



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
July 25, 2023

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UGRA's 20th Annual River Clean Up

UGRA hosted its 20th Annual River Clean Up on Saturday, July 22nd. A total of 8,110 pounds of garbage was collected by 549 participants, working along the river from Hunt all the way to Comfort. Along with the expected paper and plastic trash, participants retrieved a pitchfork, pair of boots, boom box CD player, single tennis shoe, teal green upholstered chair, muffler, fishing net, Christmas lights, kayak paddle, plastic swimming pool, large rug, 32 tires, and over 81 baseballs at one site. The volunteers who recovered these items entered them into the biggest and most unusual items contest.

The enthusiastic volunteers scoured the river and its banks from about 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and when they returned to Flat Rock Park with their trash, they were served hot dogs from the Munchy Machine, pizza from Little Caesars, and homemade treats from the Kerrville Garden Club. Participants also enjoyed exhibits by the Hill Country Master Naturalists, Texas A&M Forest Service, Hill Country Master Gardeners, Keep West Kerr Beautiful, Hill Country Fly Fishers, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Native Plant Society of Texas, Riverside Nature Center, and UGRA. All volunteers received a 20th Annual River Clean Up t-shirt. The t-shirt was designed by young Kerr County artist, Madellyn Fiedler, whose artwork won the t-shirt design contest earlier this year.

The Trash to Treasure Hunt brings a fun and competitive element to the River Clean Up. This year, the contest was sponsored by Scrap Solutions. Three milk jugs marked with Ranch Radio Marketing Group stickers were hidden near the Guadalupe River or one of the tributaries. Chad Hill of The River 106.1 was on hand to award the \$100 cash prize to the lucky volunteers who found the hidden items.

UGRA staff and board members distributed free t-shirts, refreshments, and prizes to participants, as well as a prize to the first pre-registered volunteer. These items were made possible due to the generous donations from Atmos Energy, Bausen Technology, The Cailloux Foundation, CENTURY 21 The Hills Realty, City of Kerrville, H-E-B, JAM Broadcasting, James Avery Artisan Jewelry, Keep Texas Waterways Clean, Kerr County, Kerr Screen Graphics, Kerrville Garden Club, Kerrville Kayak and Canoe, Ladies Auxiliary #6409, Little Caesars, Martin Marietta, The Music Maker, Natural Grocers, RA Nursery and Aggregates, Ranch Radio Marketing Group, The River 106.1, Scrap Solutions, and Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country.

During the post-clean up celebrations, UGRA General Manager Tara Bushnoe shared a message applauding the over 500 volunteers, presenters, and staff who participated, "Today is about

focusing on the importance of a clean Guadalupe River watershed and raising awareness in the community about the amount of trash in the river. Since the first River Clean Up in 2004, over 6,700 volunteers have collected nearly 140,000 pounds of trash. Thank you for being part of this amazing effort.”

The dedicated volunteers included many individuals and families as well as groups from Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Girl Scout troops from Kerr County and the San Antonio area, 3 Twenty One Homes, AQUA Texas, Bumble Bee Hills HOA, CENTURY 21 The Hills Realty, City of Kerrville Make a Difference Committee, First Presbyterian Church, First Tee 4H Golf, Hill Country MHDD Center, Ironclad Auto Glass, Keep West Kerr Beautiful, Kerr County 4H, Kerrville Chamber of Commerce, Kerr County Women’s Chamber, Chamber Ambassadors, KPUB, Texas Outdoors-Woman Network, Ladies Auxiliary #6409, Martin Marietta, RA Texas Nursery & Aggregates, Rotary Club of Kerrville, Sunflower Bank, Texas Hill Country Advisors, Texas Hill Country Bank, Texas Master Naturalists Hill Country Chapter, The Salvation Army Kroc Center, Together with Hill Country Veterans, Texas State Optical, VFW Post 1480. Hardworking employees of the City of Kerrville and Scrap Solutions hauled away over 4 tons of trash free of charge.

“The River Clean Up is an amazing opportunity to come together as a community who cares about the Guadalupe River. Thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors, and partners who make this event possible,” said Matthew Wilkinson, UGRA Natural Resources Specialist.

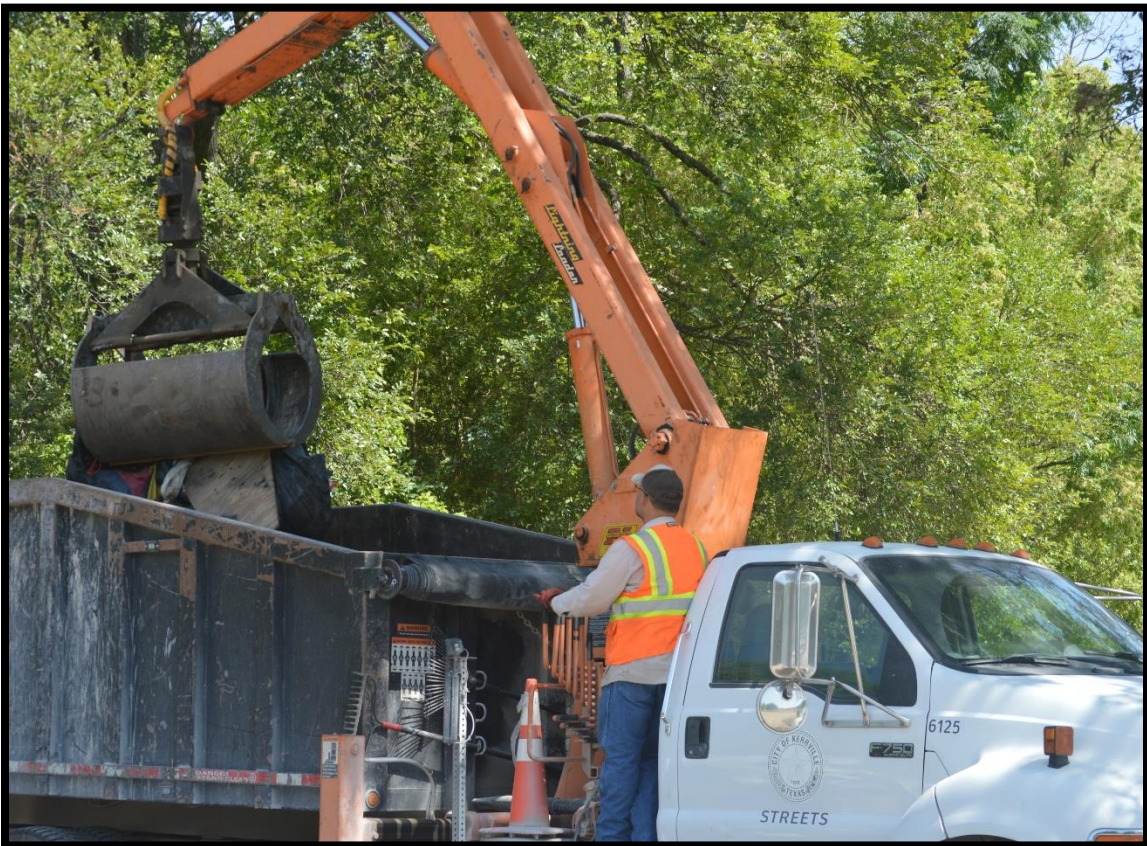
The Annual River Clean Up is just one component of UGRA’s Trash Free Initiative. UGRA staff routinely picks up litter at 13 low water crossings year-round. This trash consists of litter left behind by river recreators, items carelessly discarded at roadsides, or trash from elsewhere in the watershed that washed toward the creeks and river during rainfall. As a proactive measure to reduce littering, UGRA is continuing to fund summertime litter patrols with licensed peace officers at the most popular river crossings to promote the message, “Pack it in, Pack it out.” In addition, UGRA’s environmental education programs focus on preserving the water quality of the Guadalupe River.

If you were unable to participate in the River Clean Up on July 22nd or would like to do more to keep our watershed healthy, join us this fall for the On Your Own cleanup. Register now to conduct a cleanup anytime September – October at a time convenient to you and at your own pace. UGRA will support your cleanup by coordinating locations, providing supplies, and establishing trash drop off areas. For more information and to register, visit www.ugra.org/major-initiatives/river-clean-up

Let’s Keep *Our* River Clean



Volunteers helped unload the over 8,000 pounds of trash which included 32 tires.



The City of Kerrville hauled away trash collected during the 20th Annual River Clean Up.



Young group of volunteers with their unusual item contest entry of a fishing cast net.



Volunteers used kayaks to collect hard to reach trash on the river.