



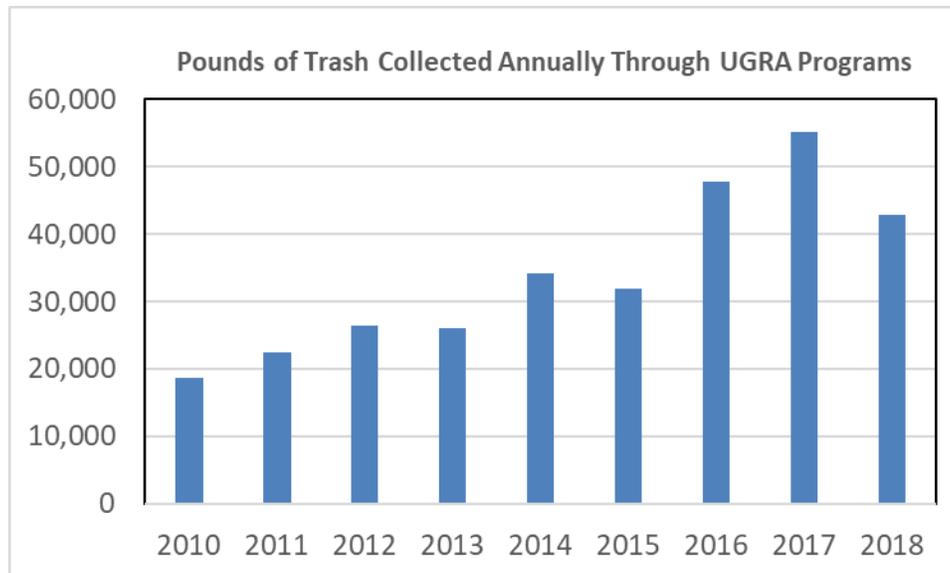
## PRESS RELEASE

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### Over Twenty-one Tons of Trash Removed from the Guadalupe River in 2018

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) announced today that, in 2018, over 21 tons of trash was removed from in and around the Guadalupe River and its tributaries in Kerr County alone. “This year, we are happy to announce that we have had a decrease in the pounds of trash collected annually after two consecutive years of sharp increases. It’s too soon to draw any conclusions, but we’re hopeful that it’s a sign of our awareness programs working. We remain dedicated to addressing this issue and will continue to monitor the effectiveness of these programs,” 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 2018, a total of 754 visits to fifteen different river crossings removed 32,470 pounds of trash.

UGRA records the total amount of trash collected on each day the river crossings clean up is conducted. This year, June netted the most trash collected with a total of 7,905 pounds, with July and May close behind with 6,480 and 5,500 pounds, respectively. 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. This year however, the largest single day total came on October 21<sup>st</sup> just after a significant flood swept through Kerr County. Floods not only wash away items discarded near the banks, but also carry trash from throughout the watershed into rivers and creeks.

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 15<sup>th</sup> Annual River Clean Up was held on Saturday, July 28, 2018. A total of 10,480 pounds of garbage was collected by 505 participants working along the river from above Hunt all the way to the eastern edge of Kerr County. The 2019 River Clean Up will be held on July 27<sup>th</sup>. As a proactive measure to reduce littering, during summer 2018, 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.

**Let’s Keep *Our* River Clean**