



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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

### **Over Twenty-three Tons of Trash Removed from the Guadalupe River in 2016**

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) announced today that over 23 tons of trash was removed from in and around the Guadalupe River and its tributaries in 2016 in Kerr County alone. “UGRA remains dedicated to the removal of trash from the Guadalupe River watershed and promoting public awareness of this issue. Though our citizens show support for this cause through their participation in community clean ups, we continue to see an increase in litter. Next month, we will initiate a work group comprised of local leaders to discuss how we can best reduce this detriment to our community,” 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 2016, a total of 754 visits to fifteen different river crossings removed an astounding 38,565 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 8,340 pounds and 2,125 pounds of that was collected immediately before and after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. The month of May came in second place with 7,940 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 13<sup>th</sup> Annual River Clean Up was held on Saturday, July 23, 2016. A total of 9,200 pounds of garbage was collected by 443 participants working along the river from above Hunt all the way to the eastern edge of Kerr County. The 2017 River Clean Up will be held on July 22nd.

UGRA also sponsors community groups that are enthusiastic about keeping the Guadalupe River and Kerr County trash free. Some groups like the Town Creek Clean Up Team and the Kerrville South Community Action Group 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**



The City of Kerrville hauls away trash removed from the Guadalupe River during the 2016 UGRA Annual River Clean Up.