Better Wetland Management via Water Infrastructure Improvements

With longer and more intense periods of drought and an increasing demand for the life-giving waters of the Rio Grande, water management is critically important on the refuge. Friends has provided funding for the installation of an improved surface-water delivery system for wetlands and croplands, greatly benefiting wildlife and their habitat for future generations. Friends also funded the repair of a vital collapsed well, and has plans to raise funds for repairing other wells in the near future.

Boardwalk, Bridges, & Decks

Friends provided front-end financing for construction of the wheelchair-accessible Boardwalk on the south loop, a favorite attraction of many of our visitors. Additionally, thanks to a very generous donation, Friends recently purchased a new steel bridge to enhance access to the Boardwalk Trail, and plans are underway to install another bridge and ramp in the area of the current Coyote and Willow Decks.

Festival of the Cranes

Rated among the top three wildlife, birding, and photography events in North America, our nationally recognized Festival of the Cranes offers over a hundred and forty event sessions in four days. Friends organizes and orchestrates this annual event, which educates the public and generates revenue to help fund important refuge projects.
Environmental Education

Friends sponsors family-friendly fun twice a year, during Wildlife Zone at Festival of the Cranes and at Bosque Conservation Day in the spring. Kids can see raptors and reptiles up close, participate in duck banding, hikes, archery, young birder tours, learn about conservation and wilderness, and so much more—all for free! Additionally, Friends provides funding for the refuge to host summer interns in maintenance, wildlife biology, and visitor services. This experience furthers their education while they help refuge staff with various projects and programs, such as studying monarch butterflies or monitoring endangered species.

Visitor Center

Friends increased the refuge Visitor Center by 42%, adding the 2,100 square foot Christina Ann Lannan Educational Annex and conference room, built with a major donation by the Lannan Foundation and other contributions by Friends members and refuge visitors.

Desert Arboretum & Pollinator Program

The Desert Arboretum is a living classroom, boasting over a hundred species of native pollinator plants and cacti, all maintained by the Friends. Friends recently added two types of rainwater catchment systems to the garden, a 1,500-gallon tank and piping system, and four 550-gallon slimline tanks. Together, these ensure that the xeric garden has a year-round supply of water while also educating the public about water conservation.

Bus Scholarships

To make school field trips to the refuge more affordable and support the refuge’s goal of providing education programs that promote environmental awareness and conservation, the Friends-sponsored Bus Scholarship Fund allows more than five hundred students and teachers to experience the magic of Bosque del Apache every year! Area school children engage in exciting and stimulating activities while on the refuge, such as participating in the raising of varieties of native fish.

Chupadera Peak

Friends even improved the refuge by adding to it! In order to allow the completion of the 9.5-mile Chupadera Wilderness National Recreation Trail and to preserve the incredible views afforded from the top, Friends purchased 6,272 ft. high Chupadera Peak and the surrounding 140 acres and then donated them to Bosque del Apache.
And So Much More!
For nearly three decades, Friends has supported the refuge in a myriad of ways. We have provided matching funds for North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants to restore native habitat to nearly 2,000 acres on the refuge; given funding to major research projects, including studies on rattlesnake/human interactions, elk populations and depredation on the refuge, and sandhill crane migration and habitat; funded field work by biology, maintenance and visitor services interns; and aided in many other worthwhile projects that, for the sake of space, are not cited here.

We couldn’t have done it without you!
All of these exciting refuge projects were accomplished through the hard work and dedicated support of Friends like you. Thank you! The bulk of the funds to maintain this stream of generosity to the refuge comes in large part from membership dues, private donations from individuals, and grants from foundations. So as you can see, YOU are vital to the success of Bosque del Apache. Friends has come a long way in the past three decades—imagine what we will continue to accomplish with your ongoing support!

Contact us, join our family of members, or make a donation to the Friends by visiting our website at:

www.FriendsofBosquedelApache.org
Another important source of income to help the refuge comes from the Friends’ planned giving program. You can give a lasting gift by adding Friends to your will, or if you are looking for a good way to avoid paying taxes on your IRA required minimum distribution (RMD), please consider making a charitable donation to Friends of Bosque del Apache. And you won't have to itemize your tax deductions to get this benefit, because the donation is deducted from your income!

Here’s all you need to do:

- Be 70 ½ years or older.
- Have the gift sent directly from your IRA trustee to Friends of Bosque del Apache.
- Ask your broker to send all or some of your RMD to the Friends. Your broker will need the Friends’ tax ID number (85-0415878) and the direct mailing address (Friends of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, PO Box 340, San Antonio, NM 87832, Attention: Deb Caldwell, Executive Director).
- Call (or write to) us so that we know that the gift is coming from you.

SUPPORT WHAT YOU LOVE - BECOME A FRIEND TODAY!

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- I also want to donate $25 $50 $100 $ Other
- I’d prefer an auto-renewing membership
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Join or donate online at [FriendsofBosqueDelApache.org](http://www.FriendsofBosqueDelApache.org) or send your contribution to:

Friends of Bosque del Apache
PO Box 340
San Antonio, NM 87832