

# Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust Newsletter

Fall 2022

Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust  
P.O. Box 1343  
Seguin, TX 78156  
www.GBRTX.org | 830.560.3981  
Email: Inquiry@GBRTX.org



## Partner Props

We are proud of our partnership with **TreeFolks**, a local nonprofit that has led the way for tree planting, education and urban forestry in the Austin area for over 33 years. These fine Folks implement a Central Texas Floodplain Reforestation Program and we are excited to enroll our Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve into their program this year. During the winter of 2023, their program will plant over 30 acres of floodplain forest on our preserve, getting the wetlands closer to a restored, mature, stream and floodplain ecosystem.



Join us for our 3rd annual Plum Creek Re-Leaf volunteer reforestation event. Guests may come and go at any time. Breakfast tacos, Pizza and T-Shirts free for all participants.

Special thanks to the Caterpillar Foundation and GBRA for their dedication to this event. Thank you to TX Grassland Restoration and TreeFolks for your contribution to this effort.

**December 9th and 10th**

Opportunities include a brief tour of the preserve, training for proper tree planting, planting at least 700 seedlings native to the Blackland Prairie of Texas, partner organization information booths, and fun for the whole family.

Wear durable, close-toed shoes, pants and a hat.

Lunch, refreshments, tools and gloves will be provided.

Check-in at the Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve.

**Sign Up**  
**Here**

**December 9th and 10th from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
**3105 N U.S. Hwy 183 S, Lockhart, TX 78644.**



Photographer: Anna Prusaitis Ybarra



"The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The next best time is now"

- Chinese proverb

2022 GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER TRUST

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**Bios available at [www.GBRTX.org](http://www.GBRTX.org)

- ◆ W.A. "Bill" Blackwell—President
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- ◆ Diane McMahon
- ◆ John P. Schneider
- ◆ Maggie Snow
- ◆ Dr. Stephen Wilson

**GBRT STAFF MEMBERS**

- ◆ Tyler Sanderson - Executive Director
- ◆ Stephen Risinger - Conservation & Stewardship Manager

**ENHANCING A TEXAS RESOURCE**

Stephen Risinger



Above: DU's Stephen Rockwood exploring an applicant property

The Texas Mid-Coast Initiative Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership with Ducks Unlimited (DU) and the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP) is in full swing this November. The NRCS has received applications totaling over 1,000 acres of critical habitat along the Mission and Guadalupe Rivers to be restored to prime habitat and support a variety of wildlife, including North America's rarest bird, the Whooping Crane. Project site visits will occur at the end of November and the beginning of December. Each property will be ranked according to its restoration potential to support critical habitat for threatened and endangered species in the 8-County project range.



It has been a pleasure to work with our project partners, DU and CBBEP, to administer the Mid-Coast Initiative, where our efforts include viewing potential habitat sites and talking with conservation-minded landowners to protect a mosaic of freshwater wetlands, coastal prairies, river deltas, and estuaries.

This project is vital to the Texas coast because there is a significant deficit of available wintering waterfowl habitat. Each year, Mid-coast wetland properties provide critical staging and wintering habitat for thousands of waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and other wetland-dependent species. Beyond wildlife habitat, wetlands also provide ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, stormwater retention, flood protection, water filtration, abundant fisheries, and more. Contact GBRT today for more information on the Mid-Coast Initiative.

**BETWEEN THE BAYOUS**

Tyler Sanderson

GBRT has a lesser-known preserve in Calhoun County near Tivoli, TX. The 817-acre wetland is between the Hog and Schwings bayous, adjacent to the Guadalupe River and Green Lake. It's location is key to providing many ecosystem benefits to the Guadalupe delta. Location also ensures consistent flooding events, invasive species encroachment, and other natural occurrences. This year, GBRT received support for restoration and enhancement of the habitat on-site. Our friends at the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust, GBRA and OneTreePlanted have contributed to this effort in a big way. The two-year project kicks off with a small-group volunteer clean-up event in early December, 2022.





# Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve

## Master Development Plan

Be on the lookout for the Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve Master Development Plan this winter. We are polishing it up and will be officially unveiling it at our Plum Creek Re-Leaf event on December 9th. The plan has been many years coming, and outlines recommended steps to create a nature center and community space on site.

**Mission:** Conserving water resources by managing wetlands, protecting habitat, and promoting appreciation of the natural world.

**Vision:** Promoting conservation, sustainability, and appreciation for the natural world through compatible research, education, and low-impact recreation opportunities, while supporting the mission of GBRT.

**Habitat**—protecting and restoring wildlife habitat.

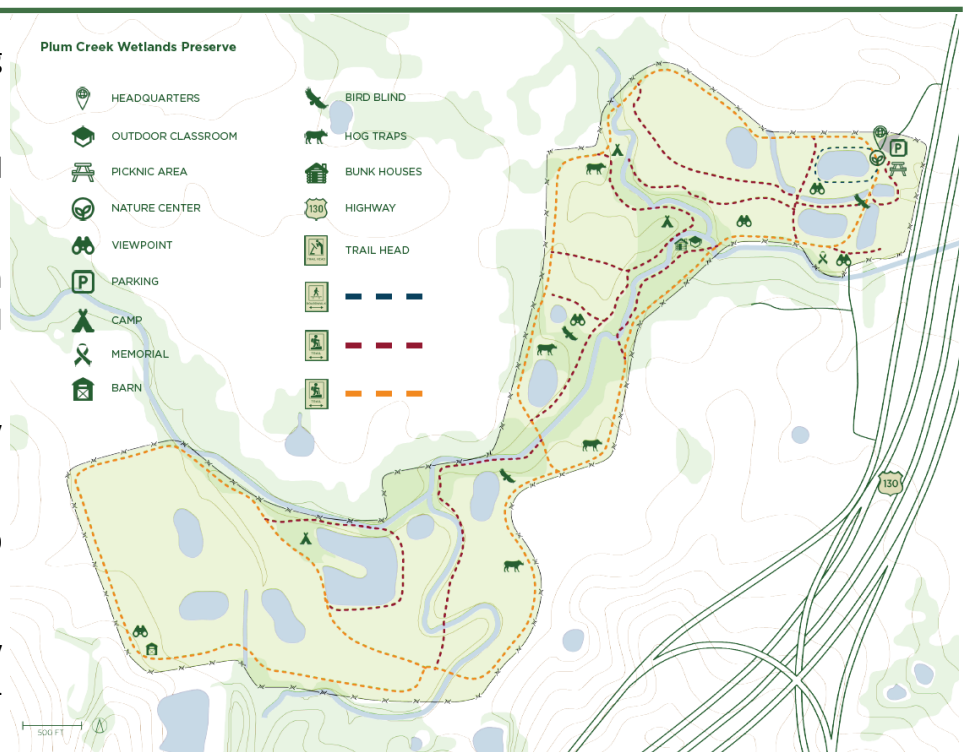
**Water Quality**—Protecting and improving water resources on site.

**Community**—Outreach through community-based activities and meeting spaces.

**Research**—creating opportunity and access to a living laboratory.

**Education**—Individual and group learning.

**Recreation**—Passive community recreation for public and private enjoyment.





Help support conservation through workplace giving! If you are a state employee in Texas, City or school district employee in Houston, or City of Austin employee, look for GBRT's code number under the EarthShare Texas heading in workplace giving campaign literature. GBRT Codes are: State agencies (035601), the Houston Independent School District (0194), City of Houston (1481), and at the City of Austin (1814).



City of Austin  
**EMPLOYEES CARE**  
*Combined Charities Campaign*

Please consider us in your workplace giving program!

Or, you can give to many Texas environmental nonprofits equally by designating EarthShare Texas as your charity of choice.



Our friends at Reliant Energy have some tips for what you can do to reduce your carbon footprint this winter and help our Texan environment. Did you know? Adding weatherstripping to your exterior doors and windows can save you up to 10% on energy costs - with just a couple hours' of work!

Are you a Reliant customer? Do you want to make a bigger impact? Sign up for the Reliant EcoShare (SM) program! In partnership with EarthShare Texas since 2011, you'll be supporting more than 30 environmental organizations in Texas and offsetting your carbon emissions and making Texas more resilient. For more tips and information about carbon visit [reliant.com/en/public/reliant-ecoshare-program.jsp](https://reliant.com/en/public/reliant-ecoshare-program.jsp)

## EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

**Tyler Sanderson**

GBRT is proud of our successes and the progress we have made toward our mission this year. We wouldn't have accomplished what we have if it weren't for our partners, sponsors, donors, and friends. During this time of gratefulness, we want to take this opportunity to thank and honor all who have contributed to our mission. First, we want to thank all our conservation landowners throughout the watershed who put their trust in us to help them conserve their special places. We greatly appreciate our current interested landowners too, who we are working with at various stages of the conservation process. Our strongest gratitude to our Board of Trustees, who have put in the time and energy to help us succeed. Thank you to our major partners and funders, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, the Land Trust Alliance, the Caterpillar Foundation, the Upper Guadalupe River Authority, the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust, the Texas Land Trust Council, and all the other great Texas land trusts out there. Thank you to other donors and sponsors, including individual giving, the National Park Service, Restore America's Estuaries, OneTreePlanted, the Duncan Genesis Foundation, the Trull Foundation, and Bold Bison. Finally, we are grateful for others who have worked with us on projects, including: Ducks Unlimited, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, San Antonio Bay Partnership, TX Grassland Restoration, Great Springs Project, Texas Historic Commission, LPA Design Studios, James D. Bradbury, PLLC. Tancig Law, Burgess Jackson, Terraforma, Partners, PLLC, Marrs Ellis and Hodge, LLP, and many others. It has been such an honor to work with all of you for the River.





## HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT GBRT?

A gracious donation can be made to one of our multiple campaigns either by visiting our website, sending a check to our mailing address, or by clicking [here](#): To donate to a specific purpose, make a note of that with your donation.

Click the links below to learn more about each of our ways to contribute.

**[General Operating](#)**— contribution to our general funds can make a difference in supporting GBRT's mission by helping cover costs that grants and restricted donations can't.

**[Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve](#)**— This restricted account is designated specifically for the maintenance and improvements of the preserve. As we develop the preserve into a nature center, your contribution will help us build the dream.

**[Texas Mid Coast Initiative](#)**— The purpose of this initiative is to work collaboratively with project partners to target and conserve critical coastal habitats in an 8-County range around the San Antonio Bay. Partners include: NRCS, Ducks Unlimited, USFWS, San Antonio Bay Partnership, International Crane Foundation, Texas Audubon, and many others with this regional interest.

### Other ways to support our mission:



**EarthShare**  
TEXAS

Perhaps the coolest way to support natural resources across Texas is to support [EarthShare](#). They raise and distribute unrestricted funds for dozens of conservation organizations in Texas. Visit [earthshare-texas.org](http://earthshare-texas.org) to contribute.



Shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) is a simple and automatic way for you to support GBRT every time you shop. By choosing GBRT as your charity of choice, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price at no cost to you.

### Look for GBRT on



Facebook

@GuadalupeBlancoRiverTrust



Instagram

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### DID YOU KNOW?

The Guadalupe River drainage basin is 6,061 square miles in size. That is an area larger than Connecticut.



Crayfish from Plum Creek, Texas



Lobster from Atlantic Ocean, Connecticut