



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY to Protect the Upper Guadalupe River

With summer upon us, the Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) joins the City of Kerrville, Kerr County, and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to remind you to help prevent the spread of zebra mussels, a destructive, invasive species of exotic freshwater mussels. The rapidly reproducing zebra mussels, originally from Eurasia, can have serious economic, recreational and environmental impacts on Texas lakes and rivers. Zebra mussel shells can cover swimming and wading areas, clog the city's water intake, damage or increase maintenance on the city's water plant, and destroy the river ecosystem.



Zebra mussels were first discovered in Texas in 2009 and have quickly spread. The first positive documentation of zebra mussels in the Guadalupe River basin occurred in June 2017 in Canyon Lake. Zebra mussels are powerful filter feeders and can quickly reduce nutrient levels in a body of water. This reduction knocks out the base of the aquatic food chain and can ultimately lead to declines in fish populations. Zebra mussels can also attach to the shell of native freshwater mussels and smother them. The upper Guadalupe River is home to several freshwater mussel species including the Texas pimpleback and the Texas fatmucket which are currently being considered for federal endangered species status.

“Zebra mussel larvae are microscopic and can be carried in small amounts of water left in a boat, kayak or other watercraft. It’s very important to clean, drain, and dry so the larvae won’t be transported to other waterbodies,” said Tara Bushnoe, UGRA Natural Resources Coordinator.

The City of Kerrville has placed signs at public boat ramps and has also engaged in a public awareness program. Signs were also installed at Kerr County boat ramps and access points. UGRA in conjunction with the City of Kerrville, Kerr County, and TPWD installed detection traps in four Kerr County lakes. The traps will be monitored routinely for the presence of zebra mussels.

If you are a boater, please be diligent in cleaning, draining and drying your equipment every time you leave the water. For additional information and cleaning instructions, visit texasinvasives.org.

Let’s work together to keep zebra mussels out of Kerr County waterways.

Let’s Keep Our River Clean