



PRESS RELEASE

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

UGRA's Eighth Annual River Clean Up

UGRA hosted its Eighth Annual River Clean Up on Saturday, July 23rd. More than 11,000 pounds of garbage was collected by 250 participants, working along the river from above Hunt all the way to Center Point. Approximately 1,100 pounds of this total was separated for recycling; such items included cans, bottles, and scrap metal. Along with the expected paper and plastic trash, participants retrieved a deer blind, wood raft, engine block, pink flamingo, 8-track stereo, and an antique crankshaft. The volunteers who recovered these items received prizes for finding the biggest and most unusual items.

The enthusiastic volunteers scoured the river from about 8:00 am to 11:00 am and when they returned to Louise Hays Park with their trash, they were served hot dogs from the Save Inn Restaurant and homemade treats from the Kerrville Garden Club. Participants also enjoyed exhibits by the Hill Country Fly Fishers, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Wildlife Association, and UGRA.

The dedicated volunteers included many individuals, as well as groups from Cub Scout and Boy Scout troops from Kerr County and the San Antonio area, Girl Scouts, Kerrville Morning Rotary Club, Bank of America, Martin Marietta Materials, Hill Country Youth Ranch, PFLAG, Kyle Walker Team, Kerrville Fire Department, and Friends of Center Point. Hardworking employees of the City of Kerrville and Garrett Services donated their time to haul away the trash and recyclables.

A special feature was introduced to this year's River Clean Up that added a competitive element to the day's activities. The Trash to Treasure Hunt was sponsored by Kerrville Recycling in conjunction with The Ranch, Sunny, and The River radio stations. Three tires marked with the radio stations' stickers were hidden near the Guadalupe River. The lucky volunteers that found the items each claimed a \$100 prize!

Volunteers were also given the additional challenge of categorizing the trash they collected. UGRA will incorporate the results of the trash tally sheets into their education programs. "Since most volunteers commented that cans, bottles, styrofoam, and cigarette butts were the most commonly collected items, we will highlight that information when we talk to groups in the community about responsible watershed stewardship," said Ray Buck, UGRA General Manager.

UGRA staff and directors distributed free t-shirts, refreshments, and raffle prizes to participants. These items were made possible due to the generous donations from the Cailloux Foundation, City of Kerrville, Former Texas Rangers Foundation, Billy Gene's Restaurant, Bank of the Hills, 92.3 The Ranch, Sunny 96.5, The River 106.1, Garrett Services, Kerrville Kayak & Canoe,

Wheatcraft Sand and Gravel, Randy and Lisa's Save Inn Restaurant, Kerrville Garden Club, Kerr Screen Graphics, HCSB, Guadalupe National Bank, REV-FM 94.3, The Cowboy 104.9, The Rose 99.9, Hill Country Youth Ranch, Moore's Home Furnishing, Inn of the Hills, Gibson's, Dairy Queen, and Martin Marietta Materials.

The Annual River Clean Up is just one component of UGRA's Trash Free Initiative. UGRA contracts to clean fifteen river 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. "Our goal is to raise public awareness to the importance of protecting the Guadalupe River. It is gratifying to see the large turnout and dedication of volunteers working from one end of the county to the other. The record amount of trash collected is a testament to the program's success," said Scott S. Parker, UGRA President.

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 8th Annual River Clean Up.



Dedicated volunteers brought in truckloads of trash from the Guadalupe River in Kerr County.