



PRESS RELEASE

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Over Twenty-seven Tons of Trash Removed from the Guadalupe River in 2017

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) announced today that over 27 tons of trash was removed from in and around the Guadalupe River and its tributaries in 2017 in Kerr County alone. “Though our citizens show support for trash removal and litter pickup through their participation in community clean ups, we’re unfortunately seeing an uptick in the litter amounts along our waterways. UGRA is committed to working with community leaders in addressing this detriment to our community and remains dedicated to the removal of trash from the Guadalupe River watershed and promoting public awareness of this issue,” said Ray Buck, UGRA General Manager.

UGRA’s Trash Free Initiative program is comprised of two main components: 1) year round routine garbage pickup at river crossings; and 2) the annual river clean up. UGRA currently contracts with a local company, Garrett Services, to pick up trash at a number of low water crossings on the North Fork, South Fork, Town Creek, Johnson Creek and the main stem Guadalupe River throughout the year. In 2017, a total of 754 visits to fifteen different river crossings removed an astounding 43,150 pounds of trash.

UGRA records the total amount of trash collected on each day the river crossings clean up is conducted. This year, July netted the most trash collected with a total of 9,145 pounds and 2,725 pounds of that was collected immediately before and after the 4th of July holiday. The month of June came in second place with 9,010 pounds. The summer months are consistently the time of year when littering is at a peak as many people gather near the Guadalupe River for recreation.

In addition to the year-round effort, UGRA hosts a river clean up day to promote awareness of the litter problem by involving the community. The 14th Annual River Clean Up was held on Saturday, July 22, 2017. A total of 12,025 pounds of garbage was collected by 550 participants working along the river from above Hunt all the way to the eastern edge of Kerr County. The 2018 River Clean Up will be held on July 28th. As a proactive measure to reduce littering, during summer 2017 UGRA funded 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.

UGRA also sponsors community groups that are enthusiastic about keeping the Guadalupe River and Kerr County trash free. Some groups organize routine events and UGRA provides supplies to support their efforts. Others contact UGRA for assistance with site selection, trash disposal, and supplies for their group’s community service project. If your group is interested in conducting a clean up event, contact UGRA for assistance.