

# 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. 83

November 2023

## RIO BOSQUE REPEAT PHOTOGRAPHY RETURNS



Photo Station 12.1, October 4, 1999.



Photo Station 12.1, August 26, 2023.

After a 4-year absence, the [repeat-photography archive](#) for Rio Bosque Wetlands Park is back on the park's web pages.

In 1999, UTEP established 28 permanent photographic stations at the park to help document changes over time. Every few years, we take 3 to 5 photos at each station, using the same bearings each time. In all, there are 103 distinct views captured in these photos. We took the most recent photos this year.

Currently, the online archive only displays the original photos (most, but not all, from 1999) paired with this year's photos. The images above provide an

example. As time permits, the park's information-technology and graphic-design staffs hope to add time-lapse videos for each view that capture the full transitions from first photo to most recent. ✂

## A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Almost 50 years ago, on December 14, 1973, the U.S. Department of the Interior, through the Federal Lands to Parks Program, conveyed to the City of El Paso the land for the original Rio Bosque Park. On **Saturday, December 9, 2023**, we'll be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the park with two events you

### 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

Wed., Oct 25  
Wed., Nov 29  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
206 Kelly Hall  
UTEP

Info: 915-747-8663

won't want to miss. In the morning join us at Rio Bosque from 9 a.m. to noon for a free community event. It will feature tours, an engaging talk on the park's history, some fun and educational activities, and many of our community partners showcasing their excellent work.

Evening will bring the gala 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner. It will take place at [Casa Pantera](#), 3015 Pershing Drive in El Paso, from 5:45 to 8:45 p.m. You'll enjoy a memorable 3-course meal and an outstanding presentation on Rio Bosque fauna and flora by talented photographer and park friend Ad Konings. The cost is \$75 per person. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Karla Ruiz at [karlaruix@gmail.com](mailto:karlaruix@gmail.com) by **December 1**. Come help us celebrate! ✂

## THEY'RE BACK

After nesting successfully at Rio Bosque in 4 different years between 2009 and 2017, **White-tailed Kites** continued to be seen at the park until late March 2021. Then came an absence of over 2.5 years. On Oct 27, one finally appeared again. The first sign of a return to the park, or just a transient visitor?

The absence of the park's **beaver** was much shorter. After over 4 years in residence, our beaver left last spring during a prolonged period with no water in most of the re-built former bend of the Rio Grande within the park. In mid-October, we started seeing signs that one was back. It is renovating the dams built last year and clearly plans to stick around. ✂



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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. Coming up:

OCTOBER			NOVEMBER			DECEMBER		
15 (Sun.)	Introductory Tour	9 a.m.	18 (Sat.)	Workday	9 a.m.	2 (Sat.)	Introductory Tour	3 p.m.
21 (Sat.)	Workday	9 a.m.	19 (Sun.)	Introductory Tour	3:30 pm	9 (Sat.)	*50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary*	9 a.m.
28 (Sat.)	Birding Tour	4 p.m.	25 (Sat.)	Birding Tour	8 a.m.	10 (Sun.)	Birding Tour	8 a.m.

Meeting place for all tours/workdays 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](http://www.riobosque.org)

John Sproul 915-747-8663 [jsproul@utep.edu](mailto:jsproul@utep.edu)

Want to help support Rio Bosque?  
Make a tax-deductible contribution to the  
[Rio Bosque Wetlands Park Gift Fund!](#)