

The Guadalupe Blanco River Trust Carrie Kasnicka · Executive Director



Guadalupe Blanco River Trust

Background Conservation in the Basin PCWP Update Support





...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.

A nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve natural resources and open space

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1,100 land trusts exist
 nationally with approximately
 30 in Texas

- A *nonprofit organization* whose mission is to preserve natural resources and open space
- Land trusts work with willing landowners to protect property and natural resources
- 56 million acres across nationally protected by land trusts through 2018.
- 1.6 million acres conserved across Texas through 2018.



Preserve prime farm and ranch lands

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Protect wildlife habitat and threatened ecosystems

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- Create recreation opportunities
 through parks and trails
- Protect wildlife habitat and threatened ecosystems

Enhance the quality of life

Tools of Conservation

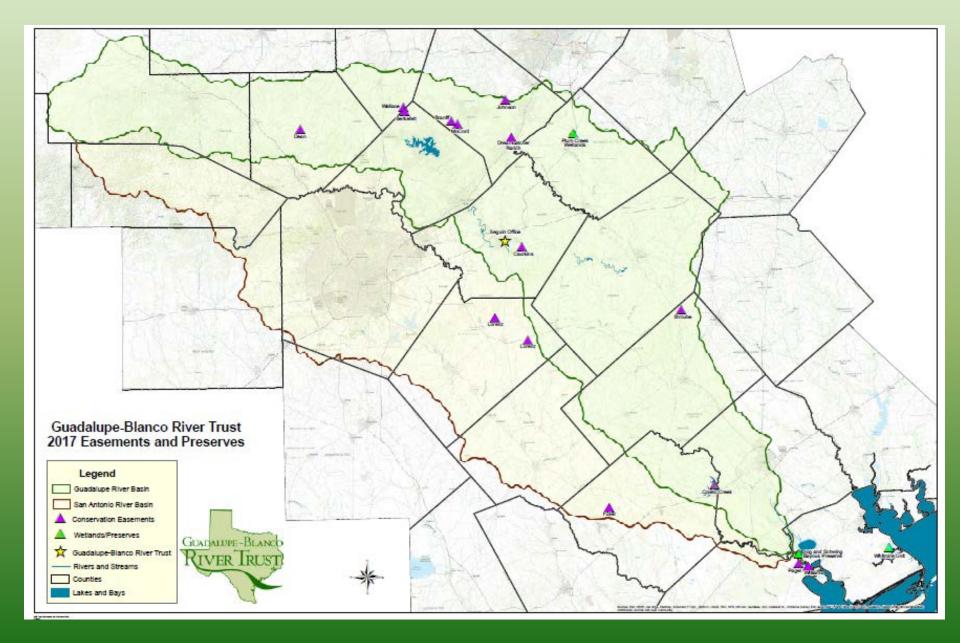
- 1. Conservation Easements ("Holder")
- 2. Fee Simple Properties
- 3. Educational workshops and community engagement











Conservation Easements

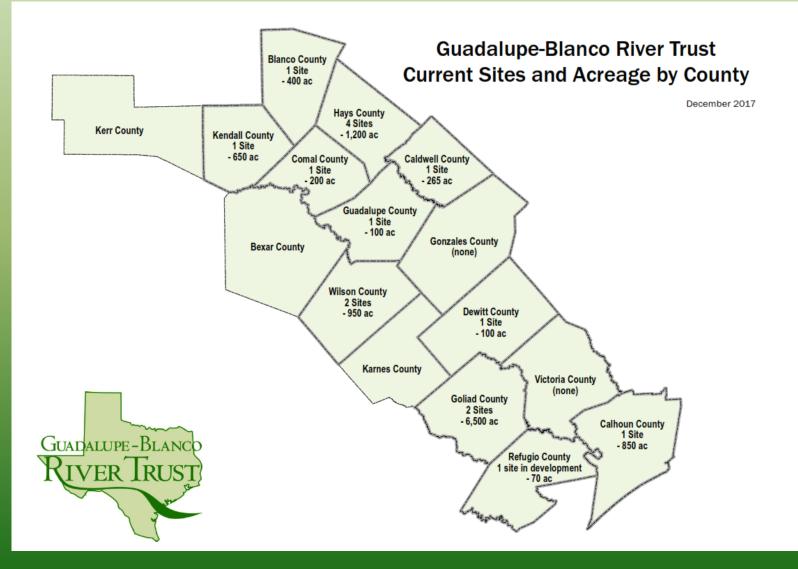
What it is

- Voluntary written agreement between a landowner and a qualifying organization
- Protects natural resources, open space or historic features
- Restricts activities that would diminish natural, productive and cultural purposes features.
- Result in tax benefits

What it is NOT

- Not a transfer of deed or ownership
- Does not require public land access
- Does not negate eminent domain
- transfer management responsibilities

Conservation: Impact in the Basin



Dreamcatcher Ranch Working Farm





Hays County 211 Acres Extreme development pressure Working cattle ranch Hydrologic value Hill Country topography & karst features



Pagel Property

Whooping Crane habitat

- Tivoli, TX
 - Refugio County
- 74 acres
- USFWS funding
- Townsend Bayou



2017 Outreach in the Basin

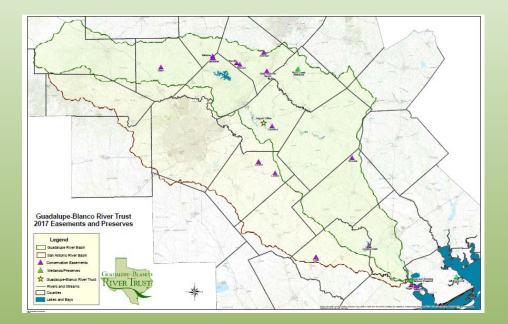
- New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce Economic Development
- SABAY Crab Trap Removal
- EarthShare Meeting
- Kerr County Conservation Easement Workshop
- Advocacy Day
- Texas Land Trust Council State Conference
- Coleto Creek Naturefest
- Luling Foundation Field Day
- **UGRA** Rotary Presentation
- **UGRA Board of Directors Presentation**
- Lockhart City Council Plum Creek Presentation
- GBRA Better Basin Day













Hill country river frontage



agricultural grasslands



restored wetland delta

Annual Site Visits

- **Review of the previous report**
- Checklist for current year
- Meeting logistics
- Photograph
- Landowner Survey
- Complete the report
- Send or obtain signatures

650 Photos

Archive report

River Tause Preservation MATTERS	
b. Farm use 1. Tilled crop area: acres: 2. Farming: acres: c. Recreational use: acres: 1. Are hunting activities conducted onsite? Yes No 2. Recreational (camping, hiking, viewing)? Yes No	
3. Educational? Yes No 4. Wildlife use: acres: e. Compatible commercial uses : acres: 1. Are rental of guest quarters conducted onsite? Yes No 2. Recreation (camping, hiking, wildlifk viewing)? Yes No 3. Educational? Yes No 9) If there is a hunter's camp present, is there a septic or portable toilets available for the camp? Yes No	East Elevation ● 30°0'9"N, 98"19'48"W ±16.4ft ▲ 1216ft
10) Have any changes been made to the use of the property since the last inspection? 10) Have any changes been made to the use of the property since the last inspection? Yes No If so, please describe. 11) Has the property been divided, subdivided or partitioned? Yes If so, please describe.	

1000+ Miles



16 Jun 2017, 09

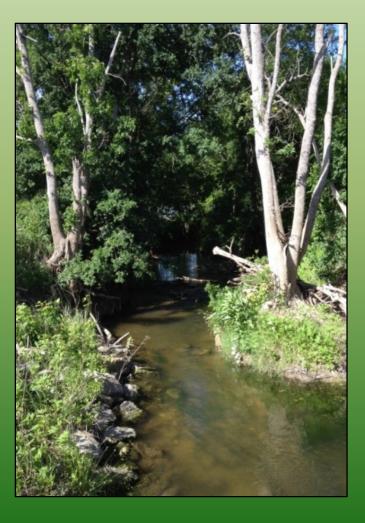
Number	Significance
1	Excursion to retrieve crab traps in SA Bay
12	Counties with GBRT activity
18	Easements/projects
211	Acres added of protected land
2	Fee Simple properties
6	Grant awards
3,568,339	Dollars awarded 2016-2017
3,106,589	Dollars utilized 2017
15,000	Acres protected by GBRT
1,600,000	Acres protected in Texas
30	Land trusts in Texas
95	Percent of privately held land in Texas
7	Inquiries received this year

Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve

Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve



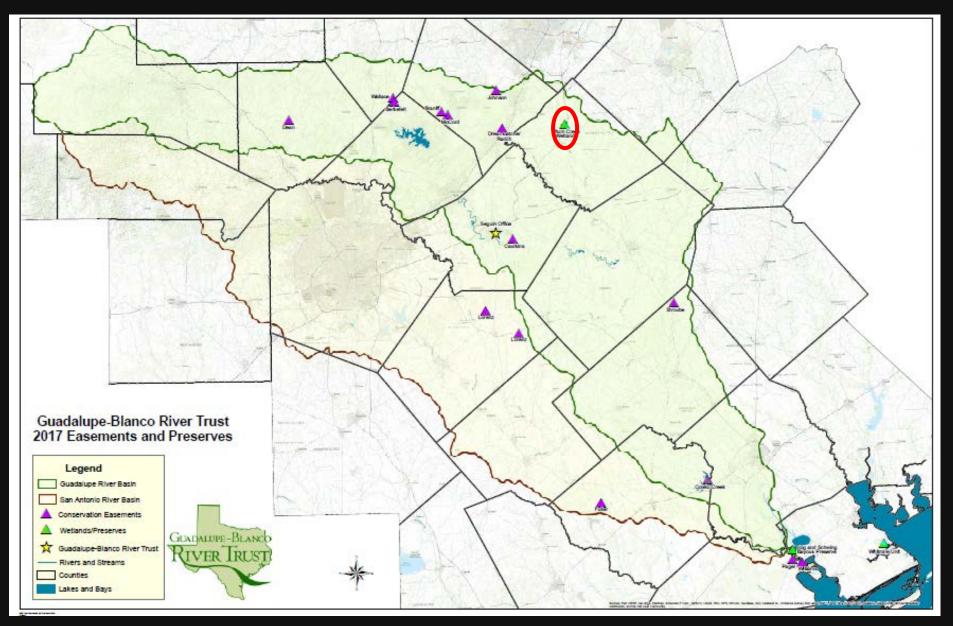










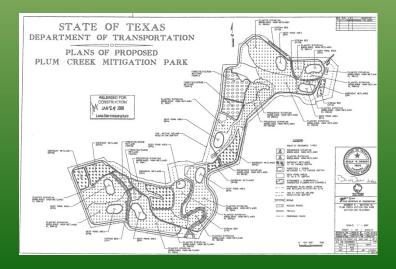


Protecting over 15,000 acres from the Hill Country to the San Antonio Bay



Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve Primary Management Goals

- 1. Protect, maintain and enhance the wetland, riparian and additional wildlife habitat on the property
- 2. Provide appropriate outdoor recreational opportunities while protecting the conservation values of the property
- **3.** Provide scientific and educational opportunities related to wetlands, wildlife and conservation



Progress

- TX Dot transfer (2014)
- Conservation Deed Recorded (2016)
- ANCA Visit (2016)
- Grant Submittals (2015 & 2017)
- PCWP Planning Meetings (2015, 2016, 2017)
 - Created committees
 - Identified committee members
 - Located "old" trails
 - Identified surrounding landowners
 - Applied for grants
 - Toured possible partners



Guadalupe – Blanco River Trust Plum Creek Wetland Preserve Lockhart, Texas

A Peer Consultation by the Association of Nature Center Administrators March 17-19, 2016

Final Report Submitted by:

- Haley Breniser, Executive Director, Grass River Natural Area, Bellaire, MI
- Dave Catlin, Principal, David Catlin Consulting, Springfield, MO
- John DeFillipo, Director, John Bunker Sands Wetland Center, Seagoville, Texas
- Ann Rilling, Marketing & Communications Director, Association of Nature Center Administrators, Cortez, CO



ANCA P.O. Box 464 Logan, UT 84323 (800) 490-ANCA 435-787-8209

ANCA Consult Process

- 1. Review of all documents
- 2. Staff input
- 3. Create a team
- 4. Site Visit (3 Days)
- 5. Stakeholder interviews
- 6. Final Report



Challenges

- Floodplain
 - Safety
 - Fence maintenance
 - Trail maintenance and repair
 - Access
 - Parking
- Programming
 - Communication via community calendar
 - Programming honoring easement
 - Multiple stakeholders
 - Staffing

Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve

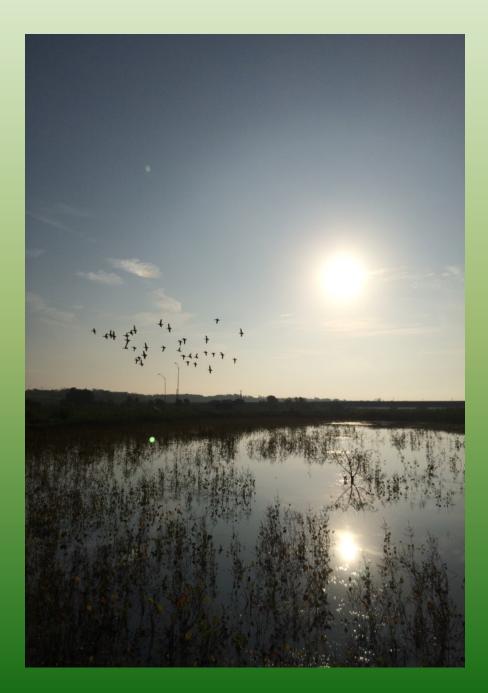
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Recommendations

- Identify and Prioritize key steps for public access
- Identify a key leader
- Create a Specific Project Mission and Vision Statement
- Secure an upland site for visitor or nature center out of the flood plain
- Evaluate Available Resources (partnerships, funds, staff, time)
- Develop a business plan
 - Executive summary
 - Management Plan
 - Financial Plan
 - Strategic Plan
 - Fundraising Plan
 - Programming Plan
 - Site Plan
 - Risk Analysis



Unique Opportunity

Beautiful Community involvement Significant site for waterfowl Education, education Nursery for wetland plants Natural setting Improve water quality Hunting Fishing Enhances the community Walking, hiking and birdwatching Great for Scouts Enjoyable and safe Purpose

A of a place where one can learn about wetlands, wildlife and water

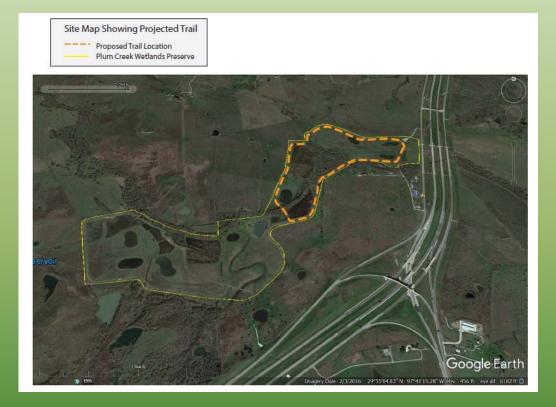
PCWP Planning Committee



The Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve Planning Committee: Robert Trudeau (TPWD), Kirby Brown (Ducks Unlimited), Todd Votteler (GBRA/GBRT), Oscar Fogle (GBRT), John Schneider, Jr. (GBRT), Bobby Eichler (TPWD), David Eichler (TPWD), Jon Geiseltbrecht (TX DOT), Carrie Kasnicka (GBRT), Mike Urrutia (PC Watershed Steering Committee), John DeFillipo (Bunker Sands Wetlands Center), Emily Dikemper Hansen (Austin Science Center), Rob Tobias (City of Lockhart), Johnie Haliburton (Plum Creek Conservation District), Tim Dusek (GBRA), Wilfred Korth (GBRT)

Wish List

Signage package entrance, trail markers, educ., rules Fencing Acquire land out of flood plain ATV Mowing/herbicide application Leave-behind-piece Logo **Website** Wildlife cameras Grazing contract Trail maintenance Bathroom maintenance Dock/water access Nesting Platforms



























Texas Department of Transportation

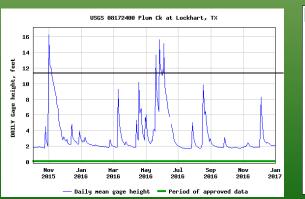


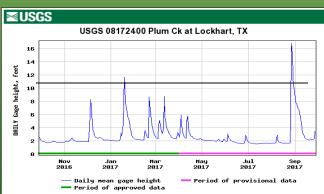
Drone Footage



Road Maintenance

- Map of neighbors
- Grazing lease contract
- Identifying stakeholders
- Mission statement
- Studying the flood events
- Identifying key parcels out of the flood plain



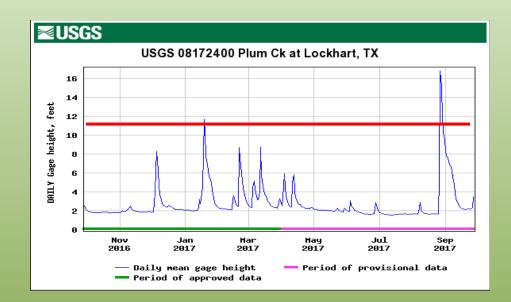


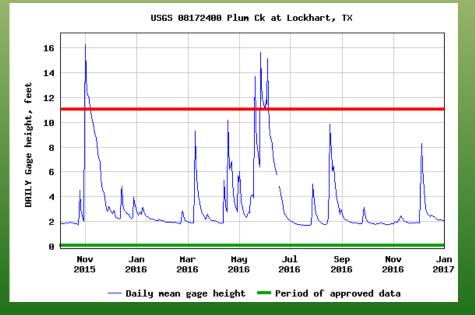
Flood Events

Flood Events

Hurricane Harvey 17.5 feet

Management Plan & Communication Plan





Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve



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