



RIO BOSQUE NEWS

A newsletter reporting on events at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Center for Environmental Resource Management
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A WALK IN THE PARK

It's no secret the river valley in the Paso del Norte region is a very different place today than it was historically. The wetlands, riverside forests and other rich habitats once found in the valley are now largely gone. What was that bygone valley like?

Imagine you are hiking along the river. It's late fall. The cottonwoods and willows have turned a brilliant golden yellow. You notice that a beaver has recently worked over several trees. Gnawed-off limbs lie at the water's edge.

As you walk along, several large coveys of Gambel's Quail explode from adjacent cover. Big groups of waterfowl rise in waves from a nearby wetland. A black-tailed jackrabbit bolts across your path and zig-zags through a nearby saltbush flat. A harsh, insistent call comes from the tornillo stand to your right. You spot a Harris's Hawk as it lifts off a limb and joins two others already airborne. In quick succession, a desert cottontail and hispid cotton rat scoot across the trail and disappear into cover.

Now, you're next to a shallow body of open water. Ducks dot the surface. From the corner of your eye, you glimpse a bolt of brilliant fiery red. You wheel to see a male Vermilion Flycatcher land on a dead sunflower stalk right in front of you.



A hike 100 years ago? No. As you've no doubt guessed, it took place last fall, at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park. With each year, a walk in the Park offers a clearer glimpse of our valley's past. Join us for a tour or visit on your own and see for yourself. ✂

BUILDING A BOSQUE

This spring, you'll have another special opportunity to "visit" Rio Bosque. The Friends of the Rio Bosque and UTEP's Centennial Museum are now working hard preparing for the upcoming exhibit, **"Building a Bosque: 10 Years of Habitat Restoration at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park"**. When you visit the museum, you'll find one exhibit hall transformed into a virtual Rio Bosque. As you walk along a winding path, you'll be introduced to the diverse plant and animal resources of the Park. In another room, you'll learn the story of our changing river valley, the