

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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BIG BOSQUE BIRD BASH, NOV 23

Please join us at Rio Bosque on Saturday, November 23, for this year's [Big Bosque Bird Bash](#). Cooler temperatures, widespread water, arriving migratory birds and the first signs of fall color make November a great time for a walk in the park. This free community event, sponsored by the Friends of the Rio Bosque with support from the City of El Paso's Parks and Recreation Department, takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Event headquarters will be at the park's visitor center. Parking will be at the nearby [Bosque Trailhead](#) with additional parking available at the

Wetland and Tornillo trailheads. Join us for a free event with fun activities for the whole family. Learn about our river valley environment through tours, presentations, exhibits and interactive fun for kids. You won't want to miss it!

ON THE WILD SIDE

After mid-March, we saw no sign of the beaver that visited the park last winter. But in early July, one returned, our first ever in summer. Maybe it was the same one. Maybe it never left. In any event, it zeroed in on some willow

Friends of the Rio Bosque Membership Application

Name: _____

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



saplings we had protected with plastic tubes to keep muskrats from girdling the young trees. The tubes proved no match for the beaver. Nor did they deter gophers from striking from below to dine on recently transplanted cottonwood seedlings we discovered in August. We lament the losses but understand them. They are among the myriad interactions among organisms that are reshaping the park's ecosystems over time. The willows, it should be noted, bounced right back with new growth. The cottonwood seedlings, though, were completely consumed.

Recent months brought several new bird species to the park, most notably a juvenile Common Black Hawk that Ad Konings photographed Sep 14. New mammals are a little harder to come by, but on Sep 12 we added one when a Western Spotted Skunk

strolled into the field of view of one of the trail cameras Lois Balin is using in her Burrowing Owl studies at the park.

WATER NOTES

Since mid-July, the well near the park's visitor center has been down. Back when our wells were our only water source in summer, this loss would have been disastrous. Today, with treated wastewater available in summer via the pipeline from the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant and irrigation water available from the Riverside Canal, we have a much more resilient system. Thanks, as always, go to El Paso Water and El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 for providing the water that sustains Rio Bosque's ecosystems!

RIO BOSQUE CALENDAR

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

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER