

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. 85

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DRY TIMES

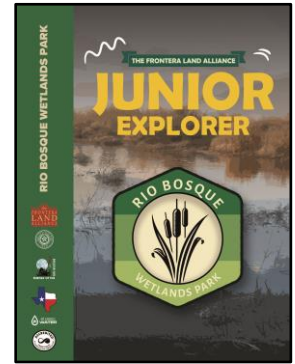
Water deliveries from the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant ended earlier this year on February 2. Without that invaluable source of water, Rio Bosque has since gone dry.

Currently, the only source of water is our ground-water pumps. Two deliver water to the old river channel that winds through the park. The upstream pump is producing a healthy ~500 gallons per minute (GPM). This water is held upstream by the newest beaver dam. Once flows from the Bustamante Plant ended, the beaver quickly started working to ensure it could dam up as much water as possible. The downstream pump, near the park's visitor center, is severely underperforming at <~150 GPM. The flow from this pump makes its way well past the second footbridge along the channel, but nowhere close to the end of the channel. Our two windmills produce ~5 GPM when the wind blows, which keeps small areas in Wetland Cells 1 and 2 wet during this dry period. Only 30% of the old river channel is currently flooded.

Our eyes are set on the next few months. In May, flows from the Bustamante Plant should resume, but nothing is promised. Irrigation water should also return to the bosque in June or July, depending on the start of the irrigation season. Until then, we will work with what we have and hope for better times! ✂

WELCOME, JUNIOR EXPLORERS!

We are happy to announce that we have officially launched the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park Junior Explorer program! This program was designed in collaboration with the Frontera Land Alliance and is aimed to encourage children aged 6-12 to explore the outdoors. Rio Bosque is now one of six Junior Explorer sites. Each site has its own activity booklet. Inside the Rio Bosque booklet, Junior Explorers will discover fun facts about the bosque and interactive activities that will spark their curiosity and inspire them to explore the park. We look forward to seeing all of the Junior Explorers discovering the wonders of our local wetlands! Copies of the Rio Bosque Junior Explorer booklet are currently available upon request. ✂



RAPTOR TALES

White-tailed Kites first appeared at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park in 2001 and first nested in 2009. Between 2009 and 2017, they nested



Next Meetings

Wed., Apr 23
Wed., May 28
Wed, June 25
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
206 Kelly Hall
UTEP

Info: 915-747-5766

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.

successfully in 4 different years ... but not since 2017. In fact, from 28 Mar 2021 to 27 Oct 2023, no White-tailed Kites were seen at the park. After the 27 Oct observation, a few sporadic sightings followed. Then, in late May 2024, a pair showed up. They have been present ever since. Will they nest? We are hopeful, but so far no signs.

On the other hand, We are seeing clear signs of nesting **Cooper's Hawks**. In early April, we found a pair building a nest high in a thick stand of willows along the old river channel within the park. Cooper's Hawks are fairly common in winter and on migration in the El Paso area, but are rare as a nesting species locally. The development of riparian habitat along the old river channel at Rio Bosque continues to pay important dividends. ✂

CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Rio Bosque is very fortunate to have a significant parcel of undeveloped open space, owned by the City of El Paso and administered by El Paso Water, still present immediately east of the park, in a broad corridor between the Riverside Canal and the Franklin Drain. This corridor serves as a buffer for the park, as wildlife habitat similar to that found in the park's upland areas, and as an avenue for wildlife movement between the park and other areas. One of the priority measures identified in [El Paso's Priority Climate Action Plan](#) is: "Increase native trees and natural spaces" for the purpose of carbon sequestration. El Paso Water has committed to protecting the open-space corridor east of the park for this very purpose. Planning for this carbon sequestration project is now underway. ✂



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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:

APRIL	MAY	JUNE
6 (Sun.) Introductory Tour 5:30 p.m.	11 (Sun.) Birding Tour 7 a.m.	8 (Sun.) Introductory Tour 8 a.m.
19 (Sat.) Workday 8 a.m.	17 (Sat.) Workday 8 a.m.	21 (Sat.) Workday 8 a.m.
26 (Sat.) Birding Tour 8 a.m.	24 (Sat.) Introductory Tour 8 a.m.	28 (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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Want to help support Rio Bosque?
Make a tax-deductible contribution to the
[Rio Bosque Wetlands Park Gift Fund!](#)