

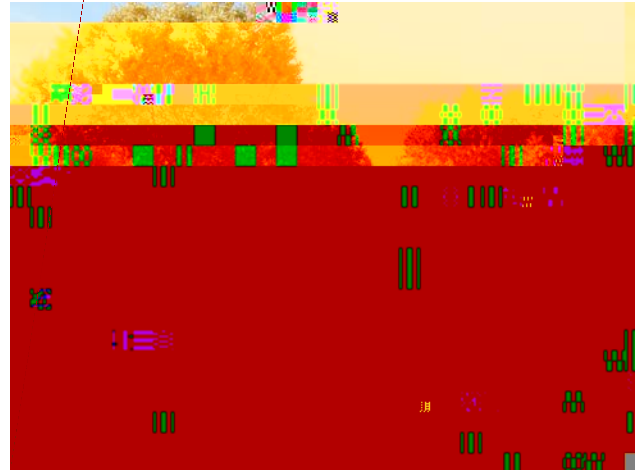
RIO BOSQUE NEWS

A newsletter reporting on events at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

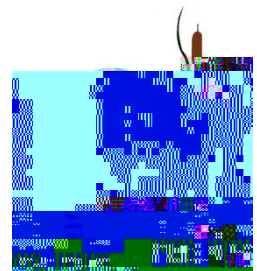
Center for Environmental Resource Management
The University of Texas at El Paso

DUCK SEASON

The 2016 [spring survey of North American breeding ducks](#), carried out by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Canadian Wildlife Service, yielded a population estimate of 48.4 million breeding birds in the traditional survey area, comparable to 2015's record estimate of 49.5 million birds. What have duck numbers been like at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park this fall and winter? After a brief dry spell, water deliveries to the park from the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant resumed October 23. For several weeks, few water birds arrived, but that changed with cooler weather. With 2,000-2,500 ducks currently wintering at Rio Bosque, it's a great time to visit the park.



underway to concrete
some 3 miles of the canal,



including 1.5 miles next to Rio Bosque. The work has been taking place in fall and winter to avoid the irrigation season.

Segments completed in prior years include 600 feet along the park's east boundary in 2009, 4,370 feet largely along the park's south boundary in 2010-2011, and ~3,280 feet upstream of the bridge at the entrance to the Jonathan Rogers and Roberto Bustamante water treatment plants in 2016. This winter, El Paso #1 is lining 1,600 feet immediately downstream of the bridge.

In 2017, El Paso #1 plans to seek additional funding to complete the project. If successful, it intends to line the final ~6,150 feet, including 4,230 feet along the park's east boundary, next fall and winter.

ANNUAL MEETING , JAN. 18

Make plans to attend the joint annual meeting of the Friends of the Rio Bosque and the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition! It takes place Wednesday, January 18, at the El Paso Club, 18th Floor, Chase Tower, 201 E. Main in El Paso, from 6 to 8 p.m. Learn about the dramatic changes in the Rio Bosque environment in recent years and what lies ahead in 2017 and beyond. Learn the latest on efforts to conserve Castner Range in the Franklin Mountains! The dinner price is \$25. Make reservations by sending a check payable to "Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition" to Pat White, Treasurer, FMWC, 10525 Texwood, El Paso, TX 79925 by January 13.