

# San Francisco Weed Management Area (SFWMA)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Are weeds *really* a problem in San Francisco?

Yes, invasive weeds are a problem in San Francisco. The Franciscan Peninsula is a globally significant hotspot for biodiversity. The region harbors the Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve, which includes many of the natural lands in San Francisco County. Weeds threaten our precious remnants of the original landscape, including habitat for rare plants and wildlife. Weeds can have other impacts:

- Create fire danger.
- Cause soil erosion and impair unique geologic resources.
- Impact water quality.
- Increase costs of capital projects and land management programs.
- Dominate open spaces, turning them into impenetrable, uninviting wastelands.

### What is a Weed Management Area?

From the California Food and Agricultural Code, Section 7272(b):

“A ‘weed management area’ is a local organization that brings together all interested landowners, land managers (private, city, county, state, and federal), special districts, and the public in a county or other geographical area for the purpose of coordinating and combining their actions and expertise to deal with their common weed control problems.”

For more information about the *San Francisco* Weed Management Area, go to:

[http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/weedmgareas/SanFrancisco/SanFrancisco\\_hp.htm](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/weedmgareas/SanFrancisco/SanFrancisco_hp.htm)

**Participants** include:

[GGNRA](#), [Presidio Trust](#), [State Parks](#), [CDFA](#), [San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department](#), [San Francisco Public Utilities Commission](#), [California Native Plant Society](#), [California Invasive Plant Council](#), SFSU, and Daar/IPM.

### So what does the SFWMA do?

The SFWMA members cooperate to prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive weeds in the City and County of San Francisco. The group has a two-part mission:

- 1) Employing an integrated strategy for exclusion, detection, eradication, and suppression of designated invasive weeds.
- 2) Education of the public, media, local office-holders, decision-makers, and public & private landowners about the identification, impacts, and management of invasive weeds.

The following goals represent the primary activities in which the SFWMA is engaged:

- Education
- Prevention, early detection & rapid response
- Inventory and mapping
- Management (physical/mechanical, chemical, biological, cultural)
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Restoration of habitat
- Cooperative action



French broom (*Genista monspessulana*) encroaching on a Bay Area hillside.



A restoration crew on Bayview Hill clears French broom (*Genista monspessulana*), a woody shrub that takes over coastal grassland and scrub habitats.

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