



# GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER TRUST

## 2019 Annual Report

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### OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

#### Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust

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## 2019 GBRT Board of Trustees

**W.A. "Bill" Blackwell**  
President

**Todd Merendino**  
Vice President

**Denis R. Mueller**  
Treasurer

**Oscar Fogle**  
Trustee

**Wilfred Korth**  
Trustee

**Ronnie Luster**  
Trustee

**Tommy Mathews**  
Trustee

**Diane McMahon**  
Trustee

**John P. Schneider**  
Trustee

**Dr. Stephen Wilson**  
Trustee

### STAFF:

**Tyler Sanderson**  
Executive Director

**Lisa Adams**  
Development Director

**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.

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The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit land trust organization that was developed to conserve land in the Guadalupe River Watershed. The Guadalupe River is one of the most biologically diverse rivers in the United States.

*2019 was a good year for the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust. That's a testament to the commitment and support from our partner agencies, our financial supporters, our volunteers, and our staff.*



## **A Word from Our Trust Board Chairman Bill Blackwell**

As we say goodbye to 2019 and celebrate a year of completion of dedicated work, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust, the Board of Trustees, and our staff remain dedicated to focusing on our mission. Our mission will continue to be finding new and innovative ways to protect the natural resources, water and land within the Guadalupe River Watershed.

In 2019, the Trust had many successful accomplishments. We were able to close on the Cooke Creek Mitigation Conservation Easement in Hays County. We were able to hire two new GBRT staff members. The Trust will also continue to set goals to “*Keep Texas Beautiful.*”

One exciting accomplishment is the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (GBRA) and the Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA). Working together with these agencies who align with our mission helps to advance our agenda and advocate for our stakeholders and their property.

Special recognition to our long-time friend, Jack Jones for his many years of commitment on the Board and his leadership as past Chairman. Thank you, Jack! We would also like to thank Wayne Musgrove for his years of service on the Trust Board, representing the Upper Guadalupe River Authority. In April, our Executive Director, Carrie Kasnicka, accepted a new position and moved to Colorado. We were sad to see her go and wish her and her family all the best in the future.

The Trust Board spent the better part of 2019 laying out a new organizational plan to hire an executive director and search for new board members. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Steve Wilson, Ronnie Luster and Diane McMahan to our Board of Trustees. Steve is no stranger to a number of us as he was a former Board Member and Chairman of GBRA. Ronnie brings years of experience on the Texas Gulf Coast and is a current CCA Director. Diane is representing UGRA on the Trust Board. We are also happy to announce Tyler Sanderson as our new Executive Director and Lisa Adams as our new Development Director. The purpose of hiring a development director is to lead our fundraising goals and to give our supporters a primary point of contact. Both Tyler and Lisa bring a number of years' experience in non-profit management that the Trust Board feels will lead us to a bright new future.

To all our advocates, partners, grantees, and friends, thank you again for your support and commitment to the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust. We look forward to 2020!

Sincerely,  
Bill Blackwell, Trust Board Chairman

*“The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust has had many accomplishments in 2019. Here are a few successful stories that we are excited to share with you. None of this could be possible without the support and help from our friends, our partners, and our loyal volunteers! Thank you!” - Tyler Sanderson, GBRT Executive Director*

## PLUM CREEK WETLANDS PRESERVE MOVING FORWARD

The purpose and mission of the PCWP 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. GBRT continues to work with the Texas Parks and Wildlife, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, and other supporting agencies to make PCWP 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, recreational 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. Your contribution to support the PCWP is appreciated!



## ABANDONED CRAB TRAP REMOVAL PROGRAM

The Texas Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program was created in 2001 giving the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) authority to create a community-based program to systematically remove abandoned, lost, or derelict crab traps during a 10-day crabbing season closure. It was an honor to work with the San Antonio Bay Partnership and other organizations supporting the 2019 Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program. A total of 838 traps were removed. The GBRT will continue this partnership by volunteering in 2020.



## 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and the Upper Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority signs an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with GBRT.
- GBRT is proud to announce the addition of two new Trustee members
- GBRT closes on the Cooke Creek Mitigation Conservation Easement in Hays County
- The Board of Trustees hire a new executive director and development director. Their Bios are available at [www.GBRTX.org](http://www.GBRTX.org).
- GBRT partners with Texas State University's Applied Sociology Department's Internship program to begin in 2020.





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## A Word from Our Executive Director

### Tyler Sanderson

2019 was a divergent year for the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust (GBRT). It was a year of major transition and one I was happy to be a part of. Our previous executive director, Carrie Kasnicka, accepted a new position as the South West Program Manager for the Trust for Public Lands in Colorado. Carrie began working with GBRT as a grant writer and eventually took over as the director. Her tenure with GBRT was a fruitful one. She was able to complete three conservation easement transactions, develop many partnerships and relationships, and continue our mission of outreach. I have known Carrie since 2016, when I was a part of the land conservation cohort, learning alongside her as the conservation manager at Green Spaces Alliance. Her enthusiasm and energy was the first thing I noticed. Carrie's hard work and love for GBRT's mission was even more evident when I took the reins in October, trying to fill her shoes ever since. Carrie left behind many great projects and has been guiding me through some of those from afar. While it was sad to see Carrie go, it afforded me the opportunity to begin my own endeavors as the new executive director. GBRT wants to thank Carrie for all of her dedication and support.

The GBRT Board of Trustees hired an executive director, and decided to hire a second full-time staff member for the first time in GBRT's history. Lisa Adams began working as the development director in October alongside myself. We have been working diligently to continue moving the needle when it comes to conserving the Guadalupe River Basin. We look forward to continuing the great mission to preserve one of the most diverse river watersheds in the United States. Staff anticipate 2020 will be a strong year for the Trust as we navigate the rapids of conserving the watershed from Kerrville to the Texas coast. Our biggest goal for 2020 is to complete the application for becoming an Accredited land trust. We are thankful for the dedication, leadership and support of our Board of Trustees and partner organizations, including the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

Best, Tyler Sanderson

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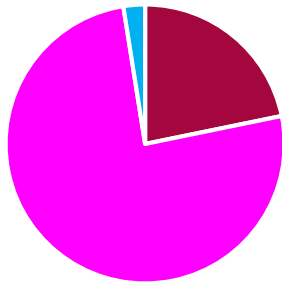


Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve (Pictures courtesy of Carlos Fiol)



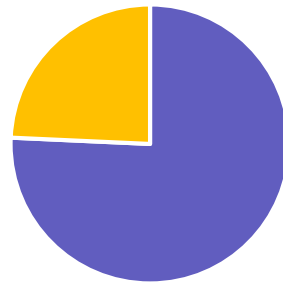
## 2019 GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER TRUST BUDGET

### FY 2019 INCOME



■ Donations ■ Grants ■ Investment Income

### FY 2019 EXPENSES



■ Program Expenses ■ Support Expenses



### INCOME FOR FY 2019

■ Donations	\$ 69,306
■ Grants	\$240,911
■ Investment Income	\$ 7,961
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT:</b>	<b>\$318,178</b>

### EXPENSES FOR FY 2019

■ Program Services	\$223,110
■ Support (General) Expenses	\$ 71,535
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$294,645</b>

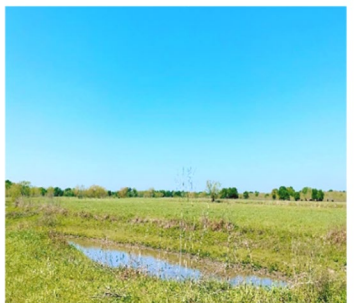




**Thank you to all the volunteers, partners and organizations who support the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust and our mission.**

ALASKAN BREWING COMPANY | CITGO | EARTHSHARE | EXXON MOBIL | GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY | GULF COAST PARTNERSHIP FOR CONSERVATION | H-E-B | HILL COUNTRY ALLIANCE | INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION | LAND TRUST ALLIANCE | LOCAL COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS | MEADOWS FOUNDATION | MID-COAST CHAPTER TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST | PLUM CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP | RANCH CONNECTION, LLC | RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES | RIVERBANK CONSERVATION, LLC | SAN ANTONIO BAY PARTNERSHIP | TEXAS LAND TRUST COUNCIL | TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE | TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY | U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE | UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY

Thank you to anyone we missed mentioning. Your support means a lot and we appreciate all of you!



Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve (Pictures courtesy of Carlos Fiol)



**PLEASE DONATE TO THE GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER TRUST BY VISITING [WWW.GBRTX.ORG](http://WWW.GBRTX.ORG) OR CALL OUR OFFICE AT 830-560-3981.**



### **DONATING TO THE GUADALUPE BLANCO RIVER TRUST**

- **GENERAL FUNDS** - The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust 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.
- **SMILE AMAZON** - Amazon is one of the most popular on-line retailers in the world. The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust is pleased to be a recognized charity at Amazon Smile., who will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the Trust.
- **PLANNED GIVING** - One of the simplest ways to make an important gift to preserve and protect nature is through your will. You can name GBRT as the direct beneficiary of specific assets, a portion or percentage of your estate, or of your residual estate after payment of other bequests. Charitable giving through your estate can offer both flexibility and estate tax advantages. Two of the most popular forms of bequests are a fixed amount of money or a designated property and a percentage of the estate.
- **PLUM CREEK WETLANDS PRESERVE** - 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.



If you have any questions about this 2019 GBRT Annual Report, please contact us at [info@gbrtx.org](mailto:info@gbrtx.org) or call 830-560-3981.