



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Upper Guadalupe River Authority  
(830) 896-5445

### **UGRA Honored for Leadership in Water Conservation**

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, the Texas Water Development Board announced the recipients of its annual Texas Rain Catcher Award. UGRA was awarded top honors for the UGRA EduScape in recognition of exemplary efforts to promote rain water harvesting and water conservation through educational and outreach activities.

“We greatly appreciate the Texas Water Development Board's award. It validates UGRA's commitment to preserving and conserving our beautiful Guadalupe River through education and water conservation,” said Diane McMahon, UGRA Board Director and Outreach & Education Committee Chair.

The UGRA EduScape is an educational landscape that wraps around the Guadalupe Basin Natural Resources Center at 125 Lehman Drive in Kerrville. Visitors can stroll along the landscape path to view numerous examples of practices that conserve water and protect the Guadalupe River through stormwater management. Visitors will be guided by information on interpretive signs to enhance understanding of the landscape elements. The practices demonstrated can be easily implemented in the home or office landscape and scaled to any project size.

“Receiving the 2018 Texas Rain Catcher Award from the Texas Water Development Board is an honor. This is a good example of the work that the Upper Guadalupe River Authority does in addition to protecting the quality of the water in the Guadalupe River as it flows through Kerr County. The continued availability of quality water into the future is a high priority for all of us. The rain catchment systems we have installed with our recent EduScape project around our building, in tandem with environmentally sensitive plants and walkways, demonstrate ways we can conserve our water. We are proud to have worked with volunteers of the Hill Country Master Gardeners, the Master Naturalists, and the UGRA staff in achieving this award,” said Bob Waller, UGRA Board President.



Texas Water Development Board honors UGRA for water conservation through the UGRA EduScape. L to R: TWDB Director, Kathleen Jackson; TWDB Chair, Peter M. Lake; UGRA General Manager, Ray Buck; UGRA Assistant General Manager, Tammy Thompson; UGRA Board Director and Outreach & Education Committee Chair, Diane McMahon; and TWDB Director, Brooke T. Paup.

Following the reception at the Texas Water Development Board, Representative Andrew Murr presented UGRA with a House Resolution commending UGRA for its stewardship of water resources including water conservation.



Representative Murr presents House Resolution to UGRA. L to R: UGRA Assistant General Manager, Tammy Thompson; Representative Andrew Murr; UGRA Board Director and Outreach & Education Committee Chair, Diane McMahon; and, UGRA General Manager, Ray Buck.

“This recognition is a nice surprise. Water conservation is an essential component of water supply management. Not only does water conservation extend current supplies, it postpones costly projects to develop new supplies. UGRA is proud to be a leader in water conservation education. We’re grateful to all our partners who worked with us on this project. This, indeed, is a project developed for the community by the community. We look forward to hearing how others in our community have incorporated these techniques into their own landscapes,” said Ray Buck, UGRA General Manager.

**Let’s Keep *Our* River Clean**