

Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust
2017 Year in Review



2017 Annual Report

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Carrie Kasnicka, Executive Director

Danielle Wilson, Administrative Assistant

Our Mission Statement

The Mission of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust is to preserve the unique natural heritage of the Guadalupe watershed for future generations by protecting open landscapes, working farms and ranches, and wildlife habitat through conservation easements, education, and outreach that connects people to the water and the land.

From the President's Desk

J **Jack C. Jones**
GBRT Board President

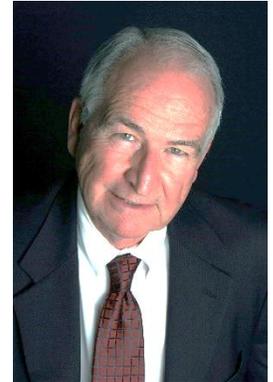
We have a watchword: Conservation Matters. It's great to be able to say that during the past year, the Trust continued to fulfill its responsibilities to help conserve and protect natural lands, ranches and habitat within the watershed through the conservation easements we hold in trust.

In cooperation with landowners, government agencies, environmental organizations, financial supporters, industry associations and other entities, our Executive Director, Carrie Kasnicka, together with others of our staff, has worked to maintain a high level of communication with all the current stakeholders and prospective new partners who are considering placing conservation easements with the Trust. Those efforts have added to the Trust's legacy of providing education to the public and protecting working farms and ranches, open spaces and wildlife habitat.

The Board of Trustees is made up of interested people including representatives from the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Ducks Unlimited, Upper Guadalupe River Authority, and others who believe that conservation really does matter.

In these pages you will find it interesting to read about the Trust's involvement in projects such as Dreamcatcher Ranch and the Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve.

We are grateful to the many who encourage and support us, certainly including the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority. The Trust owes its start to the GBRA Board members and staff who had the vision eighteen years ago to see the possibilities we have helped turn into reality over the years.



Director's Cut

C **Carrie Kasnicka**

GBRT Executive Director



It has been a rewarding year as we continue to move the needle when it comes to conserving the Guadalupe River Basin. One of the most rewarding aspects has been the flourishing partnerships that made conservation successes possible.

Dreamcatcher Ranch is an excellent example of the power of partnerships and collaboration. Landowners, federal and state agencies and environmental organizations all played roles in protecting a vital working ranch, and one who has significant impact with regards to water quality. Similarly, the Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve is a current project that brings together local citizens and representatives from municipalities, state agencies, and environmental organizations. We look forward to bringing you updates as we thoughtfully develop this property with wildlife habitat, water quality, research and outdoor recreation in mind. Our efforts span from Kerr County to the Gulf Coast. The support of landowners is crucial to our cause and we continue to value the coastal communities, as we work together to expand Whooping Crane habitat through conservation easements.

Good causes bring good people together. I am proud to be part of this organization and to be a member of this team of dedicated professionals. Thank you for the steadfast leadership and support of the GBRT Board of Trustees, the GBRA and all who contribute to these conservation success stories. I look forward to working together this upcoming year, and continuing to allocate our resources protecting the greatest resource of all: our great State of Texas.

2017 Accomplishments

Dreamcatcher Ranch is a 211-acre working cattle ranch in Hays County that the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust recently acquired as a conservation easement, bringing the GBR Trust closer to 15,000 acres of protected wildlife habitat, open landscapes and working ranches in the State of Texas.

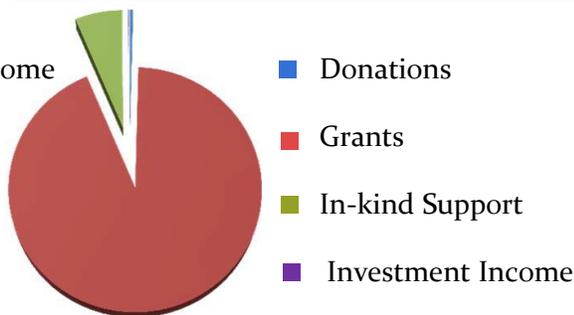


“The GBR Trust is proud to complete its 18th transaction,” Carrie Kasnicka, GBR Trust executive director, said. Located within the Balcones Escarpment, Dreamcatcher Ranch is the first property above the San Marcos Springs that is now protected from development by flood plains and flood ways. It is the sole buffer and offers inflow to the critically sensitive Sink Lake and the San Marcos Springs. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has designated San Marcos Springs and San Marcos River as critical habitat for eight endangered aquatic species.

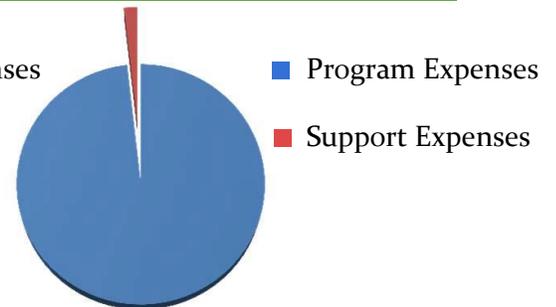
Water flow through the ranch affects all threatened and endangered species in Spring Lake, the springs and the San Marcos River including Texas Wild Rice, the Blind and San Marcos Salamanders and numerous fish and insects. Texas leads the nation in conversion of agricultural lands and Hays County is facing significant development pressure. The perpetual protection of the Dreamcatcher Ranch will allow it to remain a working cattle ranch utilizing best agricultural management practices and provide a protected source of clean fresh water and vital wildlife habitat for numerous invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, birds and small mammals.

2017 Budget

FY 2017 Income



FY 2017 Expenses



Income for FY 2017 (Unaudited)

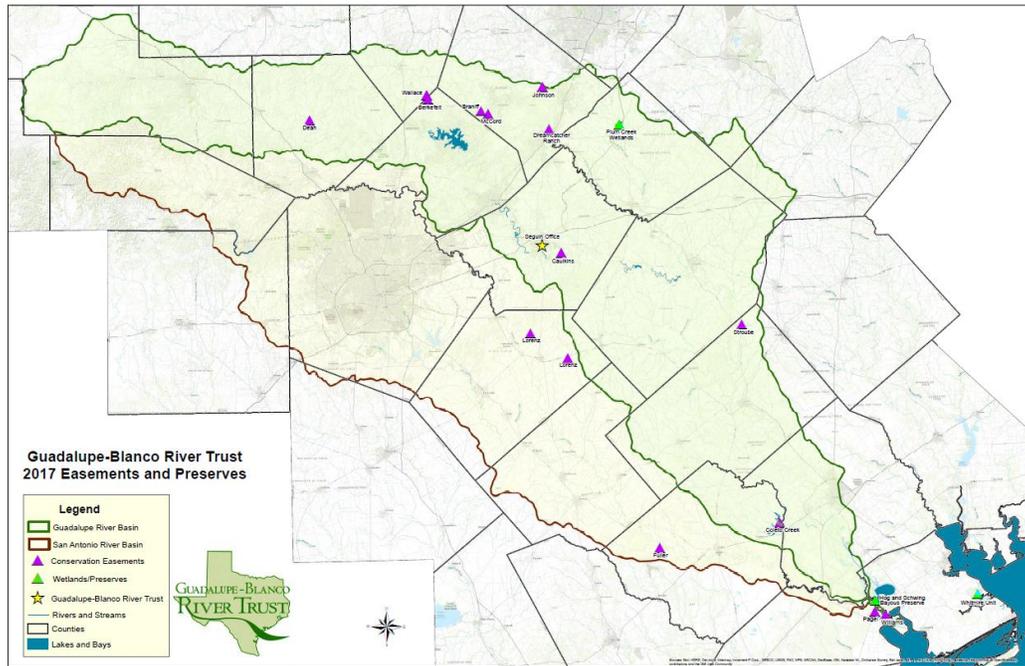
Donations	\$ 14,767
Grants	\$ 3,232,424
In-Kind Support	\$ 215,605
Investment Income	\$ 3,928
Total Support	<u>\$ 3,466,724</u>

Expenses for FY 2017 (Unaudited)

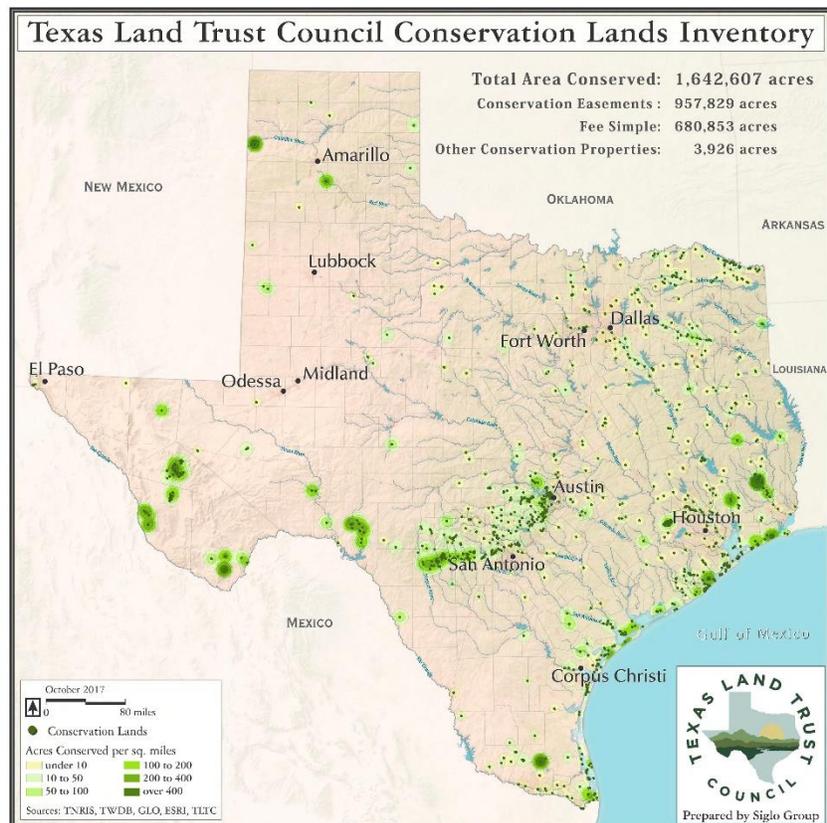
Program Expenses	\$ 3,235,178
Support Expenses	\$ 58,496
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 3,293,674</u>

Increase in Net Assets (Unaudited)	\$ 173,050
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Our Conservation Easements



Statewide Conservation Efforts



Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust (GBRT) is an organization that protects land and water in the Guadalupe River Basin. This area is facing great interest and unparalleled development pressure. With so much development taking place, it's imperative to preserve places where one can experience the natural beauty of the great outdoors and learn in a natural environment. This is where the Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve can help.

In 2014, GBRT was given the opportunity to acquire a unique wetland mitigation bank through the donation of fee simple title from the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT). With the construction of State Highway 130, TXDOT was required to mitigate for the impact to wetlands along the entire highway corridor due to the construction. The site chosen for this mitigation was a 265-acre tract located along Plum Creek, just north of Lockhart. The property is located west of the southbound lanes of State Highway 183 and the entire site is located within the 100-year floodplain of Plum Creek. GBRT named this site the Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve (PCWP).

The purpose and mission of the Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve is to conserve water quality with responsible management of wetlands, to protect wildlife habitat and to promote an appreciation of the natural world through meaningful educational, recreational, and research opportunities. We fully expect the PCWP to be an asset to the school districts, local clubs, and the general public. Our plans are to use this property to advance the mission of the PCWP by providing a space that can be utilized as an outdoor classroom, recreation site, and natural habitat for all to enjoy. Our hope is to have a fully staffed education center where all can come and learn about nature and the value of preserving and conserving land. Trails will be used for walking, hiking, birding, and other low-impact activities. Stay tuned for future updates.

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust (GBRT) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit land trust organization that was developed to conserve land in the Guadalupe River Watershed for its natural, recreational, scenic, historic and productive value. It was founded in 2001 by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, a conservation and reclamation district created in 1933 by the Texas Legislature. The voluntary board of directors consists of citizens who share a love of the Guadalupe River – one of the most pristine rivers in Texas.

View from the Basin



Caldwell County



Calhoun County



Kendall County



Hays County



Carrie Kasnicka & Intern Bethany Hamson



Aransas National Wildlife

Contact Us

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