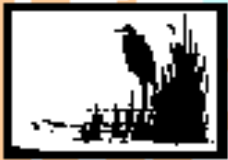


RIO BOSQUE NEWS

A newsletter reporting on events at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Center for Environmental Resource Management
University of Texas at El Paso



No. 43

July 2012

THE TWO RIO BOSQUES



If you may be walking downstream, you will start to see old dead willows will become much less frequent. Many will be dead. The few living trees will be in obvious decline. Just two years ago, these trees were lush and green, but the ongoing drought is hitting the southern part of the park – and the downstream end of the old river bend – especially hard.

If you are walking upstream, the changes after that half mile will be altogether different. First, you'll notice dampness in the channel, then a narrow ribbon of water that becomes more substantial as you continue upstream. You're now walking along the portion of the channel kept wet during the growing season with water from the park's well. Healthy cottonwoods and willows line the banks, nourished by the water. A riparian ecosystem is developing. A little water makes a big difference.

Friends of the Rio Bosque Membership Application

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

- Bosque Buddy (12 and under)\$6
- Student or Senior (62+)..... \$10
- Individual\$15
- Family\$20
- Bosque Booster\$50
- Cottonwood Commando \$75-\$249
- Restoration Patron\$250-\$499
- Wetlands Society\$500-\$999
- 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 Blvd., El Paso, TX 79968-0684.



Next Meetings

Thurs., Jul 26

Thurs., Aug 23

Thurs., Sep 27

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

209-A Burges Hall
UTEP

Info: 915-747-8663

The upstream and downstream ends of the old river bend show, in stark contrast, two possible futures for riparian habitat at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park. We prefer the upstream future, and we continue to put all our energy into securing water for the park during the growing season to ensure it is realized. ✖

TURNOUT PROJECT UPDATE

The most immediate opportunity to bring additional water to Rio Bosque during the growing season is via the planned turnout connecting the Riverside Canal with the park. El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 (El Paso #1) expects to install this facility in September, after the irrigation season ends. Funding for the turnout comes from the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

This project has two other key elements. The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will be building a short channel to connect the turnout with the old river bend within the park, and the Friends of the Rio Bosque will be building a footbridge over this channel at the point where it will cross the park's Tornillo Trail.

Thanks go to El Paso #1, the USFWS, the USIBWC, and the Friends for making this project possible. Thanks also go to all of the donors who have made recent contributions to help pay for any water delivered via the turnout. The turnout will make deliveries of irrigation water to Rio Bosque possible, but those deliveries will only happen if we have agreements in place with water-rights holders willing to assign water to the park and if we have funds to pay for that water. ✖

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.riobosque.org

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