



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
July 25, 2016

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

UGRA's 13th Annual River Clean Up

UGRA hosted its 13th Annual River Clean Up on Saturday, July 23rd. A total of 9,200 pounds of garbage was collected by a record 443 participants, working along the river from Hunt all the way to Center Point. Along with the expected paper and plastic trash, participants retrieved folded bed springs, grill, picnic table, tractor tire, hog trap, shopping cart, two upholstered wing chairs, carpet shampooer, toilet, Barney Rubble figurine, table top drum set, coconut painted like a football, vintage propane tank, and 14 tires. The volunteers who recovered these items entered them in to the biggest and most unusual items contest.

The enthusiastic volunteers scoured the river and its banks from about 8:00 am to 11:00 am and when they returned to Flat Rock Park with their trash, they were served hot dogs from the Save Inn Restaurant, pizza from Papa John's, and homemade treats from the Kerrville Garden Club. Participants also enjoyed exhibits by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Hill Country Master Naturalists, Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas, Riverside Nature Center, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Bob Howells on freshwater mussels, and UGRA.

The dedicated group of volunteers included many individuals, friends, and families as well as groups from Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Girl Scout troops from Kerr County and the San Antonio area, Atmos Energy, Christian Women's Job Corps, Enhanced Horizons, Kerr County Roller Derby, Kerr County Women's Chamber, Kerrville Board of Realtors, Kerrville Leos, Kerrville Morning Rotary, Kerrville Pet Sitters, Kerrville South CAG, Martin Marietta Materials, Riverside Nature Center, The First Tee/4-H, The Salvation Army, Town Creek Clean Up Team, and Wyndham Worldmark Hunt. Hardworking employees of the City of Kerrville, Garrett Services, Kerrville Recycling, and Republic Services hauled away the trash and recyclables free of charge.

The Trash to Treasure Hunt brings a fun and competitive element to the River Clean Up. This year, the contest was sponsored by Kerrville Recycling and the Ranch Radio Group. Three milk jugs marked with the radio stations' stickers were hidden near the Guadalupe River or one of the tributaries. This year, all three of the hidden items were found by lucky volunteers who each claimed a \$100 cash prize!

“Our goal with the cleanup is to raise awareness of how trash and garbage negatively impact our river which not only provides enjoyment to us but is an economic engine for the county. An added bonus is seeing coworkers, families, and friends working together and having fun while being stewards of the community,” said Ray Buck, UGRA General Manager.

UGRA staff and directors distributed free t-shirts, refreshments, and raffle 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 Bank of the Hills, Billy Gene's, Camp Lonehollow, City of Kerrville, Garrett Services, HEB, Hill Country Master Gardeners, James Avery Jewelry, Kerr County Federal Credit Union, Kerr Screen Graphics, Kerrville Kayak and Canoe, Kerrville Recycling, KERV 1230, Martin Marietta Materials, Republic Services, Rev FM, Riverside Nature Center, Security State Bank and Trust, The Cailloux Foundation, The Fox, The Ranch, The River, and Wheatcraft, Inc. "Nearly all of these sponsors have contributed to the River Clean Up year after year, and they share in the event's success. We also had a record number of volunteers pre-register for the clean up and some signed up as early as February. To me, this shows the commitment the volunteers are making to keep the Guadalupe River healthy by ensuring they have reserved time to participate in the event," said Tara Bushnoe, UGRA Natural Resources Coordinator.

Almost all volunteers received an 13th Annual River Clean Up t-shirt. The t-shirt was designed by young Kerr County artist, Kim Cuellar, whose artwork won the t-shirt design contest earlier this year.

The Annual River Clean Up is just one component of UGRA's Trash Free Initiative. UGRA contracts to clean fifteen water crossings on a regular basis throughout the year. In addition, UGRA's environmental education programs focus on preserving the water quality of the Guadalupe River.

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority is the respected, efficient, responsive, and forthright steward of the Upper Guadalupe River and its tributaries.

Let's Keep *Our* River Clean



The City of Kerrville hauls away trash collected during the 13th Annual River Clean Up.



Reece Thomson runs to claim his raffle prize at the 13th Annual River Clean Up.



Dedicated volunteers haul in trash removed from the Guadalupe River watershed in Kerr County.