

# 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. 30

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## WE HAVE WATER!

On November 2, water deliveries resumed at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park after a 10-month dry spell. Several thousand ducks quickly took up residence, as did at least one beaver. If you want to enjoy the Park at its winter peak, now is the time. As always, thanks go to El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 and El Paso Water Utilities for cooperating to make these deliveries possible. ✂

## THE WALL

On November 15, the Friends of the Rio Bosque hosted a highly successful special event at the Park: "Discover the Bosque – Last Chance before the Wall." Visitors enjoyed sparkling weather, eye-catching exhibits, and tours that highlighted the Park, the way it has changed in the past decade and changes expected when the Border Wall is built near the Park's west boundary. Thanks are due the Friends for organizing this event, all of the participating groups, Costco for donating water, and El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 for allowing access and parking along the Riverside Canal. Special thanks go to Judy Ackerman for spearheading the event.

The event proved aptly named. Just days later, preparations for wall construction next to the park picked



A tour group heads west on the Bosque Trail during "Discover the Bosque – Last Chance before the Wall"

up. In December, they hit high gear. Installation of the 15-18-foot-tall structure began December 15-16. A citizen protest stalled construction December 17, but it soon resumed. At this writing, support posts are in place next to the Park for 0.75 miles.

Visit the [border-fence page](#) on our website to learn the current status of construction next to the Park. The wall will sever the existing connection between Rio Bosque and the river corridor, but its effects won't be limited to the Park. Plans call for it to extend another 45 miles downriver to Arroyo Diablo in Hudspeth County. ✂

### 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
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$20
E-mail: _____	<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+
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member \$1,000

Please make checks payable to *Friends of the Rio Bosque* and mail to: Maria Trunk, Treasurer, Friends of the Rio Bosque, 1100 Kelly Way, El Paso, TX 79902.



### Next Meetings

Thurs., Jan 22  
Thurs., Feb 26  
Thurs., Mar 26  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
411 Burges Hall  
UTEP

## WWF/COCA-COLA PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS RIO BOSQUE

A great underlying strength of the Rio Bosque project is its diverse mix of partners. One special connection with both the conservation and business worlds comes through a partnership among the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), The Coca-Cola Company and the local Coca-Cola Enterprises bottler. The [WWF/Coca-Cola partnership](#) aims to conserve and protect freshwater resources world-wide. One of its strategic elements, watershed protection, targets 7 important watersheds around the world, including the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo.

Through the WWF/Coca-Cola partnership, WWF is strengthening its conservation efforts in the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Basin. WWF focuses those efforts on a “string of pearls,” key sites along the river with high ecological value where an investment in conservation can yield the greatest benefits. One of those pearls: Rio Bosque Wetlands Park.

The partnership has already helped Rio Bosque in important ways. It has supported efforts to identify mechanisms for long-term water donations to the Park. It was a sponsor of last year’s “Building a Bosque” exhibit at UTEP’s Centennial Museum. It is helping with acquisition of equipment to improve our water-management capabilities.

Now in the planning stages: a work session that will give Coca-Cola employees and others in the business community a chance to get directly involved in habitat management at the Park. We value and appreciate the role the WWF/Coca-Cola partnership is playing at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park! ✂

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.riobosque.org>

John Sproul 915-747-8663 [jsproul@utep.edu](mailto:jsproul@utep.edu)

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### RIO BOSQUE CALENDAR

Join us at the Park for a free walking tour or to help with habitat management, Park maintenance or faunal monitoring. Coming up:

#### JANUARY

Sat., Jan 10	Bird Tour	3 p.m.
Sat., Jan 17	Community Workday	9 a.m.
Sun., Jan 18	Introductory Tour	3 p.m.
Sat., Jan 24	Bird Survey	sunrise

#### FEBRUARY

Sat., Feb 7	Bird Tour	9 a.m.
Sun., Feb 15	Introductory Tour	3 p.m.
Sat., Feb 21	Community Workday	9 a.m.
Sat., Feb 28	Bird Survey	sunrise

#### MARCH

Sat., Mar 7	Bird Tour	3 p.m.
Sun., Mar 15	Introductory Tour	3 p.m.
Sat., Mar 21	Community Workday	9 a.m.
Sat., Mar 28	Faunal Monitoring	8 a.m.

Meeting place for all activities except bird surveys 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 bird surveys, meet at the Tornillo Trailhead.

Return Service Requested

Center for Environmental  
Resource Management  
University of Texas at El Paso  
500 West University Ave.  
El Paso, TX 79968-0684

