

A PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE

Our efforts to restore native ecosystems at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park are built on a broad partnership, and we value the contributions of our many partners to its success. Especially Mother Nature. For we are not the ones doing the actual work of restoring Rio Bosque's ecosystems. The park's plants and animals do all that work! Through their interactions with one another and with the physical environment, they are the ones weaving those ecosystems together over time. We just play a supporting role. We provide certain components, like selective plantings of native species. We try to create favorable conditions such as through control of invasive species and provision of adequate water – for the park's organisms to work their magic. And, over time, natural ecological processes shape the landscape at the park. Rio Bosque Wetlands Park truly is a partnership with nature.

ISLA RIO BOSQUE

Take a walk through Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, and it can seem like a very large area. Viewed from a wider perspective, though, the park is just a tiny island of natural habitat in a highly modified river boundaries of the park.

On the east side,

El Paso County in 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection is now moving forward with plans to modify that wall by removing the current steel mesh panels and replacing them with closely spaced 30 foot-tall steel bollards topped with solid steel plates. Also planned: new lighting and road modifications.

This work is being done using funds Congress authorized for the Department of Defense but the Trump administration redirected to border wall construction under a "national emergency" declaration in Feb 2019. The American Civil Liberties Union, Sierra Club and Southern Border Communities Coalition immediately sued to challenge the diversion of funds as did others.

Both the U.S. District Court for Northern California (on June 28, 2019) and the 9 Circuit Court of Ap

peals (on June 26, 2020) ruled the diversion unlawful. But both times, the U.S. Supreme Court, in 4 decisions, chose to allow construction to proceed while the case continues to work through the legal system.

The Supreme Court's most recent decision came July 31. Twelve days later, stacks of bollards began appearing along the river floodway in El Paso. By Aug 17, work was underway. It started near the Yarbrough exit on the Cesar Chávez Border [(.)-11 stwre1 TD [