

# RIO BOSQUE NEWS

*A newsletter reporting on events at Rio Bosque*

## WATER NOTES

Water deliveries to Rio Bosque Wetlands Park from the adjacent Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant ended Feb 10. We immediately began operating our 2 wells to keep water flowing in the old channel of the Rio Grande that winds through Rio Bosque, but the park's

some sections of the channel began to go dry, and vegetation in these areas began showing signs of stress. On the one hand, we recognize dry periods play a role in shaping the park's ecosystems. On the other, we eagerly await May 1, when water deliveries from the Bustamante Plant will resume.

## THE BEAVER RETURNS

During the first 12 years of the wetland project at Rio Bosque, beavers moved onsite in some winters, when abundant water flowed through the park and the wetland cells were flooded. But not since the winter of 2009-10 was a beaver present at the park...until this year. On Jan 10, we saw the first tell-tale signs: lower limbs chewed off a young Goodding willow. For the next 2 months, the beaver made itself at home along the old river channel, dining on the inner bark

of coyote and Goodding willows. We've seen no evidence of new activity since mid-March, though. The beaver appears to have moved on. Maybe it was responding to reduced water flows along the channel, or maybe to the cages that kept mysteriously appearing around some of its favorite willows.

## ¡GRACIAS!

As always, we have many friends to thank:

On Jan 10, when we started pumping from the well at the north end of the park, water began spraying profusely from a



large crack in the discharge pipe leading from the well to the old river channel. That didn't last long, thanks to **El Paso Water** personnel from the Bustamante Plant, who quickly replaced the damaged section of pipe.

Once again this year, thanks go to a great group of volunteers who planted cottonwood and willow poles along the old river channel at the park in January and February. UTEP students, UTEP faculty, New Mexico State students, Girl Scouts, and Friends of the Rio Bosque all helped out.

On Apr 4-7, [Engineers for a Sustainable World](#) (ESW) held its annual conference in El Paso. The mission of this national organization of students and professionals is to emp

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