

Invasive Species Program



2018 Program Accomplishments

Capital Regional District | Environmental Protection

This report provides a summary by priority focus area of the regional Invasive Species Program's collaborative efforts and accomplishments in 2018. For more information about the program, see www.crd.bc.ca/invasive.

Collaboration & Capacity Building

- Chaired bi-monthly meetings of Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership – the intermunicipal working group that advises and supports the program – and transitioned the coordination to the CRD.
- Received a three-year grant of \$32,000 from the Province of BC to support invasive species communication and awareness in the capital region.
- Established a cooperative model that offers a way for stakeholders to access shared treatment, monitoring, training and equipment in a cost-effective manner while building capacity.
- Built relationships with the Province, local governments and other stakeholders to establish the program and invite engagement.

Early Detection Rapid Response

Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) is a province-wide proactive approach to managing new invasive species that prevents establishment.

- Provided coordinated treatment, monitoring, education and quick action for 35 outbreaks of five high- priority species – Knotweed (four types), Giant Hogweed, Blessed Milk Thistle, Scotch Thistle, Shiny Geranium and Policeman's Helmet for the District of Sooke, Town of Sidney, CRD Regional Housing and Regional Parks. Some municipalities also treated independently on public and private sites.
- Liaised with the Province of BC to treat 11 sites of emerging high-risk species (i.e., Shiny Geranium).
- Investigated the sales of prohibited Himalayan Knotweed in local nurseries.
- Led an extensive review and updated the "Status List for Priority Invasive Plants in the Capital Region: to assist land managers in planning and prioritizing invasive species management and highlight priority species for eradication.

Regional Education & Outreach Program

- Developed four new invasive species alert sheets, new website and EDRR field sheet for priority species identification.
- Hosted tables at more than 15 community events taking regional invasive species awareness and action messages, reaching over 2,000 people.

- Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership members reported more than 22,000 hours of volunteers working to manage established invasive species (such as English Ivy, Holly, Scotch Broom, Daphne Laurel and others) in parks and natural areas in the capital region.

Disposal

- Coordinated a shared regional disposal bin (hosted by District of Saanich) for high-priority species (i.e., Knotweed).
- Collected regional input on disposal methods and researched disposal methods in other jurisdictions, such as mobile incineration units.
- Joined the provincial Soil and Invasive Species Working Group to work toward local and provincial solutions to reduce the spread of invasive plants through soil and related materials.
- Provided coordinated feedback from the region on the Province's Organic Matter Recycling Regulations.

Inventory and Mapping

- Coordinated regional reporting, mapping and management for outbreaks and treatment sites; 25 new regional high-priority outbreaks were reported, mapped and verified.
- Supported and trained stakeholders in the use of the provincial Invasive Alien Plant Program reporting and mapping tools.

Restoration, Research and Trials

- Explored research partnership with University of Victoria on field trials for electrical treatment for shallow-rooted, high-priority species (i.e., Lesser Celandine) in sensitive habitats.

Focus for 2019

- **Build awareness** of the CRD's Invasive Species Program: scope, priority species, focus areas, and engage diverse stakeholders.
- **Develop education and outreach materials**, conduct outreach to share the impacts of invasive species and the urgency in reporting and managing.
- Plan and host a **regional forum on invasive species on May 29, 2019**.
- **Increase engagement** with Gulf Islands, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area and First Nations across the region.
- **Provide support** on invasive species management for stakeholders and encourage reporting, management and capacity building.
- **Address the issue of proper disposal** of invasive species.
- **Increase inventory and mapping** of invasive species and sharing of data between jurisdictions.
- **Pursue research partnership** with post-secondary institutions on electrical treatment of shallow-rooted invasive species in sensitive habitats.