



On the Water Front

September 2016 | A Message from John Balliew, P.E., President/CEO

Flood Control Improvements Put to the Test

Even though we had a late start to the monsoon season, we've been enjoying some showers of late, especially with recent remnants of Tropical Storm Newton. While Texas A&M's State Climatologist has declared August the wettest on record for Texas, here in El Paso our numbers were up from recent years but overall about average with summer rainfall measuring 5.29 inches going back to June.



Magnolia Pump Station

While that's well below the historic 2006 rainfall of 15 inches, there was enough rain to put new infrastructure to the test, and systems performed well.

Reduced Flooding, Improved Safety

Looking back at the decade since those floods, we've made big improvements to reduce flooding on I-10 and throughout the city. If you've visited our Facebook page recently, you may have noticed our recently completed Magnolia Pump Station hard at work moving water away from I-10 and Central El Paso and directing that water to the river. Also, with the completion of Gateway Ponds West, millions of gallons of stormwater were effectively captured, preventing flooding on I-10.

Since El Paso Water took over Stormwater Utility operations in 2008, we've made it a point to build channels, ponds and pump stations that serve a dual purpose. First and foremost, our priority is and will continue to be public safety and flood control. But in recent years, our approach has also factored in quality of life objectives of our growing city. As such, whenever we make flood control improvements, we also look to see how we can adapt and enhance these spaces to become amenities for surrounding neighborhoods.

Storm Ponds Become Neighborhood Assets

The Pollard Pond in Central El Paso, for instance, helps capture rainwater to reduce flooding. It also has sidewalks, walkways, a rock wall and landscape for residents to enjoy. Similarly, once completed, Austin Pond will not only serve a stormwater purpose but will have a linear park with trees, a pavilion with seating, walking areas and public artwork.

These improvements were built with safety as the most important priority. However, they are no longer the eyesores of chain-linked fences and isolated ponds. They now form part of the El Paso recreational landscape. As we move forward and continue to implement our Stormwater Master Plan, we will always stress safety but seek to accommodate the city's needs for open spaces and recreational havens.



Pollard Pond



Austin Pond



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

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

1154 Hawkins Blvd
El Paso, TX | 79925 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

