

# Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust - 2022 Update



Conservation easement in Hays County, Texas



Prescribed burn at the Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve



The San Antonio Bay



January 11, 2023



Dear friend,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a great year and 2023 is starting off safe and healthy. The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust (GBRT) is proud of our accomplishments in 2022 to conserve one of the most biologically diverse river systems in the United States--stretching from the springs and canyons of the Texas Hill Country to the bays, marshes, and estuaries of the Gulf mid-coast wetlands at the San Antonio Bay. I am very excited about this opportunity to provide an update on some of the projects we are most proud of.



Many of our current projects are at the Texas Mid-Coast. GBRT, partners, volunteers, and contractors have regularly been getting our boots wet in the lower basin. We are in our second year of a Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership project funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This project is permanently conserving and enhancing at least 1,500 acres of coastal wetland habitat within the Texas Mid-Coast. Alongside Ducks Unlimited and Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, we have now scored two rounds of landowner applications and obligated funds for these projects.



We are continuing our annual efforts with the San Antonio Bay Partnership's (SABP) Removing Abandoned Traps program, reducing ghost-fishing, boat damage, and visual disturbance. Last year GBRT helped by providing 8 boat days of volunteer services, removing 142 traps and several hundred buoys. Stay tuned in January for GBRT and SABP to be featured on Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's PBS and YouTube channels.



We have also increased management efforts at our Hog and Schwing Bayou Preserve in Tivoli, TX. Thanks to grants from the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust, OneTreePlanted, and GBRA, the preserve will be getting a makeover. We will be restoring coastal wetlands, improving hydrology, clearing invasive species, and upgrading access and trails. The management focus for this 817-acre rugged, dense bayou is to benefit shorebird and waterfowl habitats.

There are many other projects GBRT is excited about in other reaches of our watershed. We are kicking off a grant program covering costs to landowners willing to donate perpetual conservation on their property. We look forward to our landowner grants increasing the number of open spaces we can help conserve, adding to our current total of over 14,000 acres. We will be accepting applications soon for a work-study/fellow program for area students in the environmental or related fields to assist with research and education projects in the watershed. We have also been working on several conservation easement projects at various stages of progress. This work includes current projects in Caldwell, Calhoun, Comal, DeWitt, Guadalupe, Hays, Victoria, and Wilson counties.



Our most exciting project is at the Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve (PCWP). We will be creating a nature center and community recreation facility on our 265-acre preserve in Lockhart, TX. We recently completed a master development plan, which includes plans for a nature center, restrooms, hiking trails, boardwalks, a picnic and playground area, and an outdoor classroom. I have included a flier with this letter to give you a brief introduction to our plan. Please keep an eye out and stay in touch as we implement the plan.

We have several projects already working at PCWP. A few Texas State University Biology classes enjoyed field study lessons on-site and we are eager to host more class trips this year. Our Plum Creek Re-Leaf events have continued with support from the Caterpillar Foundation and GBRA. Through this effort, we are planting approximately 45 acres of Texas native Blackland Prairie and 10 acres of native Texas forest in the front portion of the preserve. So far, we have planted 5 acres of trees and have begun the site preparation for the prairie planting. Our first prescribed burn was a big success. This restoration effort will include many future volunteer plantings. In



addition, we have partnered with TreeFolks who will be reforesting over 30 acres at PCWP through their Central Texas Floodplain Reforestation Program in January. As projects progress, GBRT looks forward to including you and our entire community in the enjoyable and educational events at Plum Creek.



I am so thankful that I have the opportunity to share these exciting projects with you. I am proud that I get to conduct this great work on a daily basis and enjoy talking about our projects. If you wish to hear more about it, please reach out to learn how friends and partners can assist in our effort to permanently preserve open landscapes, conserve important fish and wildlife habitats, restore or enhance natural systems, educate and engage the public with nature, and sustain working farms and ranches in this rapidly changing region.

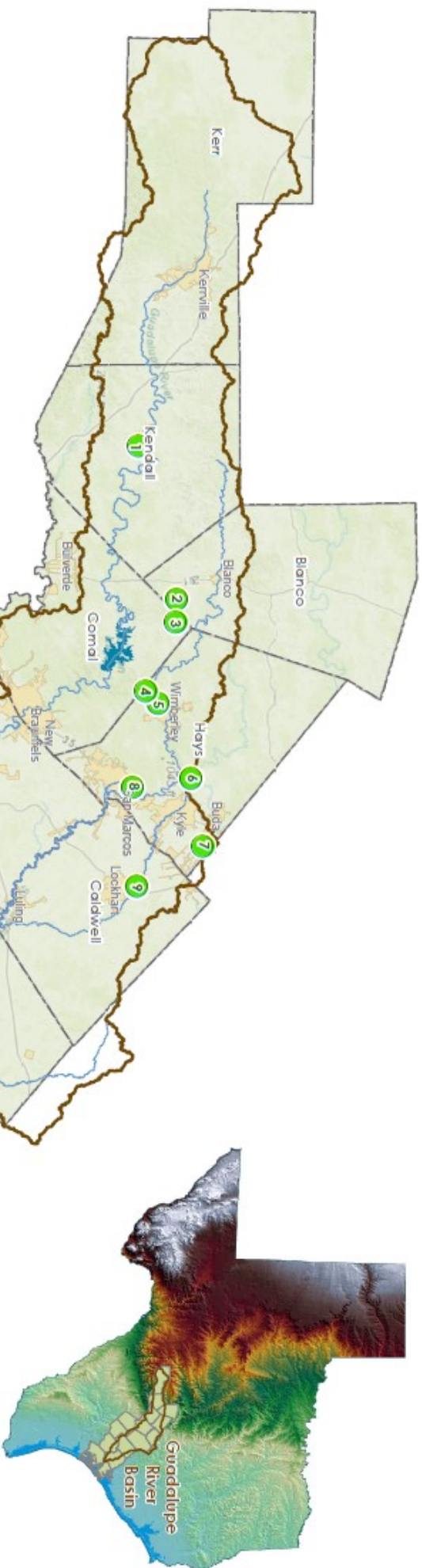
I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year. May 2023 be fruitful to you and yours.

Sincerely,

Tyler Sanderson  
Executive Director  
830.305.6873  
tyler@gbrtx.org



GBRT staff Stephen Risinger and Tyler Sanderson thank YOU for supporting our work!



**Support Our Mission!**



Scan QR code to donate

**14,000 acres conserved and counting**

**GUADALUPE-BLANCO  
RIVER TRUST**  
**Conservation Easement  
& Fee Simple Properties**

