



PRESS RELEASE

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UGRA Supports Rainwater Harvesting Efforts by the Hunt VFD

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) awarded the Hunt Volunteer Fire Department (Hunt VFD) \$15,000 to expand the capacity of their rainwater catchment system to 50,000-gallons. “This generous grant from UGRA allowed us to expand our existing rainwater catchment system by 30,000 gallons so that we can more effectively and efficiently protect west Kerr County from fire damage. We also upgraded the pump and added a water distribution system so that we can simultaneously fill three fire trucks,” said Bobby Olmsted, Hunt VFD Secretary. The project was the 2023 recipient of UGRA Rainwater System Grant Program funding.



The Hunt VFD was the recipient of UGRA’s 2023 Rainwater System Grant Program funding. Pictured L to R in front of the new 30k gallon tank: Diane McMahon, UGRA President; Bobby Olmsted, Hunt VFD Secretary; and Maggie Snow, UGRA Vice President and Outreach and Education Committee Chair.

Through the Rainwater System Grant Program, UGRA promotes water conservation and management of stormwater runoff by providing a matching grant reimbursement from \$5,000 to \$15,000 to fund rainwater catchment systems in Kerr County. The program is open to all nonprofit organizations, schools, and public entities interested in initiating a rainwater catchment system or

expanding a current system in Kerr County. Applicants can request a maximum of 75% of the project cost up to \$15,000. In addition to intercepting stormwater runoff, rainwater catchment systems conserve water by reducing reliance on surface water and protect spring flow by reducing demand for groundwater.

The original rainwater catchment system at the Hunt VFD Main Station was first installed about four years ago. Since then, rainwater catchment systems have been installed at three of the four Hunt VFD substations as well. A sign describing the expanded Main Station system and how it is used to conserve water and reduce runoff will be displayed next to the catchment tank as a resource for the community. “UGRA is proud to have partnered with the Hunt VFD to expand their rainwater catchment system. I was amazed to learn how often the stored rainwater is needed when the fire fighters respond to locations where they do not have access to other water sources. We are thankful for all they do for our community,” said Maggie Snow, UGRA Vice-President and Outreach and Education Committee Chair.

UGRA also offers an up to \$500 rebate on rainwater catchment system equipment. Visit www.ugra.org for more information on rainwater harvesting or contact Matthew Wilkinson with questions (mwilkinson@ugra.org; 830-896-5445).

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