



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
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GBRA begins Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan at Coletto Creek Reservoir on May 1

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FANNIN----- On Monday May 1, the aquatic herbicide, Aquathol, will be applied along selected shoreline areas of Coletto Creek Park, the Lake Wood Subdivision park, and the Central Power and Light Company's park.

The application is part of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's 2000 Coletto Creek Reservoir Aquatic Plant Management Program, which was developed by GBRA staff and approved by the GBRA Board of Directors after extensive study and public input from the Coletto Creek Aquatic Plant Management Advisory Committee.

According to Chief Ranger Wilfred Korth, the Program provides guidelines to implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system that will help control nuisance aquatic vegetation overgrowth in the Coletto Creek Reservoir, located between Victoria and Goliad off Highway 59.

The main goals of the 2000 Program are to control the density of hydrilla and other problem aquatic plants 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 the Coletto Creek Reservoir will be clearly marked with signs and buoys. The following use restrictions will be in place for treated areas, in accordance with GBRA policy and Aquathol label restrictions:

May 1-4: no fishing in treated areas.

May 1-5: no swimming or water contact recreation activity in treated areas.

May 1-15: do not use treated water for irrigation or livestock.

All untreated areas of the Coletto Creek Reservoir will remain open for recreation activities.

Although approximately 1000 acres around the reservoir are currently impacted by hydrilla, Korth said the 12 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.