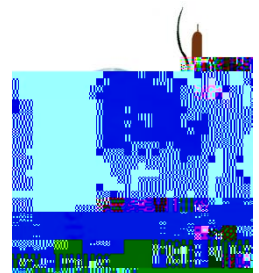


AN EXCEPTIONAL SUMMER

For 5 months, from May through September, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park consistently received water delivered through El Paso Water Utilities' new pipeline to the park from the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant. The changes at the park – in terms of wetland and riparian plant growth and wildlife use – have been dramatic.

The deliveries ended Oct 1. The water is now going instead to downstream irrigators. The dry spell should be brief, though. El Paso County Water Improvement District #1 plans extensive work in its canals and drains this fall and winter, including concrete-lining a portion of the Riverside Canal. It plans to stop deliveries to irrigators Oct 16, after which we hope operation of the pipeline can resume.



to tumbleweed removal along the old river channel at the park as part of Nicolas's Eagle project. 🦅

GOING TO THE WELL(S)

The new pipeline has not been the only source of water for Rio Bosque this year. We've also made regular use of our two electric-powered wells, as we did in 2014. The water from the wells allows us to flood a larger area than we can with the pipeline water alone. But there is a cost. Operating the wells is by far our largest operating expense, and their steady use in 2014 and 2015 has severely reduced the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park Gift Fund, the park's main operating fund. We're now limiting operation of the wells to avoid exhausting the Gift Fund.

Sincere thanks go to the El Paso Zoological Society, the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society and several individual donors whose recent generous contributions to the Gift Fund have improved our prospects for the year ahead. As things stand, though, we'll still need to cut back significantly on use of the wells in 2016.

If you want to help ensure operation of the wells when they are most needed, consider a tax-deductible contribution to the Gift Fund. Checks, payable to UTEP, can be sent to: Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, CERM – UTEP, 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968-0684. Please note on the check that your donation is for the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park Gift Fund. Many thanks for any support you can provide. 🦅