



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
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GBRA schedules Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan treatment at Coletto Creek Reservoir on May 20

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FANNIN----- On Monday May 20, the aquatic herbicide, Aquathol, will be applied along selected shoreline areas of Coletto Creek Park, the Lake Wood subdivision park, the Twin Lake Oaks subdivision park and the Central Power and Light Company's park as part of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) 2002 Coletto Creek Reservoir 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 from the Coletto Creek Aquatic Plant Management Advisory Committee. The Program is designed to implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system to help control nuisance aquatic vegetation overgrowth in the Coletto Creek Reservoir, located between Victoria and Goliad off Highway 59.

The main goals of the 2002 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 visitors 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 and the following use restrictions will be in place for treated areas according to GBRA policy and Aquathol label restrictions:

- May 20-22: no swimming or water contact recreation activity in treated areas.
- May 20-23: no fishing in treated areas.
- May 20-27: do not use treated water for irrigation or livestock.

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

Although approximately 600 acres around the reservoir are currently impacted by hydrilla and water milfoil, Korth said the 17 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, water milfoil, and other non-native aquatic plants were originally brought to the United States for use in aquariums. However, because of their rapid growth pattern and lack of natural control mechanisms, hydrilla and milfoil 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 and milfoil can also foul outboard motor propellers and snag fishing lines.

While some vegetation is necessary for a healthy fish habitat, hydrilla, milfoil, 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 about the treatment program, contact Wilfred Korth, chief ranger, at (361) 575-6366 or email wkorth@gbra.org.