



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
933 E. Court Street, Seguin TX 78155
www.gbra.org

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GBRA To Apply Aquatic Treatments at Coletto Creek Parks

For more information

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SEGUIN--On Wednesday, May 11, 2011 the aquatic herbicide Aquathol will be applied in selected cove areas of Coletto Creek Park and the Lakewood Subdivision Park for control of water milfoil as part of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's ongoing 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 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan to help control nuisance aquatic vegetation overgrowth in the Coletto Creek Reservoir.

The main goals of the Coletto Creek Aquatic Plant Management Program include control of the density of nuisance 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.

"According to GBRA policy and herbicide label restrictions, all treated areas in the Coletto Creek Reservoir will be clearly marked with signs and the following use restrictions will be in place for treated areas," said Korth.

- May 11 No swimming or water contact recreation activity in treated areas.
- May 11-18 Do not use water from treated areas for irrigation or livestock.

Only 14 acres of the reservoir will receive herbicide treatments. The additional 3,086 acres of reservoir will not receive herbicide applications and will remain open for fishing and all normal recreation activities during this period.

"Although more than 500 acres around the reservoir are affected by water milfoil," Korth explained, "the treatment to 14 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."

Water milfoil and other non-native aquatic plants were brought to the United States for use in aquariums and water gardens. Because of its rapid growth pattern and lack of natural control mechanisms, water 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. Additionally, Water milfoil can 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.

The GBRA was established by the Texas Legislature in 1933 as a water conservation and reclamation district. GBRA provides stewardship for the water resources in its 10-county statutory district, which begins near the headwaters of the Guadalupe and Blanco rivers, ends at San Antonio Bay, and includes Kendall, Comal, Hays, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales, DeWitt, Victoria, Calhoun, and Refugio counties.



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