



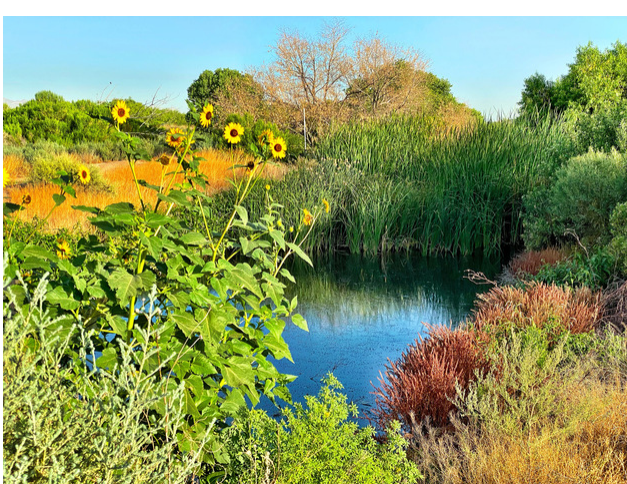
On the Water Front

April 2022 | A Message from John Balliew, P.E., President/CEO

EPWater fosters environmental stewardship role

All work at El Paso Water revolves around our staunch commitment to stewardship and protecting our land and water assets.

We are proud to be part of a devoted community that makes conservation a way of life. El Paso has reduced water consumption by over 30%, thanks to an aggressive conservation program, rate structure and ordinance adopted more than 30 years ago.



Rio Bosque Wetlands Park is flourishing.

As we wind down Earth Month, EPWater would like to spotlight the many ways we are managing our resources for the benefit of future generations.

Diversification

EPWater has come a long way from relying heavily on groundwater from the Hueco and Mesilla bolsons.

Our community's river water supply is dependent on Elephant Butte Reservoir, which sometimes accounts for half our water supply. Though plans this year call for us to receive as little as six to eight weeks of river water, EPWater has been preparing for decades for when we may not receive any.

- The Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant, the largest inland desalination plant in the world, has helped prevent water shortages during freezes and droughts.
- Another effective tool is water reuse, used for irrigation of parks, golf courses, a cemetery and more. EPWater has also been treating wastewater at the Fred Hervey Water Reclamation Plant to drinking water standards and recharging the Hueco Bolson aquifer for over 35 years.
- As the mercury starts to rise, we encourage our customers to water smarter and stick to our time-of-day watering schedule. Through September, gardeners may water their landscapes up to three times a week before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

Our innovative practices stretch far into our city's future as we continue to diversify our water resources.

- Advanced Water Purification, which will enter construction next year, will transform treated wastewater into fresh drinking water. This facility will send clean, purified water straight to our customers' taps.
- Expanded desalination will draw on vast brackish portions of the aquifer, and strategically placed wells will provide a buffer to protect fresh portions of the aquifer.
- On a longer horizon, we will import water from the aquifer beneath Dell City while guarding the sustainability of this Hudspeth County farming community.

Land stewardship

Our commitment to stewardship extends to the thousands of acres of land we manage across El Paso County.

- We purchase open space with an eye out for stormwater management to decrease flood risk. We also partner with the City of El Paso and non-profits to provide more recreational opportunities and use some of our lands for trailhead sites.
- In 2012, El Paso Water acquired the 372-acre Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, and through a partnership with the University of Texas at El Paso, the once-dry park is flourishing. Through a combination of water rights and treated wastewater from the nearby Roberto Bustamante plant, the Rio Bosque receives water so it can thrive.
- Franklin Mountains State Park ranks as the largest urban wilderness park in the continental United States, partly because of El Paso Water's transfer of 12,000 acres (about half the park's total acreage) to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

We have also added a full-time Sustainability Program Specialist to our staff to help develop sustainability projects around the utility.

We care about the community and our environment and take our role as a responsible steward of our land and water resources very seriously.

I'm proud of our commitment to ensure a sustainable water supply in the Chihuahuan Desert. Because of years of careful investment and responsible management of our water sources, EPWater is a leader in developing drought-proof, reliable water supplies to meet the needs of our community's children and grandchildren for many Earth Months to come.



On the Water Front is a publication of El Paso Water. Contact Christina Montoya at 915.594.5596 or cmontoya@epwater.org with any comments or questions.

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