



NEWS RELEASE

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

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FANNIN----- On Wednesday, May 17, the aquatic herbicides Aquathol, Sonar, and Renovate will be applied in selected cove areas of Coletto Creek Park, and the Lake Wood Subdivision Park as part of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's 2006 Coletto Creek Reservoir Aquatic Plant Management Program.

According to Chief Ranger Wilfred Korth, this annual program was originally developed by GBRA staff after extensive study and public input from the Coletto Creek Aquatic Plant Management Advisory Committee. The Program consists of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system, which is consistent with the TP&WD Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan, 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 Coletto Creek Aquatic Plant Management Program continue to be 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 and the following use restrictions will be in place for treated areas, according to GBRA policy and herbicide label restrictions:

May 17 - 18: no swimming or water contact recreation activity in treated areas.

May 17 - 19: do not keep fish caught in treated areas.

Only 26 acres of the reservoir will receive herbicide treatments. The additional 3,074 acres of Coletto Reservoir will not receive herbicide applications and will remain open for fishing and all recreation activities during this period.

Although approximately 400 acres around the reservoir are currently impacted by hydrilla and water milfoil, Korth said the treatment to 26 surface acres "will keep the shoreline areas around these parks open for swimming, boating, shoreline fishing and general water contact for all park users through the summer months."

Hydrilla, water milfoil, and other non-native aquatic plants were originally brought to the United States for use in aquariums and water gardens. 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. They also clog boat docks, river channels, and encourage silting and sedimentation of river and lakebeds. 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, hyacinths, and other nuisance vegetation can out-compete and eliminate native plant species, reduce plant community diversity and lead to unbalanced fish populations.