



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
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Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust Names the Dow Chemical Company as the First Guadalupe River Conservation Partner

For More Information

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The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust has named The Dow Chemical Company as the first recipient of the Guadalupe River Conservation Partner Award. A partnership with the Union Carbide Corporation, a fully-owned subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company, provided a great opportunity for the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust (Trust) to purchase 646 acres in the Guadalupe River Delta with the assistance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) grant through the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act in the amount of \$398,637. A critical amount of partner funding was provided by Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA).

The project is located in a key region where 147,377 acres of land are conserved. These lands are held by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the USFWS and private landowners. This project will help create a corridor of conserved lands, benefit existing projects and promote future partnerships and projects. Conservation activities in the Texas Mid-Coast have been spurred by the documented wetland and prairie loss within the region. Many large tracts of coastal plains have been converted to agriculture or developed.

The preservation of this land will be managed for key breeding areas, stop-over and wintering habitat for migratory birds in the Guadalupe River Delta. The USFWS grant is part of the \$18,753,373 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Program that funded 25 projects in 14 states in 2007. The Guadalupe River Delta Conservation Project was the only Texas project funded for 2007. The Trust and GBRA partner funding brings the total funding of nearly \$300,000, which will be added to the \$400,000 being passed through the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to the Trust to acquire approximately 646 acres of habitat, which is 93 percent wetlands and includes 4.35 miles of riparian streams. Located below the confluence of the San Antonio and Guadalupe rivers, the land purchase will add to a corridor of conserved lands in this critical area of the Guadalupe River Basin. Future management of the property should provide additional opportunities for public hunting, fishing and birding on the property.

"We are pleased to name The Dow Chemical Company as the first Guadalupe River Conservation Partner," said Dr. Todd Votteler, Executive Director of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust. "Dow's efforts made possible the purchase of this key piece of property in an ecological critical corridor within the Guadalupe River Delta," said Votteler. "The public will benefit in the future as well when plans are implemented to provide limited public access for hunting, fishing, birding, and other activities potentially."

"The Trust is always looking for partners in its efforts to conserve the Guadalupe River watershed," said Trust Board President, Robert Thornton. "We are particularly focused on finding new corporate partners to add to our growing list of individual, nonprofit and government partners in this momentous effort."

"We are honored to receive this recognition from the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust," said Seadrift Operations Site Leader David Pankratz. "This partnership has enabled the conservation of valuable wildlife habitat that will be enjoyed by many generations, and supports Dow's commitment to environmental and community sustainability and success."

The Guadalupe River Conservation Partner is awarded by the Trust on special occasions. Organizations or individuals nominated must make a substantial contribution to a Trust project of great importance.

The Trust is a charitable, non-profit 501(c)3 organization that was developed to conserve the land and water of the Guadalupe River watershed for its natural, recreational, scenic, historic and productive value. The mission of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust is to promote and encourage the conservation, stewardship and enjoyment of the land and water resources of the Guadalupe River watershed, while maintaining its unique and irreplaceable natural heritage. Additional information about the Trust is available at www.gbrtrust.org.

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) is a conservation and reclamation district of the State of Texas, created in 1933. GBRA provides stewardship for the water resources in its 10-county statutory district, which begins near the headwaters of the Guadalupe and Blanco Rivers, ends at San Antonio Bay, and includes Kendall, Comal, Hays, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales, DeWitt, Victoria, Calhoun and Refugio counties. More information about GBRA can be found at www.gbra.org.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Union Carbide Corporation is a fully-owned subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company. With annual sales of \$58 billion and 46,000 employees worldwide, Dow is a diversified chemical company that combines the power of science and technology with the "Human Element" to constantly improve what is essential to human progress. The Company delivers a broad range of products and services to customers in around 160 countries, connecting chemistry and innovation with the principles of sustainability to help provide everything from fresh water, food and pharmaceuticals to paints, packaging and personal care products. References to "Dow" or the "Company" mean The Dow Chemical Company and its consolidated subsidiaries unless otherwise expressly noted. More information about Dow can be found at www.dow.com.

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