



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
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GBRA begins Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan at Coletto Creek on May 3

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SEGUIN---- On Monday May 3, the aquatic herbicide Aquathol will be applied along selected shoreline areas of Coletto Creek Park, the Lake Wood and Twin Lake Oak Subdivision parks, and the Central Power and Light Company's park as part of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's 1999 Aquatic Plant Management Program.

According to chief ranger Wilfred Korth, the Program was developed by GBRA staff and approved by the Board of Directors after extensive study and public input to implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system to help control nuisance aquatic vegetation overgrowth in lakes and reservoirs operated by GBRA.

The main goals of the 1999 Program are to control the density of hydrilla in the high use park areas of Coletto Creek Reservoir and to provide all users the opportunity to fully utilize this popular South Texas recreation facility.

Korth said all treated areas in Coletto Creek Reservoir will be clearly marked with signs and buoys and the following use restrictions will be in place for treated areas according to GBRA policy and Aquathol label restrictions:

May 3-6: no fishing in treated areas.

May 3-7: no swimming or water contact recreation activity.

May 3-17: do not use treated water for irrigation or livestock.

Although approximately 1000 acres around the reservoir are currently impacted by hydrilla, Korth said the 7 surface acres selected for treatment "will keep the shoreline areas around these parks open for swimming, boating, shoreline fishing and general water contact for all park users."

Hydrilla and other non-native aquatic plants were originally brought to the United States for use in aquariums. However, because of its rapid growth pattern and lack of natural control mechanisms, hydrilla can quickly form dense mats of vegetation on the surface and a tangled web of stems and roots underwater. It clogs boat docks, river channels, and encourages silting and sedimentation of river and lake beds. This overgrowth makes water access difficult for swimmers, skiers, personal watercraft users and other water recreationists. Hydrilla can also foul outboard motor propellers and snag fishing lines.

While some vegetation is necessary for a healthy fish habitat, hydrilla and other nuisance vegetation can out-compete and eliminate native plant species, reduce plant community diversity and lead to unbalanced fish populations.

For additional information on this, or any part of the Coletto Creek Aquatic Vegetation Management Program, contact Wilfred Korth, GBRA chief ranger, at (361)-575-6366 or e-mail questions to wkorth@icsi.net.