



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

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March 17, 2017

## **GBRA Schedules Aquatic Vegetation Treatment at Coletto Creek Reservoir in March**

### **For more information**

Wilfred Korth, 361-575-6366, [wkorth@gbra.org](mailto:wkorth@gbra.org)  
LaMarriol Smith, 830-379-5822, [lsmith@gbra.org](mailto:lsmith@gbra.org)

FANNIN----- From Monday, March 20 to Friday, April 7, depending on weather conditions, the aquatic herbicide Sinkerball will be applied in selected areas of Coletto Creek arm of the Coletto Creek Reservoir upstream of the Colettoville road bridge for control of water hyacinths. This application will be conducted by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department personnel or contractors under the guidance of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This application is 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 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 primary goals of the Coletto Creek Aquatic Plant Management Program continue to be to control the density of nuisance aquatic plants in the high use areas of Coletto Creek Reservoir, and at the Coletto Creek Power Plant Intake in order to provide users the opportunity to fully utilize this popular South Texas recreation facility and reduce the impacts on the operations of the Power Plant.

As per herbicide label restrictions there will be no fishing or water contact restrictions placed on the areas to be treated for water hyacinth control.

Depending on the spread of water hyacinths in this arm of the reservoir, up to 50 surface acres of the reservoir will receive herbicide treatments. The additional 3,050 acres of reservoir will not receive herbicide applications and will be open to all normal recreation activities during this period.

Water hyacinths 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, water hyacinths 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. Water hyacinths 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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