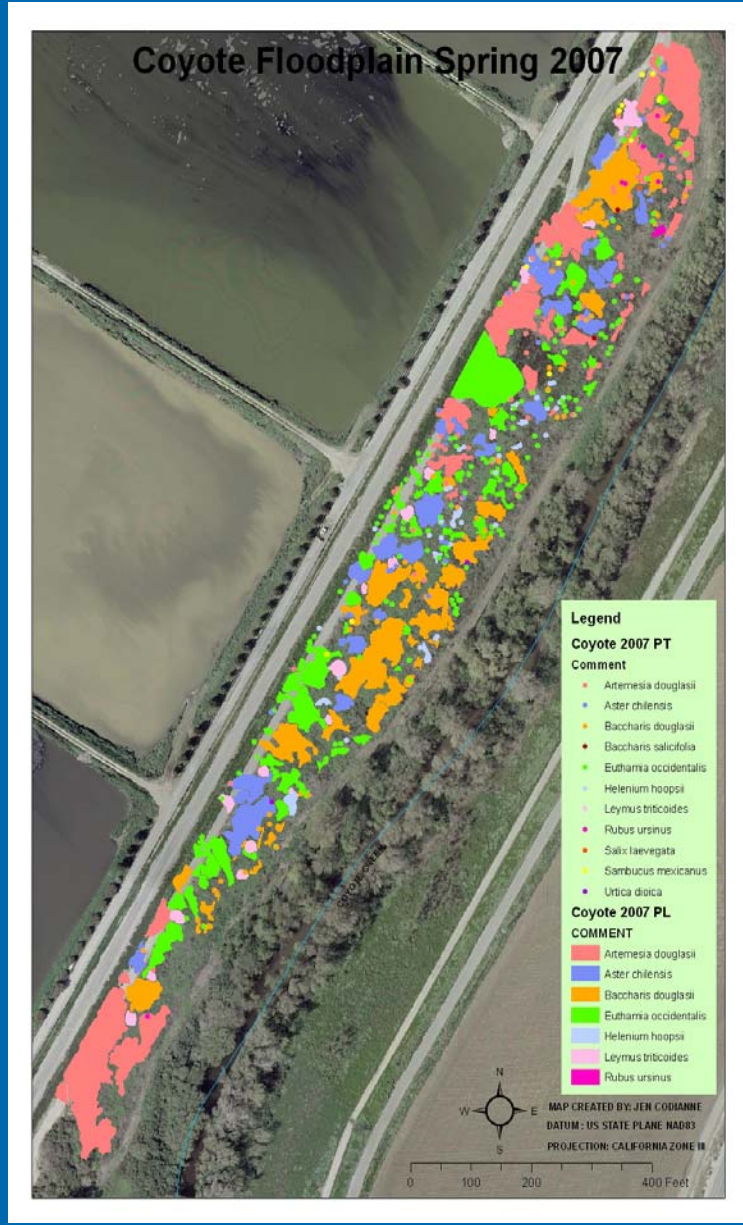
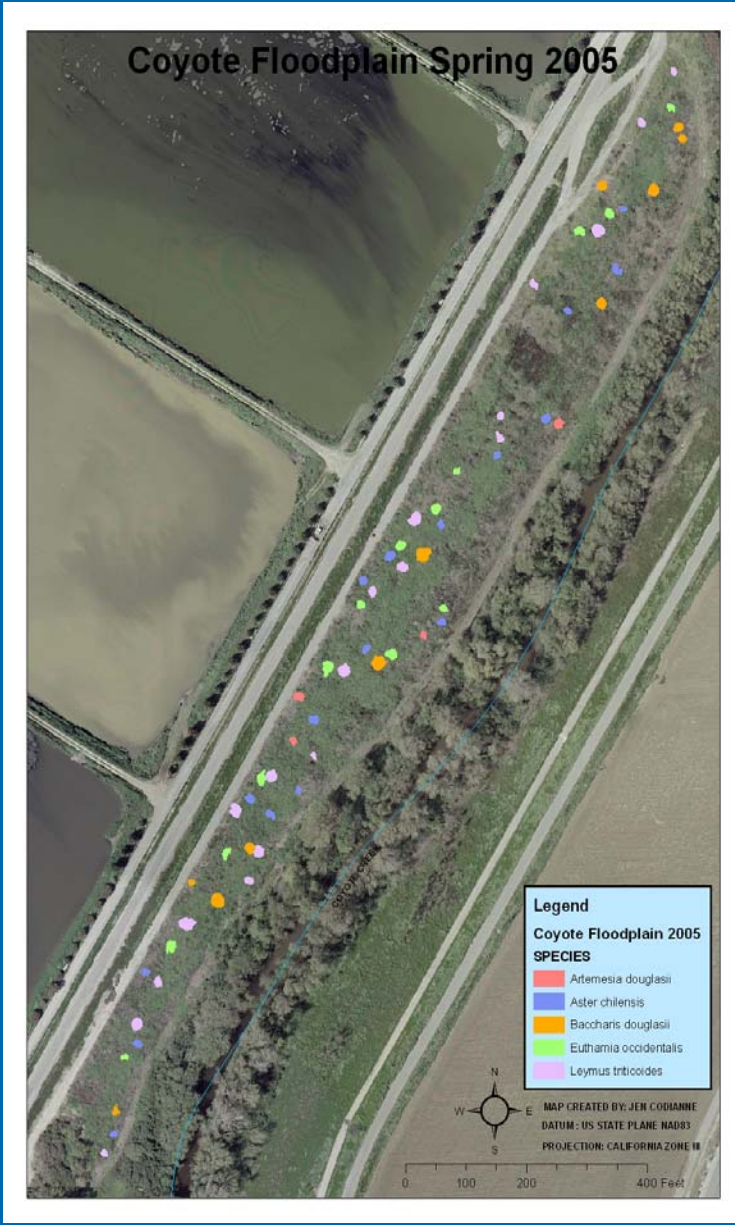


Coyote Creek Floodplain Reclamation Project



Start of Project 2004



Initial Planting 2004



Project Flooded 2006



Floodplain Spring 2007

The Santa Clara Valley Water District's (SCVWD) Vegetation Management Unit is conducting a three-year project to remove non-native invasive vegetation throughout Coyote Creek Floodplain located in Milpitas, CA. The project area consists of 6 acres located along Coyote Creek. As of 2003 95% was infested with non-native invasive vegetation, mainly *Lepidium latifolium*, *Conium maculatum*, and *Brassica nigra*. During Year 1 (2004) all non-native invasive vegetation was mechanically and chemically controlled. Approximately .185 acres was planted with native herbaceous vegetation. During Year 2 (2005) an additional .122 acres were planted for a total of .307 acres. Plantings were installed in polygon clusters, mulched with compost, and watered by hand on a monthly basis for 2 years throughout the growing season. In Year 3 (2006) due to typical growth rates and seed dispersal approximately 3.615 acres were vegetated with native plants equaling a 1000% increase in native vegetation and 60% native cover. The increase in native cover has led to a decrease in maintenance and herbicide hours dedicated to this project. Maintenance hours in Year 1 totaled 1,326. Year 2 hours totaled 665.5. In Year 3, maintenance and herbicide hours dropped to 524. This year, (Year 4) hours dropped significantly to 397. This is a reduction of 929 maintenance and herbicide hours since the beginning of our project resulting in a 70% decrease. Although we faced many challenges in establishing Coyote Floodplain with native vegetation our project proved successful by creating native plant habitat and allowing us to conserve resources that we can now use toward other projects. This site is now sustainable without future significant maintenance.

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Coyote Creek Floodplain Reclamation Project - Re-establishing Native Plant Habitat.
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