

**GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER TRUST
2018 YEAR IN REVIEW**



**PLUM CREEK WETLANDS PRESERVE
CALDWELL COUNTY**



2018 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

In this annual report, you'll find interesting reading about the Trust's continued progress in helping to permanently ensure the conservation and protection of more and more of the lands, ranches and habitat along the Guadalupe River watershed.

We owe thanks and gratitude to so many people and organizations with a similar view. Among those are the Board, General Manager and staff of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority. We are indebted to them for their encouragement, financial contribution and administrative and accounting support. Thanks to them and all others who have generously contributed time and money.

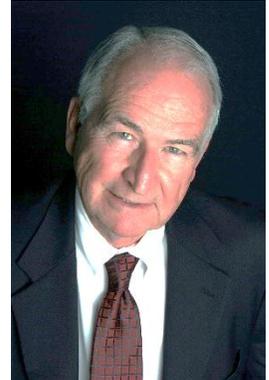
The GBRT Board of Trustees includes representatives appointed by the GBRA Board as well as representatives of the Upper Guadalupe River Authority, Ducks Unlimited, and others from the watershed community who share the passion, vision and commitment to our environment. Impressive people! The trustees serve on a volunteer basis, and all support the Trust financially and in many other ways. Thanks for all they do.

Special consideration and thanks go to Carrie Kasnicka, Executive Director of the Trust. Her day-in and day-out efforts on behalf of GBRT and in the guidance of the Board of Trustees have continued to move us forward. Thanks, Carrie. We're lucky to have the benefit of your professionalism, competence and hard work.

On a personal note, I'll leave the Trust Board in January of 2019. It has been my sincere pleasure and honor to have been a Trustee since 2009 and to have the privilege of serving as Board President since 2013. Thanks to all of our team members for their like-mindedness, competence, commitment and abundance of optimism and good will!

Sincerely,

Jack



Thank you for your decade of service, Jack!

2018 Year in Review

Preserving Habitat for the Whoopers

On Monday, August 20, 2018, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust completed an easement on 73.70 acres of land with the Pagel family. Located off of TX-35 in Refugio County, this property has supported a variety of wildlife and recreation since 1907. The placement of this ranch in a conservation easement, which buffers Townsend Bend, will result in an improvement in the quality of water, resiliency with storm events, and protect habitat available for wildlife, including the Whooping crane, Aplomado falcon, and Attwater's prairie chicken. Due to its high quality habitat, this property qualified for funding through the US Fish and Wildlife Service.



"We are proud to have our wetlands included in the GBRT mission to protect and preserve the Guadalupe River Basin. We are most appreciative for the opportunity to protect our ranch land as a conservation easement and Whooping Crane habitat in perpetuity".
– Jack Darden, Jr.

TPWD Grant Awarded to Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department awarded \$200,000 in Recreational Trails Grant funding to the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust. Funding will support the development and construction of the Plum Creek Wetland Preserve Community Trail. The highlight of the project will be a one-mile multiuse trail, in addition to a welcome sign, information kiosk, trail distance markers, benches, trash receptacles and pet waste stations. The purpose of the conservation easement is to protect natural aspects of the wetland; ensure responsible recreational and educational activities; and maintain or enhance air and water quality. Thank you to Tim Dusek, GBRA Grants Administrator, for the submittal.

Grant for Crab Trap Removal

Through the Coastal CODE program (Clean Oceans Depend on Everyone), the Alaskan Brewing Company awarded \$7600 to the GBRT to support the abandoned crab trap removal program in San Antonio Bay. The Texas Legislature granted authority to Texas Parks and Wildlife to create a ten-day time period annually when organizations remove abandoned crab traps; which catch a variety of species and pose a hazard to wildlife. The 2019 event will occur Feb 15-Feb 24. Funding will support aerial reconnaissance, boat fuel, and meals and tee shirts for volunteers. Since 2002, volunteers have removed 32,705 abandoned crab traps from Texas waters.



Strategic Planning

When one is in the business of perpetuity, planning is essential. The GBRT received a grant award from the Land Trust Alliance for strategic planning. Tara Kirkland, of Mission Capital, led sessions with an emphasis on mission, land criteria & project selection and funding. Trustees and stakeholders will continue the process in 2019 with generous support of the Land Trust Alliance.



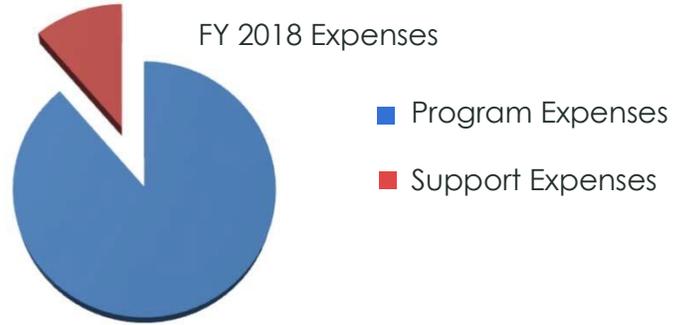
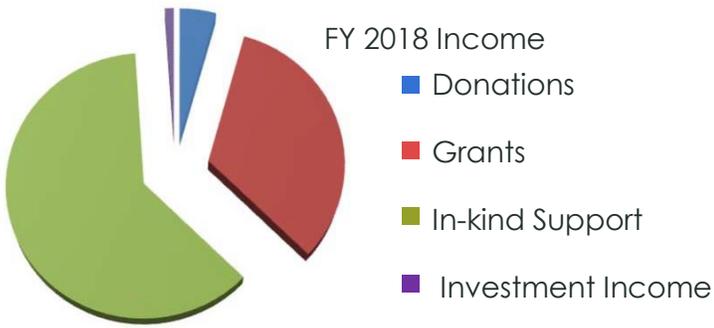
Conserving the Future of Texas Danielle Wilson

In Texas, more than 95 percent of the land is privately owned and has a conversion rate of agricultural lands to development that ranks the highest in the United States. In recent years, accommodating a migrating population and growing interest in our great state has seen our open spaces dwindling. So what can we do? One of the answers is to conserve what we have. Each year, organizations such as the GBRT work with landowners to increase the footprint of land that is protected. We do this by creating conservation easements and educating the public.

The idea of conserving land is important for more than just a "Keep Texas Beautiful" campaign. Conserving land helps to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of our water by keeping pollutants and impoundments far away from riparian areas. It allows for ecosystems to thrive by promoting the health of our wildlife habitat. As for the human aspect, conserving land helps create outdoor classrooms where children can learn about the importance of their environment and why it's important to protect it. Studies have shown that children who have the opportunity to learn outdoors tend to do better on science exams and retain their appreciation for the outdoors well into adulthood. Public parks and recreational areas are a public benefit. With conservation efforts, more of these special places are available for the public to engage in meaningful experiences with nature.

As a land trust, it is our mission to make sure that we are educating the current generation and the decision makers in Congress. Our hope is that in the coming years, conservation will be on the forefront of environmental talks and that funding sources and willing participants will allow us to do the work that we strive to complete in order to conserve the future of Texas.

2018 Budget



Income for FY 2018 (Unaudited)

Donations	\$	18,420
Grants	\$	138,737
In-Kind Support	\$	259,873
Investment Income	\$	4,531
Total Support	\$	421,560

Note: Reimbursement of \$126,896 not reflected here.

Expenses for FY 2018 (Unaudited)

Program Expenses	\$	380,990
Support Expenses	\$	48,486
Total Expenses	\$	429,476

Decrease in Net Assets (Unaudited)	\$	(7,916)
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Thank you to our partners and supporters:



Future Leaders: Internship Program

Since 2007, the Diocese of West Texas, Sewanee: University of the South and Guadalupe Blanco River Authority have partnered to host a competitive, paid internship for undergraduate students. Each summer a cohort of interns spend time learning aspects of water conservation and gaining real world experience in aspects of policy, management, water quality and community education. Students travel throughout the Guadalupe River Basin and experience some of the most stunning topography Texas offers.

- ✓ Assist with annual site visits on conservation easements
- ✓ Participate in community river clean-up events
- ✓ Data collection of endangered species in the basin
- ✓ Collecting water samples for water quality testing
- ✓ Attending legislative policy meetings
- ✓ Contribute to data entry and record keeping
- ✓ Educate elementary students alongside GBRA's dedicated Education staff



This year we were honored to host Robert Spencer and Sara Thompson, both Natural Resource majors.



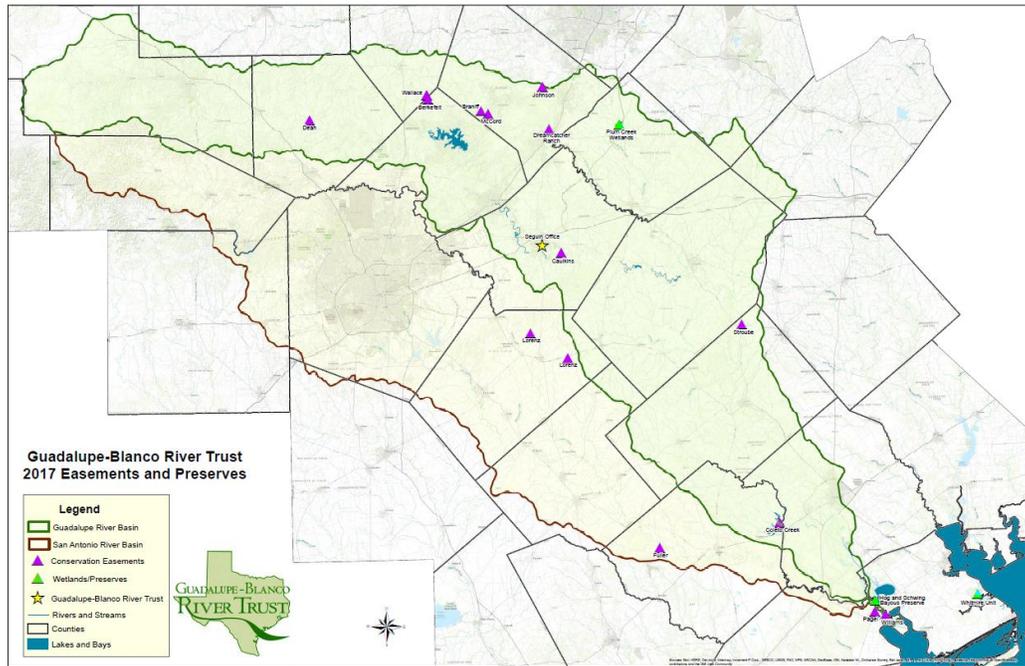
“The time we spent with the water quality sampling team proved to be a fantastic learning experience and allowed me to practice what I’ve learned through my courses.” – Robert “Nash” Spencer



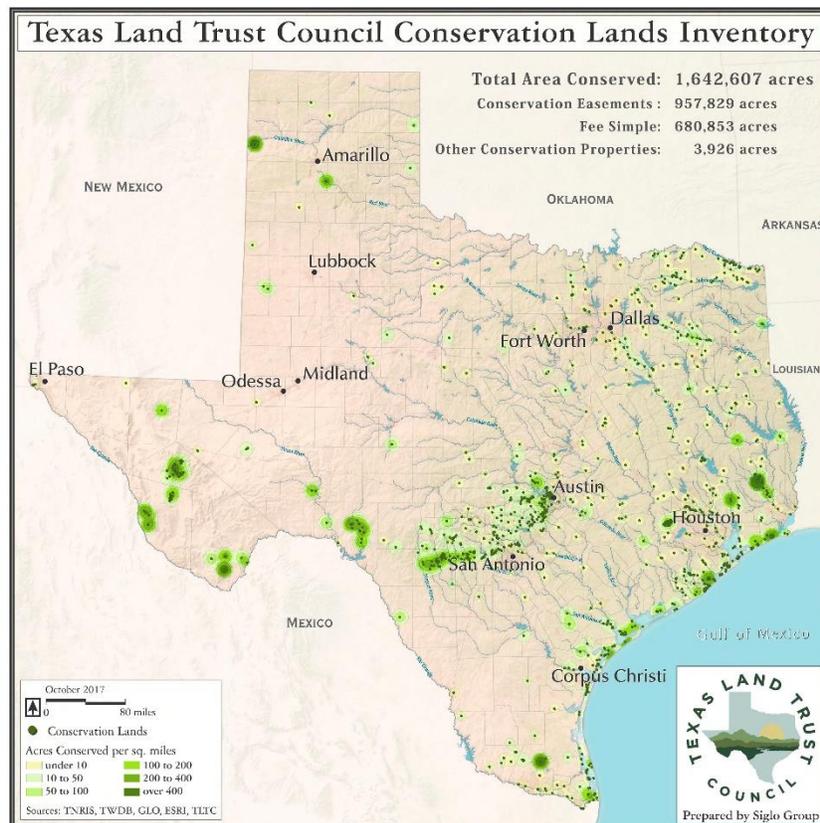
“I enjoyed every aspect of this internship and cannot emphasize how grateful I am for this experience. Combining field experience, stakeholder engagement and my studies was invaluable.”

– Sara Thompson

Our Conservation Easements



Statewide Conservation Efforts



Views from the Basin

These are the wonderful views we were able to enjoy as we completed our annual site visits!



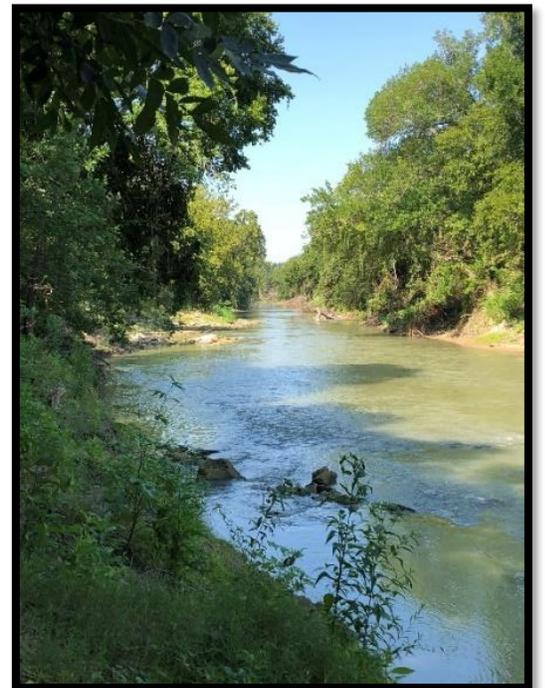
Caldwell County
Plum Creek Watershed



Hays County
Blanco River



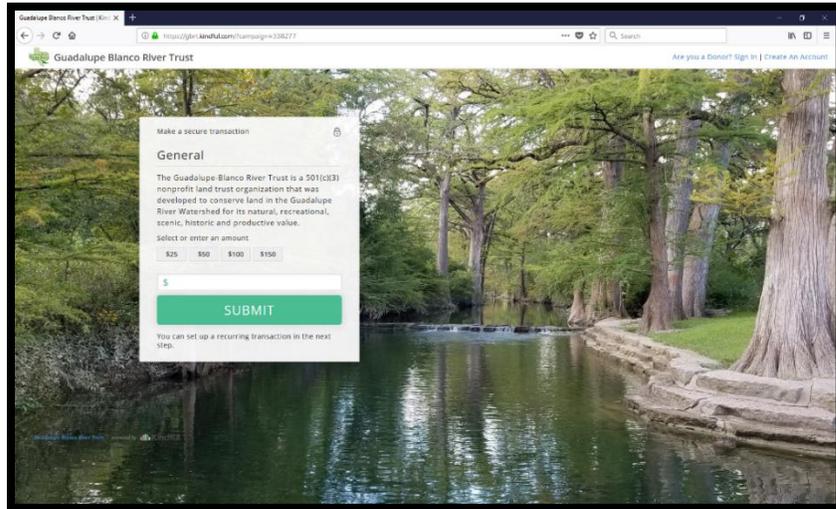
Guadalupe County
Pastureland & Native Growth Forest



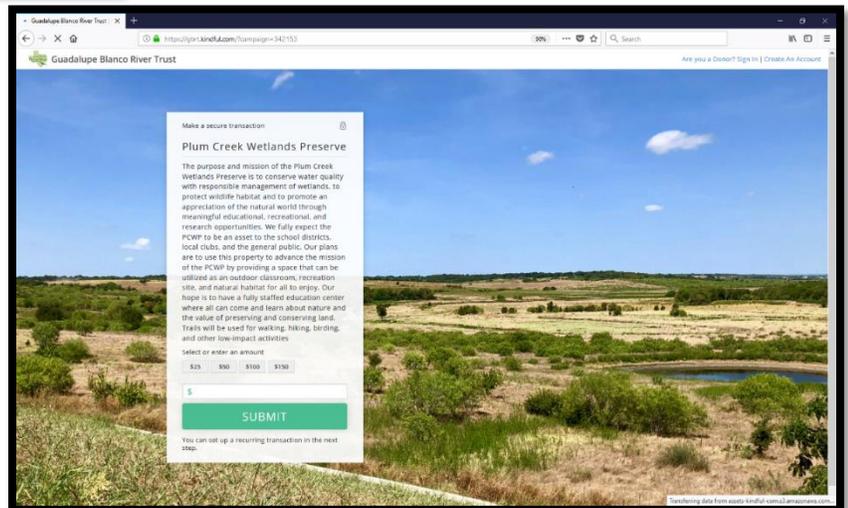
Kendall County
Guadalupe River



Like What We Are Doing? Support the GBRT Through Kindful



Go to www.gbrtrust.com and select donate



Coming Soon

- Feb. 15, 2019 – Comal County Conservation Workshop
- Feb. 15 – Feb. 24, 2019 – Crab Trap Removal
- Feb. 27, 2019 – Advocacy Day at the Capitol
- Feb. 28 – Mar. 1, 2019 - TLTC State Conference



Contact Us

Address: 933 E. Court St., Seguin, TX 78155
Phone: 830-379-5822
Website: www.gbrtrust.org



@GBRTrust



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