



Friends of
San Ramon Creek

Mapping, Control, and Monitoring of
Arundo donax in San Ramon Creek

By: Mike Anciaux, Chief Arundo Killer

Arundo (*Arundo donax*) is a non-native invasive plant

- Looks like bamboo
- Can grow four inches a day
- Up to thirty feet tall.
- Consumes prodigious amounts of water, usually along streams
- Displaces/kills native plants
- Provides little food or habitat
- Is a fire hazard

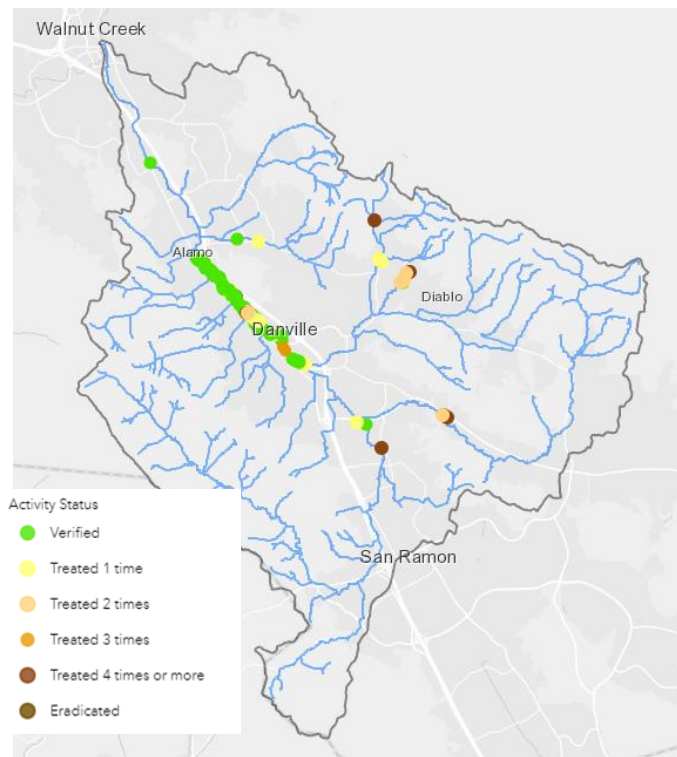


Finding and Mapping Arundo Infestations



- Finding some Arundo is easy
- Finding all the Arundo is hard
 - 137 miles in San Ramon Creek Watershed
 - Mostly on private property
- Aerial imagery can help
- But ground-truthing is required
 - Need to walk all suspected sites and areas that can't be seen clearly in aerial view
- Using ArcGIS Online to track the Arundo
- See the map at <https://www.wcwatershed.org/arundo-map.html>

Arundo in San Ramon Creek Subwatershed



Significant Arundo Infestation

- 147 patches of Arundo mapped
- 141,000 sq. ft.
- Mostly
 - In main channel between Danville and Alamo
 - On steep slopes
 - On private property
- Significant progress removing upstream patches

Overall Walnut Creek Watershed

- 394 patches of Arundo have been mapped

Control: Starts With Arundo Removal and Initial Treatment



FSRC's Arundo Removal Process

- Prioritize upstream patches
- Get support from landowner
- Assemble a crew (volunteer or contractor)
- Build a ramp (usually)
- Cut the Arundo to 6 inches
- Haul out the stalks and chip (usually into a dumpster)
- Recut the stump and treat immediately with RoundUp Custom



Monitoring: Eradication Takes Years

- Arundo grows back aggressively
- Each patch
 - Is assigned a steward
 - Is visited several times during the growing season
 - Any new growth is treated with approved herbicide
- It typically takes 5 years to completely eradicate the patch
- Some landowners treat but FSRC steward still monitors



Friends of San Ramon Creek Arundo Removal History

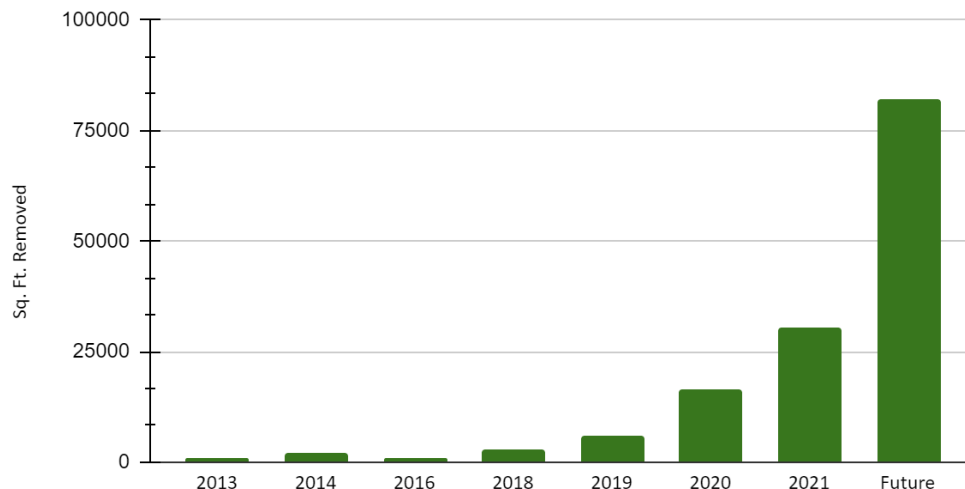
All volunteer group

- Started removing Arundo in 2013
- Removed over 12,000 sq. ft. in six years
- Progress, but not enough to get the job done

FSRC increased effort and focus in 2020

- Removed 47,000 sf from 35 patches last 2 years
- On track to eradicate from sub-watershed in 5 years

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Arundo Removal By Year



For More Information on Volunteer Arundo Removal

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