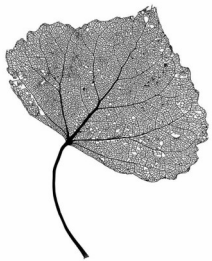


*The environment is where we all meet;
where we all have a mutual interest; it is the
one thing that all of us share. ~ Lady Bird*

Restoring

Because the Bosque provides habitat for numerous species of wildlife, including endangered species, it is critical that we restore and preserve its health, beauty and biodiversity. In 2011, the *Middle Rio Grande Restoration Project* began to restore 916 acres of approximately 26 miles of the Bosque, from the Pueblo of Sandia to the Pueblo of Isleta.

Many organizations have joined together to study, plan and implement this project. The project goals include improving hydrologic function (how the water flows) with channels and wetlands, and restoring native vegetation and habitat, and creating opportunities for recreational, educational, and interpretive features.



You can find more information about this exciting project (even a Virtual Tour!) by visiting: www.bosquerevive.com

*The greatest danger to our future is apathy.
~Jane Goodall*

Advocating

Without our efforts, the Bosque will not survive. The Bosque's very life depends on us!

There are many ways to get involved and work to conserve, preserve, and restore the environment. Some local opportunities to get involved include:

- Becoming a Master Naturalist, visit www.bernco.gov/openspace
- Join the Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center; visit www.rgnc.org
- Volunteer at the Biological Park, visit www.cabq.gov/biopark
- Support the Rio Grande Restoration advocacy and education non-profit; for information call 575-751-1269.
- Support legislation that protects the environment
- Support organizations that protect our wild places and creatures
- Commit to becoming a lifelong learner about the natural world.



Exploring the Bosque

**...the community
to which we
belong**



*We abuse land because we see it as a
commodity belonging to us. When we see
land as a community to which we belong, we
may begin to use it with love and respect.
~ Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac*

In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks. ~ John Muir

Knowing

The Bosque (Spanish for “forest”) surrounding the Rio Grande, is a living community to which we belong. The health of the Bosque is intimately tied to the health of the river. The first thing you may notice when entering the Bosque is the Rio Grande cottonwoods.



How do we get to know the inhabitants of the Bosque?

By spending time here!

Ways to explore the Bosque:

- Pick a cottonwood tree to get to know.
- Plan to visit it on a regular basis, maybe each season.
- Observe how it changes over time.
- Keep a journal about what you see & experience.

There are many inhabitants of the Bosque. LOOK FOR THEM! GET TO KNOW THEM!

Some birds commonly seen in the Bosque include Sandhill Cranes (Nov. to Feb.), Canadian Geese, and Cooper’s Hawks (l. to r. below).



Animals commonly seen include the porcupine, coyote, squirrel.

Some endangered species occasionally seen in the Bosque are the Willow Flycatcher, Silvery Minnow and the Eagle (l. to r. below).



For more information about life in the Bosque, including activities for further exploration, check out the Bosque Education Guide at: www.nmnaturalhistory.org/BEG.

One way to open your eyes is to ask yourself, “What if I had never see this before? What if I knew I would never see it

Being

Leave No Trace: We cannot eliminate our impact on nature, but we can reduce it. Leave No Trace is an international program designed to teach people how to reduce the impact of our activities in nature. Below is a summary of the Leave No Trace core principles:

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors



Leave no trace...

For more information about Leave No Trace visit: www.lnt.org

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. ~ Rachel Carson

Connecting

Take time to walk through the Bosque. Periodically stop, quiet yourself and listen to the sounds of the Bosque. Who else calls the Bosque home?

Do this brief exercise at the river:

Scoop some river water in your hands. Consider that the river is a living thing. Consider that our own living is connected to and depends on the life of the water!

Would you drink the river water in your hands?

Perhaps not. Perhaps you think the water is too dirty or polluted. *How did it get this way? How can we restore it?*

When we know that our life and the life of the river are connected, then we to begin to see differently. Just by taking time to get to know the Bosque, we can find our voices and come together to restore and preserve our river.

