



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
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Coletto Creek Reservoir Ready to Implement 1999 Aquatic Plant Management Plan

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SEGUIN.....The first phase of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's 1999 Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Program will be implemented during the week of May 3-7 at the authority's Coletto Creek Reservoir located between Victoria and Goliad.

According to chief ranger Wilfred Korth, GBRA's APM Program was established to develop and implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system to help control nuisance aquatic vegetation overgrowth. The main goals of the 1999 APM Program are to control the density of hydrilla and other problem aquatic plants in the high use park areas of the Coletto Creek Reservoir, and to provide all users the opportunity to fully utilize this popular South Texas recreation facility.

Hydrilla and other non-native aquatic plants were originally brought to the United States for use in aquariums. However, their rapid growth patterns and lack of natural control mechanisms has created dense vegetation mats in Coletto Creek Reservoir and other fresh water bodies across Texas. While some vegetation is necessary for fish habitat, nuisance aquatic plant overgrowth blocks water access and creates problems for swimmers, skiers, personal watercraft users, and other water recreationists.

The IPM system used at Coletto Creek will start the week of May 3-7 with an application of the herbicide Aquathol, which is labeled for use in aquatic environments, to approximately 7 acres of the 3,100 acre reservoir. The areas to be treated include the shoreline areas at Coletto Creek Park, the Lake Wood and Twin Lake Oaks Subdivision parks, and the park and recreation area operated by Central Power & Light Company.

During the treatment period, these specific park areas will be marked and restricted to all water contact activities. However, the rest of the reservoir including the Coletto Creek Park's Boat Ramp will remain open for water recreation use.

The second phase of Coletto Creek's IPM System will be implemented early this summer, when a mechanical harvesting machine will be brought in to remove hydrilla from 8 acres of the boat ramp cove at the Coletto Park Reservoir. This will be the second consecutive year that a harvester has been used at the reservoir, and Korth said GBRA staff will continue to study the effectiveness of using this method to manage aquatic vegetation.

The final phase involves an ongoing biological control program with the US Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station to establish a viable hydrilla fly population at the reservoir. This tiny insect feeds only on hydrilla and has been successful at reducing plant overgrowth in Florida and other southern states. Korth said colonies of the tiny hydrilla fly have been stocked at Coletto Creek Reservoir for a number of years with some success and "we hope they will eventually establish permanent populations to help control the spread of hydrilla at the reservoir."

For questions about the Coletto Creek Aquatic Plant Management Plan contact Wilfred Korth, GBRA chief ranger, at 361/575-6366 or email questions to wkorth@icsi.net.