

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



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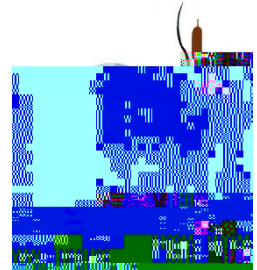
RIO BOSQUE REPEAT PHOTOGRAPHY UPDATED

The Rio Bosque story is one of change. In the past, the park landscape saw many dramatic changes. It continues to change today as we work to restore native river-valley ecosystems at the site.

In 1999, UTEP established 28 permanent photographic stations at Rio Bosque to help document the changes now taking place at the park. 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 in 2017. You can view the [entire archive](#) on the Rio Bosque website.

Each series of images tells a story: Wetland and riparian vegetation begins to take off after water during the growing season becomes consistently available in 2015 ([Station 5.2](#)). Open areas fill in with screwbean mesquite, or tornillo, in the years after the storms of summer 2006. Two former wetlands along the park (

[27.3](#)). Some changes are dramatic, others subtle. All in all, it's an invaluable record of the evolving Rio Bosque landscape. Check it out! ✈



Friends of the Rio Bosque Membership Application

Name: _____

- Life Member..... \$1,000
- Wetlands Society..... \$500-\$999
- Restoration Patron.....

BOSQUE NOTES

Rio Bosque received water from the adjacent Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant on **296 days** in 2017. From 2003 through 2014, the average was just 94 days per year, limited almost entirely to late fall and early winter. Since 2015, when the pipeline from the Bustamante Plant to the park was completed, the average has been 272 days per year, including much of the growing season.

For the 3rd winter in a row, small numbers of **Rusty Blackbirds** are at the park, using shallow flooded areas on the margins of the wetland cells. These birds winter mainly in the eastern U.S. and are very rare in El Paso. Since the 1960s, their numbers have declined up to 90% by some estimates. ✂

ANNUAL MEETING, JAN. 17

Make plans to attend the joint annual meeting of the Friends of the Rio Bosque and the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition! It takes place **Wednesday, January 17**, at the El Paso Club, 18th Floor, Chase Tower, 201 E. Main in El Paso, from **6 to 8 p.m.** Scott Cutler, president of the Coalition, will be the evening's speaker. He'll recap 2017's major accomplishments relating to conservation of Castner Range in the Franklin Mountains and more! The dinner price is \$25. Make reservations by sending a check payable to "Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition" to Pat White, Treasurer, FMWC, 10525 Texwood, El Paso, TX 79925 by **January 12.** ✂

RIO BOSQUE CALENDAR

Join us at Rio Bosque for a free walking tour or to help with habitat management or park maintenance. Coming up:

| JANUARY | | | FEBRUARY | | | MARCH | | |
|-----------|-------------------|--------|-----------|-------------------|--------|-----------|-------------------|--------|
| 13 (Sat.) | Birding Tour | 8 a.m. | 4 (Sun.) | Birding Tour | 8 a.m. | 4 (Sun.) | Birding Tour | 3 p.m. |
| 20 (Sat.) | Workday | 9 a.m. | 10 (Sat.) | Introductory Tour | 3 p.m. | 17 (Sat.) | Workday | 9 a.m. |
| 21 (Sun.) | Introductory Tour | 3 p.m. | 17 (Sat.) | Workday | 9 a.m. | 24 (Sat.) | Introductory Tour | 9 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.

