

RESTORATION REPORT

The Rio Grande and its floodplain once supported a diverse mosaic of native habitats, all shaped by a living, dynamic river. In some areas, where conditions were suitable, extensive stands of tornillo, or screwbean mesquite, predominated. At Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, tornillo is again becoming a dominant part of the landscape.

When Rio Bosque became a City park in 1973, it got its name from 1) its location next to the Rio Grande and 2) the bosques, or woodlands, that covered much of the tract. The exotic tree saltcedar predominated, but tornillo was also present. In some places, it held its own with the saltcedar.

When the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) built the wetland complex at Rio Bosque in 1997, it removed much of the saltcedar. At the same time, IBWC personnel took care to minimize damage to native vegetation, including many tornillo. Freed of competition with saltcedar, those tornillo are thriving.

In addition, since 1997 tornillo seedlings have been colonizing many upland areas at the Park. Now,

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hard-surfaced loop trail. Work on this trail began in 2001. Its construction was made possible by funding from the Paso del Norte Health Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; by assistance from