAR

Join us for a free walking tour or to help with habitat management or park maintenance. Comng up:

JULY			AUGUST			SEPTEMBER		
8 (Sat.)	Birding Tour	7 a.m.	13 (Sun.)	Introductory Tour	8 a.m.	9 (Sat.)	Birding Tour	8 a.m.
15 (Sat.)	Workday	8 a.m.	19 (Sat.)	Workday	8 a.m.	16 (Sat.)	Workday	8 a.m.
15 (Sat.)	Latino Conserv Wk	9-noon	26 (Sat.)	Birding Tour	8 a.m.	17 (Sun.)	Birding Tour	8 a.m.
16 (Sun.)	Introductory Tour	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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Want to help support Rio Bosque?
Make a tax-deductible contribution to the
[Rio Bosque Wetlands Park Gift Fund!](#)