East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Launches New Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) Program

East Bay Regional Park District

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Introduction

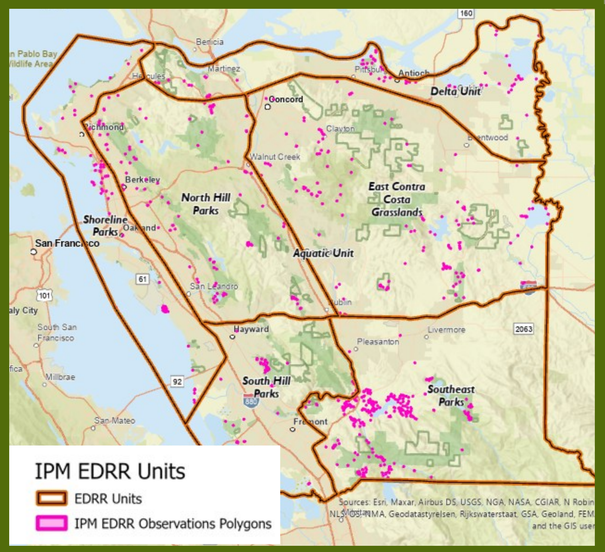
The goal of the EBRPD EDRR program is to find new populations of highly invasive plants early, and to map and remove them before they spread. The lists of EDRR plants we develop are intended to be living documents and will be updated as new species emerge.

Criteria for EDRR species

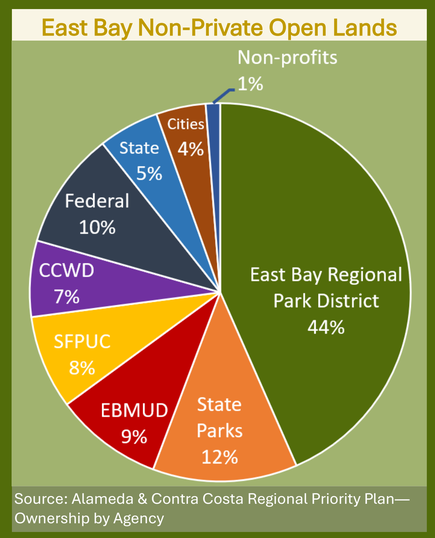
- Are newly introduced, or of very small distribution
- Highly invasive or potentially so
- Management is feasible

Methods

First, we divided the EBRPD 73-Park system lands into six geographic regions: Shoreline, Delta, East Contra Costa Grass-lands, North Hill Parks, South Hill Parks, and Southeast Parks. We also included an "Aquatic" Unit which covers floating or submerged aquatic weeds found in lakes and large waterbodies.



EDRR Program Developed to Prevent the Next Stinkwort



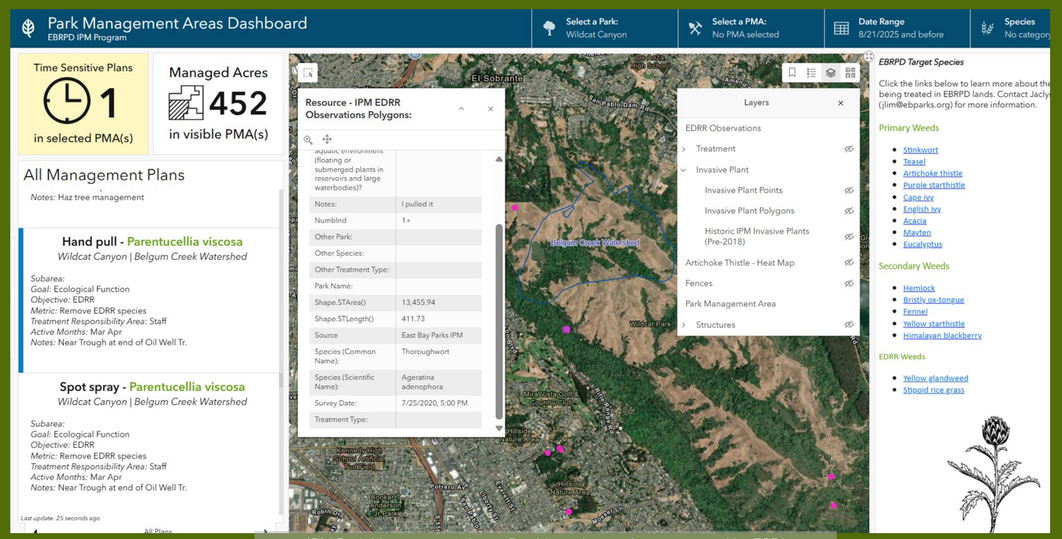
Source: Alameda & Contra Costa Regional Priority Plan—Ownership by Agency

A Structured Approach to Building a Framework and Training Curriculum to Identify, Map, and Remove Highly Invasive Plants Before They Spread!

Park staff attending EDRR training

Park staff demonstrating how to map through a skit

Park staff mapping EDRR species via windshield survey



IPM Park Management Areas Dashboard snapshot—powered by ESRI

Methods (continued)

After developing the regions, we used Calflora.org to search for all invasive plants records from the region and examined highly invasive plants which were found nearby but were absent or had limited range in the parks. We also surveyed EDRR lists from:

Once we had the preliminary list of EDRR species for each region, we prioritized 12 species per region that overlapped with:

- CDFA Noxious Weed list
- Cal-IPC "High" and "Moderate" lists & Watch/Alert list

Next Steps

In 2025, we developed online and in-person EDRR trainings for each region, including basic plant identification and skits with park rangers demonstrating EDRR mapping and work-flow.

Ultimately, the adaptation of an **evolving** EDRR list as new species emerge and other species drop off, is the marker of a successful program.

Some of the newly detected EDRR species in EBRPD are greater celandine (*Chelidonium majus*) and longflowered veldtgrass (*Ehrharta longiflora*). Future plans include the development of an IPM dashboard for each park which will incorporate EDRR mapping and streamline invasive plant management.

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