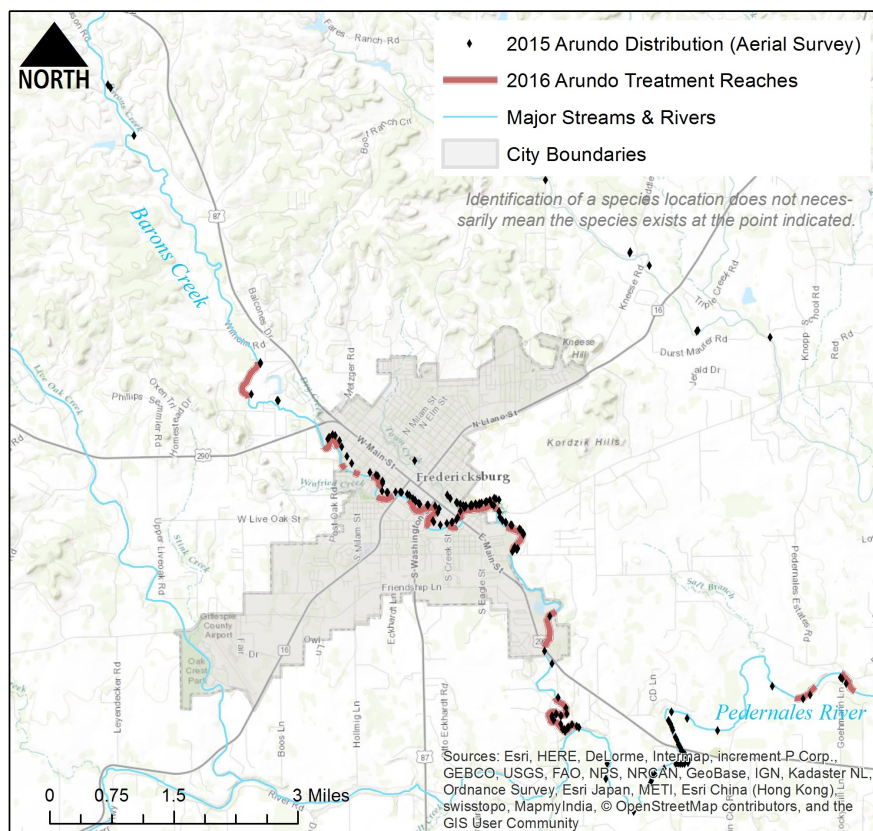




Photo: Arundo infestation chokes Barons Creek (TPWD, 2016)

## HEALTHY CREEKS INITIATIVE UPDATES

### 2016 PROGRESS—UPPER PEDERNALES & TRIBUTARIES



**65**  
landowner partners

**6**  
creek/river miles

**~13**  
acres of Arundo  
treated in 2016

In 2016, the Healthy Creeks Initiative, in partnership with the City of Fredericksburg (CoF), kickstarted efforts to manage invasive Arundo on Barons Creek and the headwaters of the Pedernales River. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department also began monitoring the health of the aquatic ecosystem—early results suggest Arundo management using carefully targeted herbicide treatments is likely to greatly improve diversity of, rather than harm, aquatic life. Although 2016 landowner participation was high, 100% participation will be essential to the long-term success of the project. Next steps for 2017 include: survey and re-treatment of Arundo patches as needed, survey and treatment of new areas, efforts to seed native species in areas where large infestations were treated, and surveys to keep an eye on other problematic invasives that may try to sweep in to replace the Arundo. Management of such a highly invasive species is an ongoing battle—but with time and strong community participation, significant improvements to the health and natural beauty of this urban, Hill Country gem of a stream can be achieved.

You can help by spreading the word to your friends and neighbors and by attending local workshops to share your experience as a project partner with other landowners. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/healthycreeks> for more information on upcoming events!

