



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

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March 13, 2015

Aquatic Plant Treatment Scheduled at Coletto Creek Reservoir This Month

For more information

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FANNIN—On Monday, March 23, 2015, aquatic herbicides “Sinkerball” and “Trycera” will be applied in selected cove areas of Coletto Creek Park and in the Perdido Creek arm of Coletto Creek Reservoir at the Coletto Creek Power Plant intake to help control Eurasian Watermilfoil as part of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority’s (GBRA) ongoing Coletto Creek Reservoir Aquatic Plant Management Program.

Chief Ranger Wilfred Korth said this annual program originally was developed by GBRA staff after an 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 (TPWD) Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan to help control nuisance aquatic vegetation overgrowth in Coletto Creek Reservoir, located between Victoria and Goliad off Highway 59.

The primary goals of this program continue to be to control the density of nuisance aquatic plants in the high use park areas of Coletto Creek Reservoir and at the power plant intake in order to provide reservoir users an opportunity to fully enjoy this popular South Texas recreation facility and reduce the impacts on the operations of the Power Plant.

Korth said 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, according to GBRA policy and herbicide label restrictions:

March 23: No swimming or water contact recreation activity in treated areas of the Coletto Creek Park and in the Perdido Creek arm of the reservoir at the power plant intake.

Only about 66.5 surface acres of the 3,033.5 acre-reservoir will receive herbicide treatments. Most of the reservoir will remain open for fishing, swimming, and regular recreation activities during this period.

Although more than 500 acres around the reservoir is affected by nuisance aquatic plants, Korth said the treatment to 66.5 surface acres “will keep the shoreline areas around the park open for swimming, boating, shoreline fishing and general water contact for all park users through the summer months and allow normal operations at the power plant.”

Eurasian Watermilfoil 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, Eurasian Watermilfoil 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. Eurasian Watermilfoil can also foul outboard motor propellers and snag fishing lines.

While some vegetation is necessary for a healthy fish habitat, hydrilla, Eurasian watermilfoil, water 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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