



# Oriental Bittersweet: A Volunteer Success Story

Angela Isackson, Invasive Species Coordinator

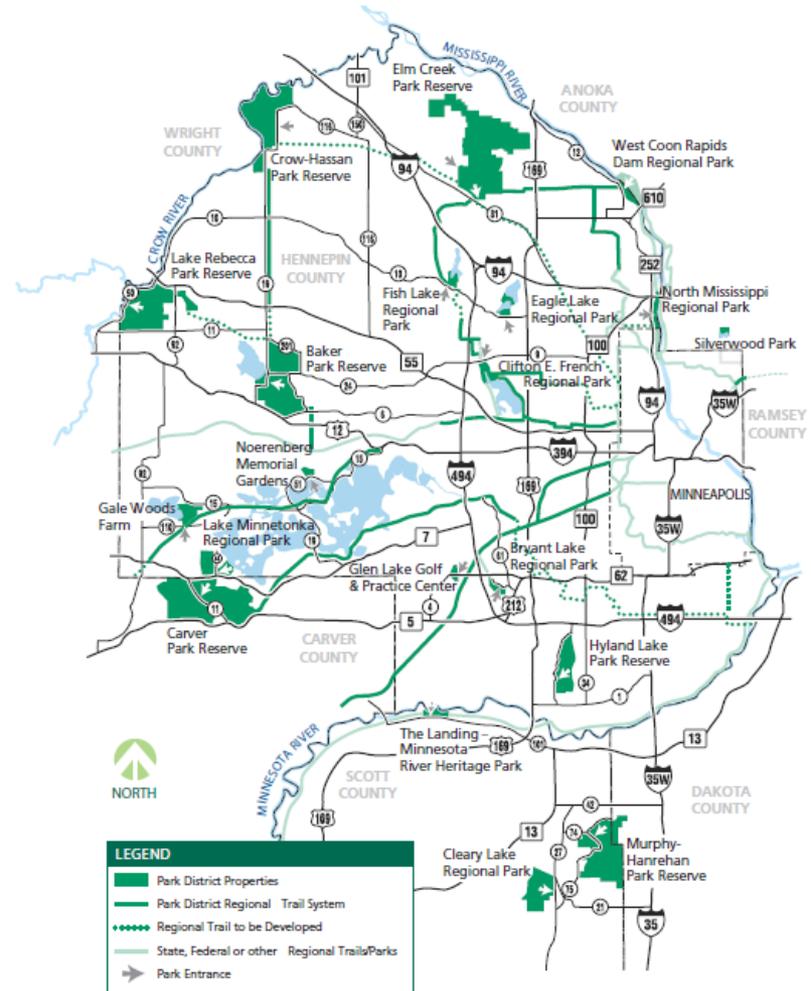
# Outline

- Discovering Oriental bittersweet (OB)
- Invasive Species Coordinator
- Surveying/Removal Efforts
  - R<sup>2</sup>ED team
  - Invasive Blitz
  - EDDMapS
  - Releve mapping
- Moving Forward

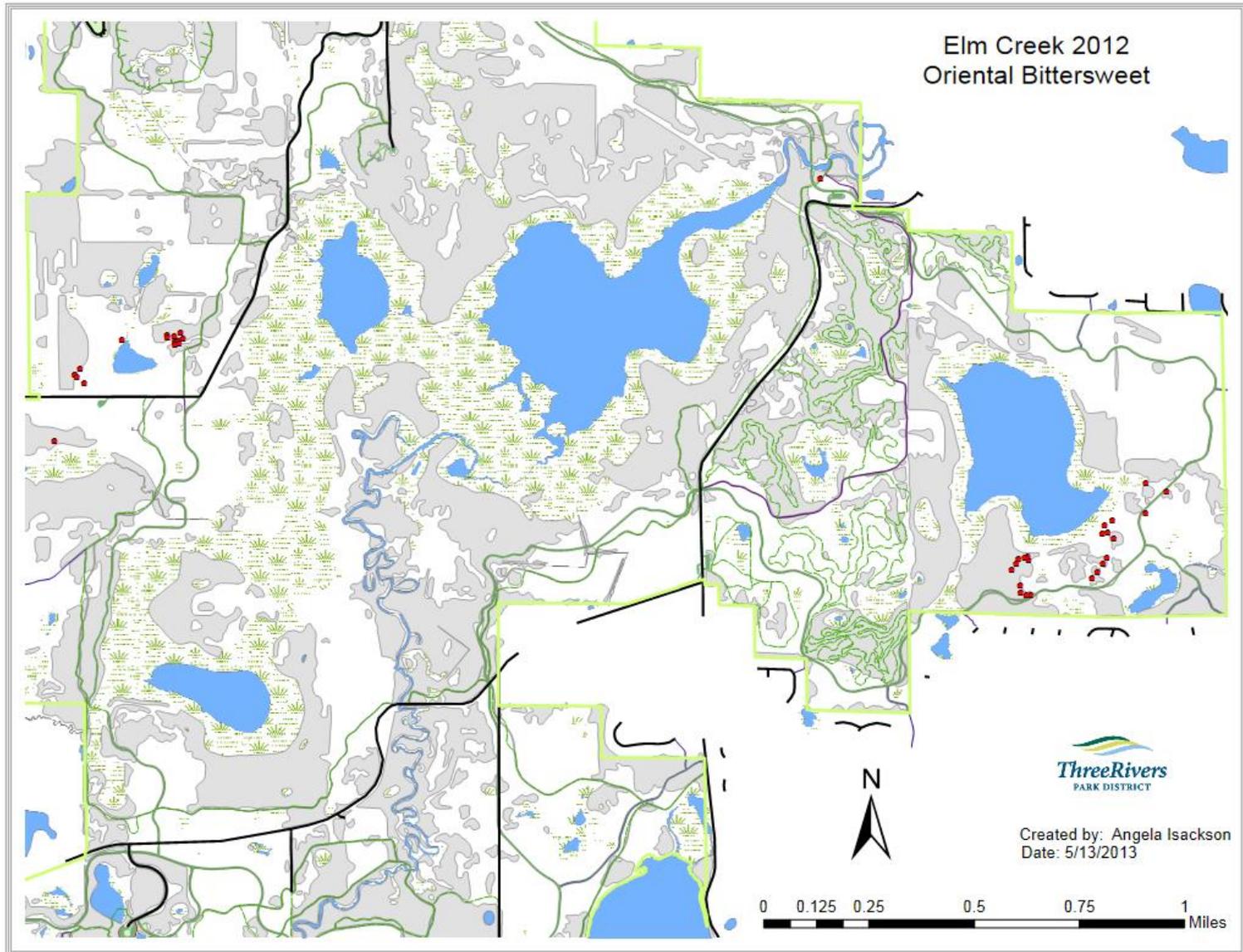


# Initial Find

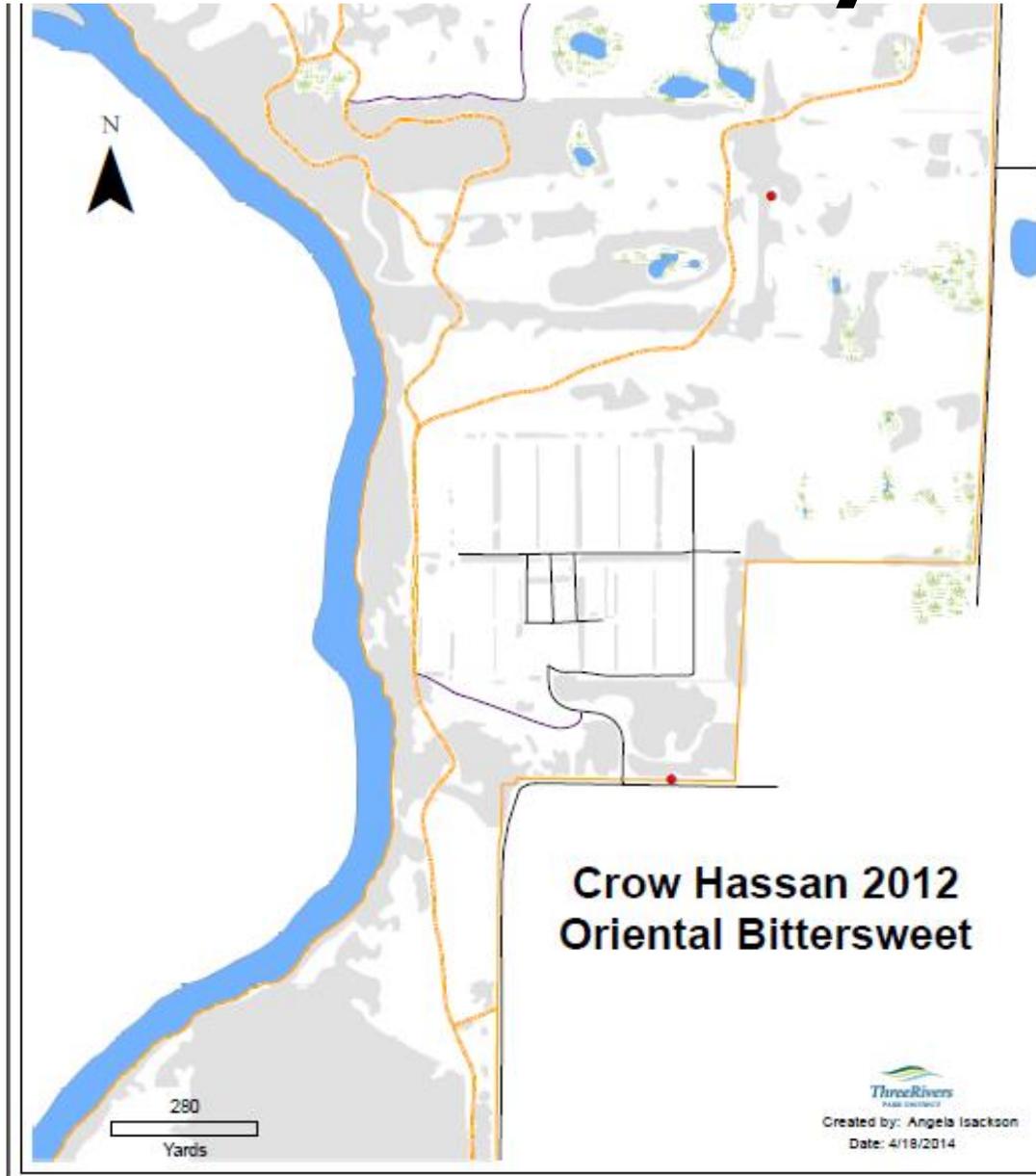
- Crow Hassan Park Reserve – 2011
- Elm Creek Park Reserve - 2012
- Started with approximately 4 known infestations at 2 parks



# Initial Survey



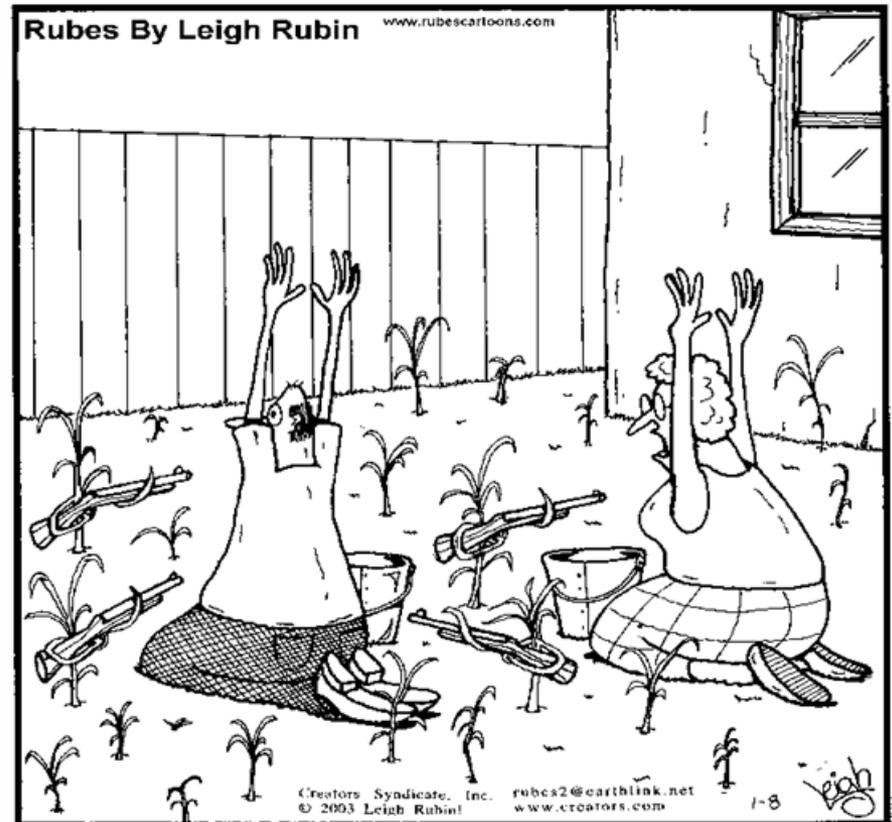
# Initial Survey





# Invasive Species Coordinator

- Started late April 2013
- Brand new position
  - Agenda to not let OB take over!
  - Increase volunteer efforts
  - Survey ALL parks
  - OB removal via CCM



**"We never should have waited this long ...  
Now the weeds have *completely*  
taken over."**

# Invasive Removal

## Invasive Removal Work Sites for 2013

### Total CCM Invasive Removal 2013 (Includes wildlife and forestry removal)

Crew Lead	Acres	Hours
Andy/Teresa	296.64	4535
Jenn	19.6	780
Dan	24.3	1465

Unit Number	Acreage (gross)	Acreage (infested)	Species Removed	Methods	Total Crew Hours	Total Chemical (oz.)
ECPR01	6.5	2	Wild parsnip Spotted knapweed	pulling (knapweed) and foliar (parsnip)	6	36
ECPR02	32	7	Oriental bittersweet	cut/stump and foliar	51	15
ECPR03	7	1	Oriental bittersweet	cut/stump	18	1.5
ECPR04	19	0.5	Siberian peashrub	cut/stump	12	5
ECPR05	15	2	Oriental bittersweet Black locust Amur maple Exotic honeysuckle	cut/stump (bittersweet & honeysuckle), basal bark (locust), foliar (bittersweet), hack/fray (locust)	70	41
ECPR06	1	0.3	Oriental bittersweet	cut/stump and foliar	38	6
ECPR07	5.5	5.5	Black locust Siberian peashrub	cut/stump (peashrub), hack/fray and basal bark (black locust)	53	6.4
ECPR08	0.7	0.3	Oriental bittersweet	cut/stump and foliar	7	2
ECPR09	12	2.5	Amur maple	cut/stump, basal bark, and foliar (seedlings)	61.5	184.85
ECPR10	1	1	White poplar	cut/stump (saplings) and girdle (mature)	53	29
ECPR11	12	12	Black locust	hack/fray, girdle, and basal bark	201	50
ECPR12	0.5	0.5	Black locust	hack/fray and basal bark	17	13.5
ECPR13	0.3	0.3	Black locust	hack/fray and basal bark	3	0.4
ECPR14	60	1	Oriental bittersweet	cut/stump and foliar	29	30
LRPR01	5	0.6	Oriental bittersweet	cut/stump	70	19
LRPR02	5.5	1	Japanese barberry	hand pulling	10	0
GWF01	2	0.5	Black locust	hack/fray	5	2.5
<b>Total sites</b>	<b>Total acres Gross</b>	<b>Total acres Infested</b>	<b>Total targeted species</b>		<b>Total hours</b>	<b>Total ounces</b>
17	185	38	9		704.5	442.15









**More, more, and more OB!**



**More, more, and more OB!**



# Rapid Response & Early Detection (R<sup>2</sup>ED)

- New methods of surveying/reporting
  - Watch List Species
  - Break each park into survey areas
  - Report via EDDMapS

Invasive Species Mapping Made Easy!

Enter the sign on information provided below:

**Username:** 3riversemployee      **Password:** invasive

**EDDMapS**  
Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System

Username:  Login  
Password:

[Join Now \(Free\)](#) [Lost your password?](#)

<a href="#">Report Sightings</a>	<a href="#">Distribution Maps</a>	<a href="#">Species Information</a>	<a href="#">Tools &amp; Training</a>	<a href="#">My EDDMapS</a>	<a href="#">About</a>
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### Invasive Species Mapping Made Easy!



EDDMapS, started in 2005, is now providing a picture of the distribution of invasive species across the U.S. and Canada

- ✓ Fast and easy to use - no knowledge of GIS required
- ✓ Web-based mapping of invasive species distribution to help fill gaps and identify "leading edge" ranges
- ✓ Facilitates Early Detection and Rapid Response implementation with online data entry forms, e-mail alerts and network of expert verifiers
- ✓ One Database for both local and national data
- ✓ Data can be searched, queried and downloaded in a variety of formats
- ✓ Cooperates with and aggregates data from other invasive species mapping projects
- ✓ Custom/hosted applications can be quickly and inexpensively developed

### Who's Using It?

- ✓ Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council
- ✓ Alaska Exotic Plant Information Clearinghouse
- ✓ Missouri River Watershed Coalition
- ✓ Biological Control Agents of Weeds
- ✓ Florida Invasive Species Partnership
- ✓ Invaders of Texas
- ✓ Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Council
- ✓ Appalachian Trail Conservancy
- ✓ EDDMapS Alberta - Alberta Invasive Plants Council
- ✓ National Wildlife Refuge Early Detection Network for New England
- ✓ Outsmart Invasive Species
- ✓ Invasive Plant Atlas of New England
- ✓ What's Invasive

## Elm Creek Park Reserve's 2014 Invasive Blitz



### Join the battle against the invasive vine **Oriental Bittersweet!**

**Calling all volunteers!** Invasive plants are a major threat on a national scale, with economic cost of invasive plants estimated at more than \$34 billion per year, and the costs continue to grow. Now is the time to act to reduce the threat of invasive plants in our region. There are many new invasive species becoming of concern, including the invasive vine Oriental bittersweet. This woody vine can form dense mats that completely cover existing vegetation displacing native plants. Oriental bittersweet girdles the bark of trees that it climbs which suffocates and eventually kills the tree making its effect on forests devastating. Three Rivers found infestations at Crow Hassan, Lake Rebecca, Carver, and Elm Creek Park Reserves. Prevention, as well as early detection and rapid response, are the first line of defense against new introductions. The sooner invasive plants are detected, the easier and more probable it is to control or eradicate them.

### This is where we need **YOU!** Will you join the front line of our defense team?

Join us for a half-day event in which you will learn the impact of Oriental bittersweet and also how to accurately identify this species out in the field. Once training and introductions are completed, volunteers will break off into teams to search assigned survey areas for infestations of Oriental bittersweet. Each team will have at least one experienced surveyor with prior plant identification experience. The results of these surveys will help guide further efforts of removal to ensure seed sources are eliminated to prevent further spread.



**Registration/Questions:** Please confirm your commitment to attend or request more information by emailing:  
[AIsackson@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:AIsackson@threeriversparkdistrict.org)



**Location:** Elm Creek Park Reserve, meeting at Eastman Nature Center at 9:30am and will end at 1:00pm.

**Directions:** \*\*PLEASE SEE FOLLOWING PAGE\*\*



**What to Bring:** Sturdy boots and/or snowshoes with warm durable clothes, binoculars and bring something to drink, and snacks (if desired).



## Oriental Bittersweet Survey

For the Hyland Park Reserve, check in and out at Richardson Nature Center within Hyland Park Reserve (763.694.7687), 10145 Bush Lake Road, Bloomington, MN 55438

### Contact Information

Angela Isackson cell 612-790-4914, Three Rivers Park District

### Protocol

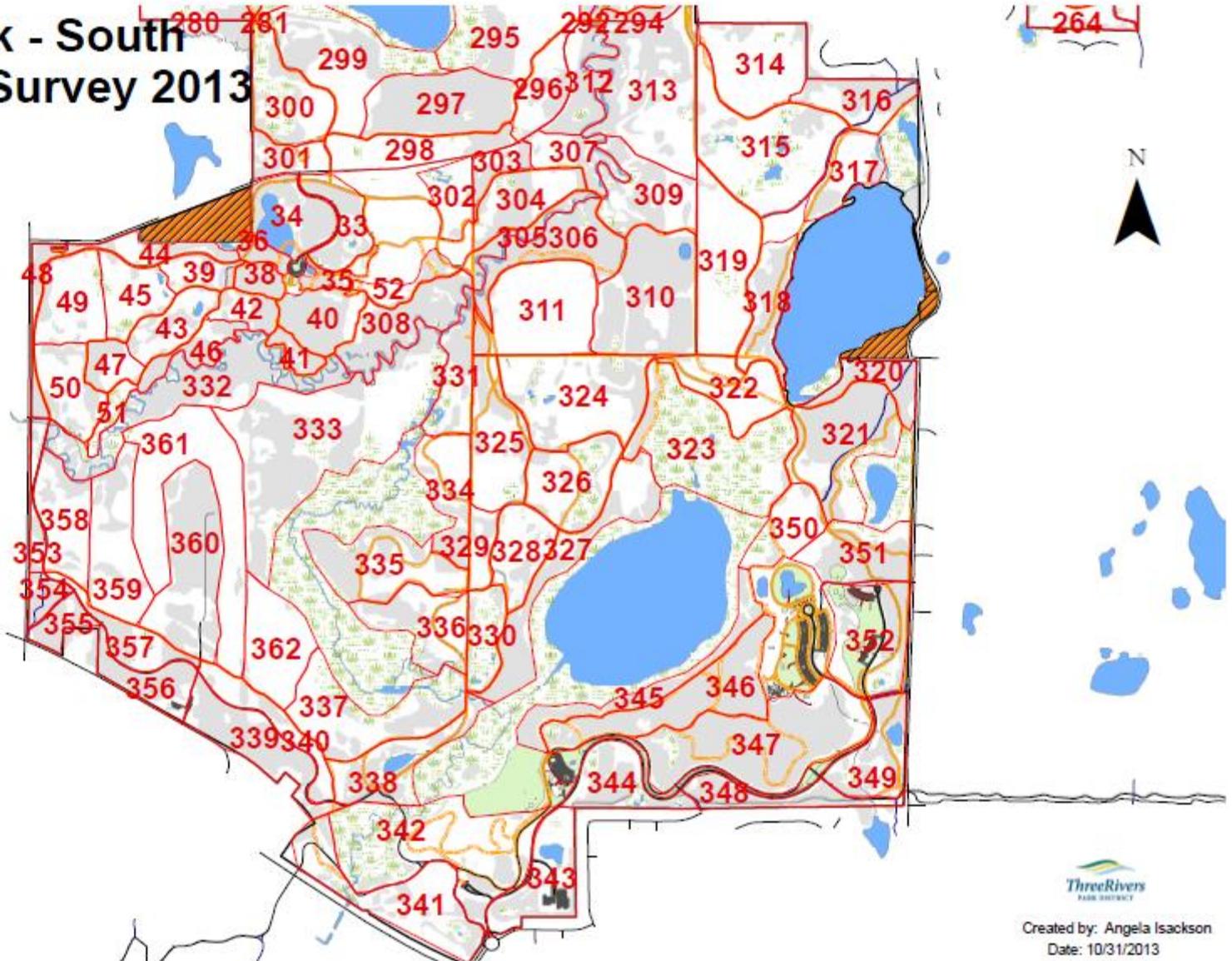
1. Survey accessible areas on maps provided in folder. Please try to complete an entire survey area before moving on. Record which areas you complete during each survey.
2. Mark where you have been with a highlighter on the contour maps. Feel free to write notes on these pages. Return maps to folder when completed so next volunteer can continue work.
3. Always make sure to record which survey areas you completed or partially completed with included notes on how intensely you covered the area. For example, include if you only walked the trails or if you bush wacked into the middle of the woodlot. This form should always remain in the kit/box
4. Please keep the box of materials organized and notify if anything further is needed as far as replacing materials or something is lost or damaged.
5. Report infestations via EDDMapS which can be used via phone app or computer. If you do not have access to either please send results to [AIsackson@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:AIsackson@threeriversparkdistrict.org)

### Data Form Fields

Field Name	Description
Survey #	Areas outlined and labeled in red
UTM	Use personal GPS unit/phone to record coordinates or estimate location using maps provided and label the point accordingly
ID Confidence	If you are confident that the vine is Oriental bittersweet, mark "Yes". If you think that it is Oriental bittersweet, but identifying characteristics are not present, select "Maybe".
Fruit Present	Yes or No
Approximate Size	Look around at the quantity of vines within site. Select whether you see more or less than 10 vines.
Description/Notes	You can leave this field blank or write notes.

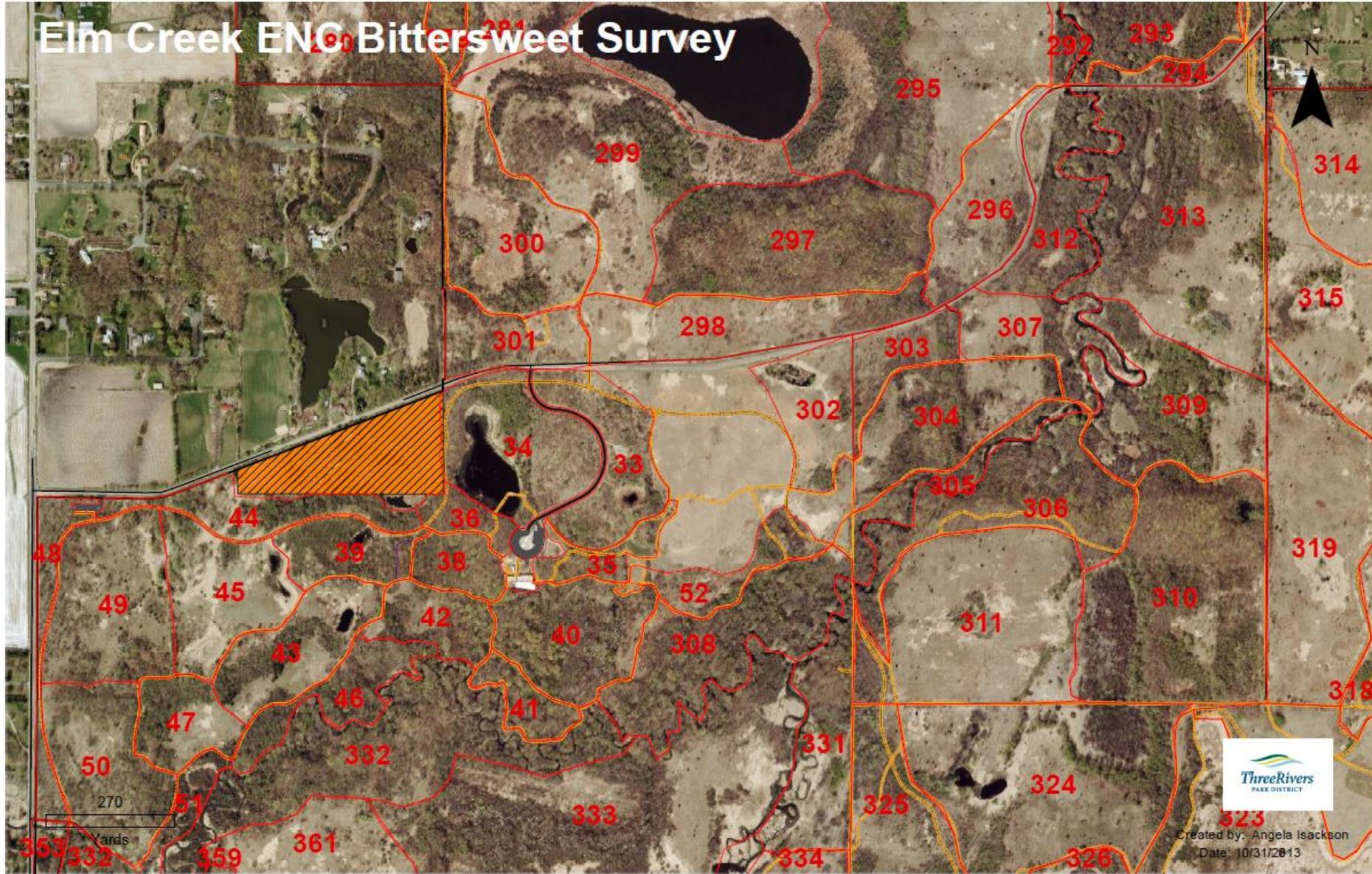
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK  
AND ENJOY YOUR ADVENTURE!!!!**

# Elm Creek - South Bittersweet Survey 2013



Created by: Angela Isackson  
Date: 10/31/2013

# Elm Creek ENG Bittersweet Survey



Created by: Angela Isackson  
Date: 10/31/2013

Oriental Bittersweet Survey, Location \_\_\_\_\_

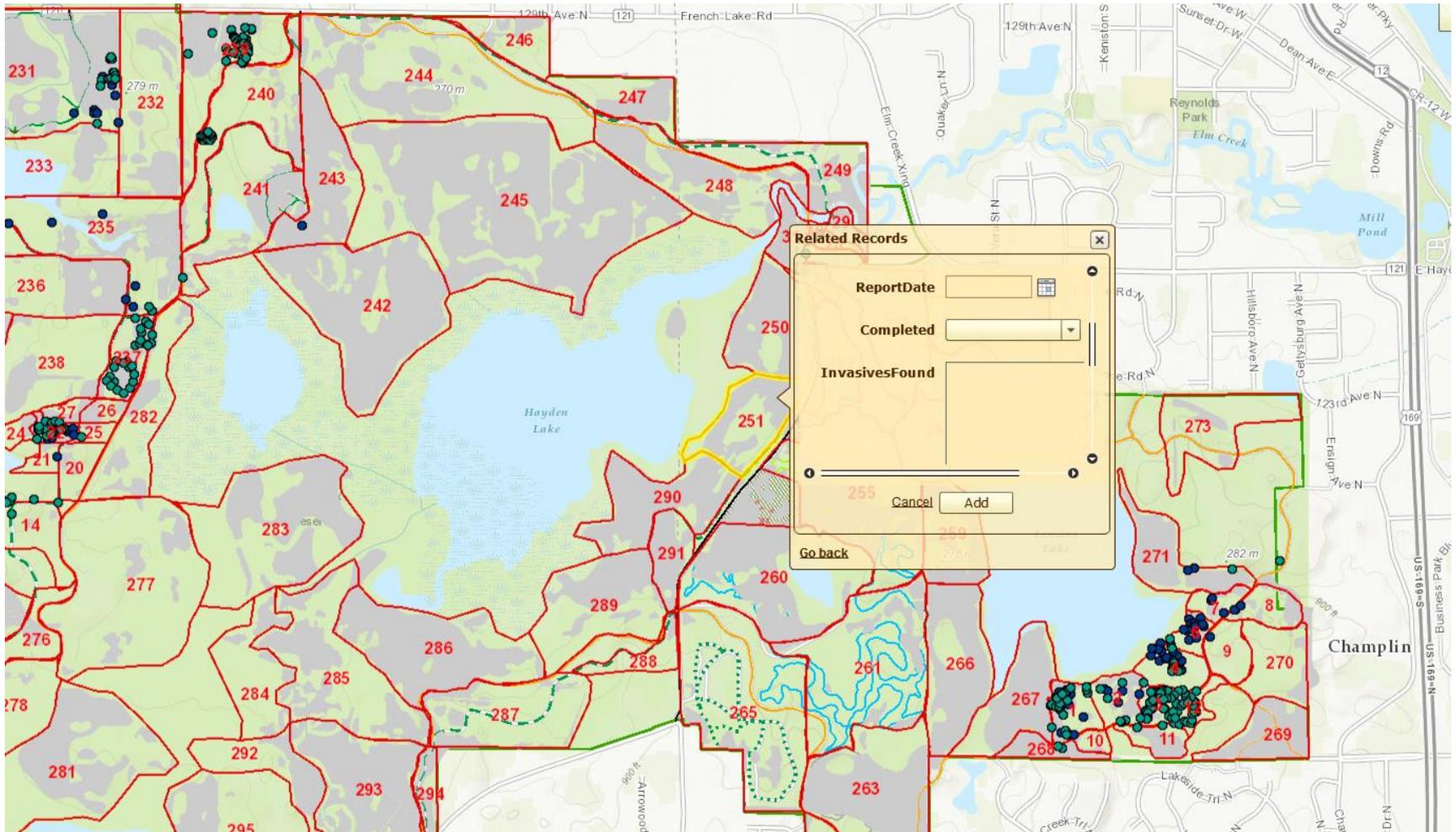
Data Collected By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

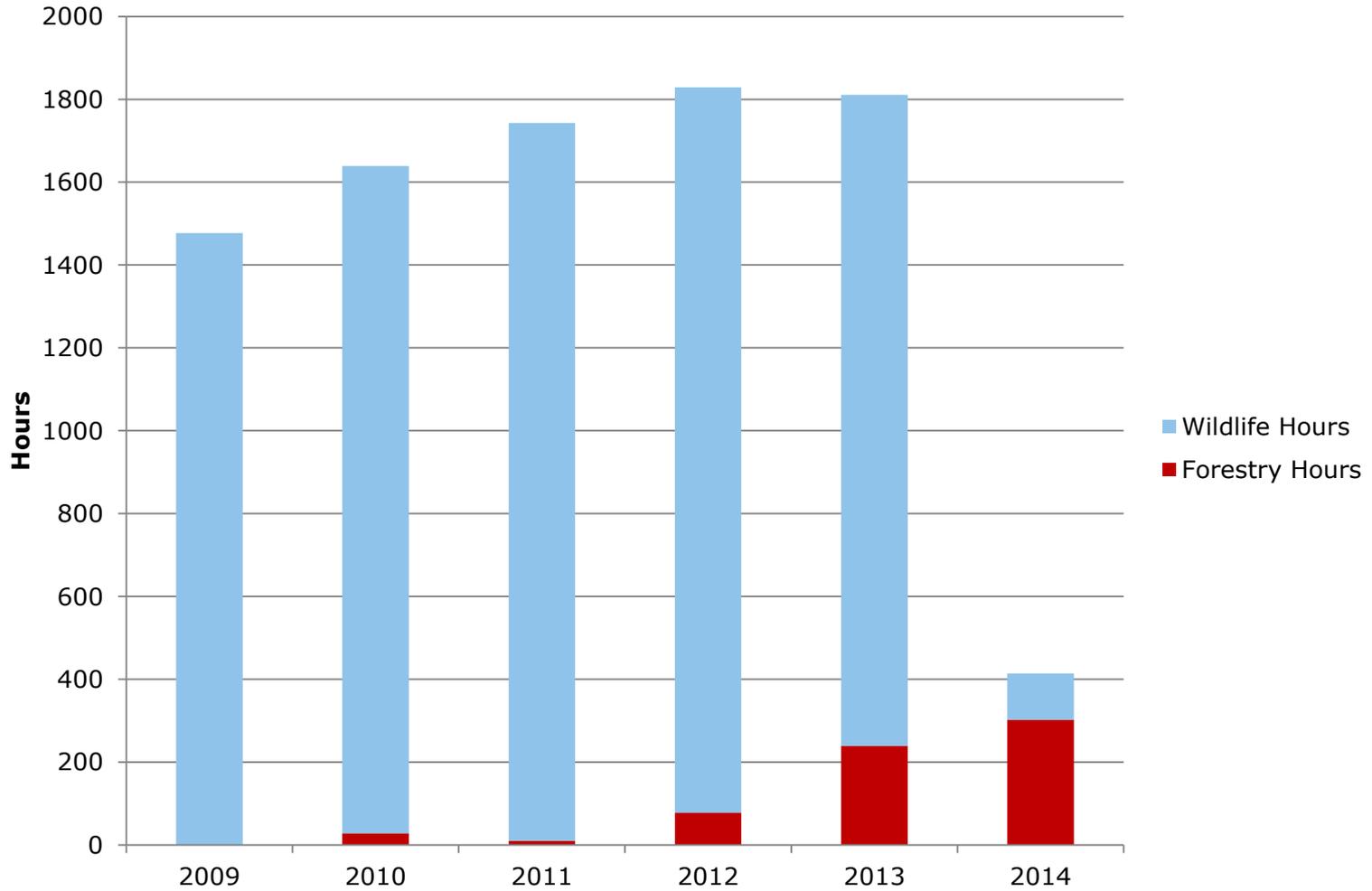
Number	Survey #	UTM (15T)	ID Confidence	Fruit Present	Approximate Size	Description/Notes
1			Yes Maybe	Yes No	1-10 Vines 10+ Vines	
2			Yes Maybe	Yes No	1-10 Vines 10+ Vines	
3			Yes Maybe	Yes No	1-10 Vines 10+ Vines	
4			Yes Maybe	Yes No	1-10 Vines 10+ Vines	
5			Yes Maybe	Yes No	1-10 Vines 10+ Vines	
6			Yes Maybe	Yes No	1-10 Vines 10+ Vines	
7			Yes Maybe	Yes No	1-10 Vines 10+ Vines	
8			Yes Maybe	Yes No	1-10 Vines 10+ Vines	
9			Yes Maybe	Yes No	1-10 Vines 10+ Vines	
10			Yes Maybe	Yes No	1-10 Vines 10+ Vines	
11			Yes Maybe	Yes No	1-10 Vines 10+ Vines	
12			Yes Maybe	Yes No	1-10 Vines 10+ Vines	



# NEW! Online Reporting



## NRM Volunteer Contribution

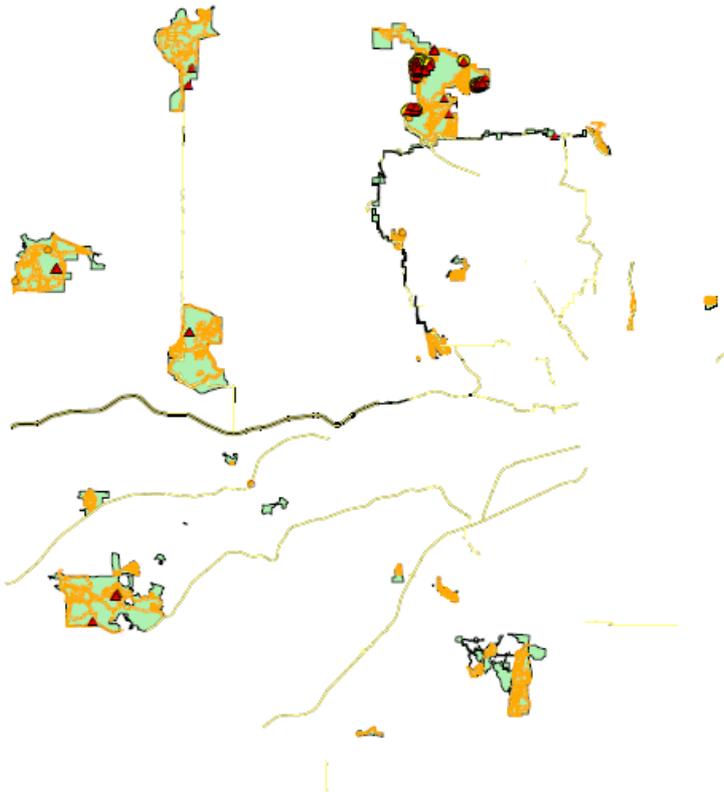


# Three Rivers Park District OB infestations 2013

# Results!

## Oriental bittersweet Summary

- Elm Creek – 40 acres
- Carver – 1 acre
- Baker - .5 acres
- Lake Rebecca - .5 acres
- Crow Hassan - .5 acres



### Oriental Bittersweet

- Volunteer Observation (verified)
- Field Assessment
- Observation (not verified)

8,900

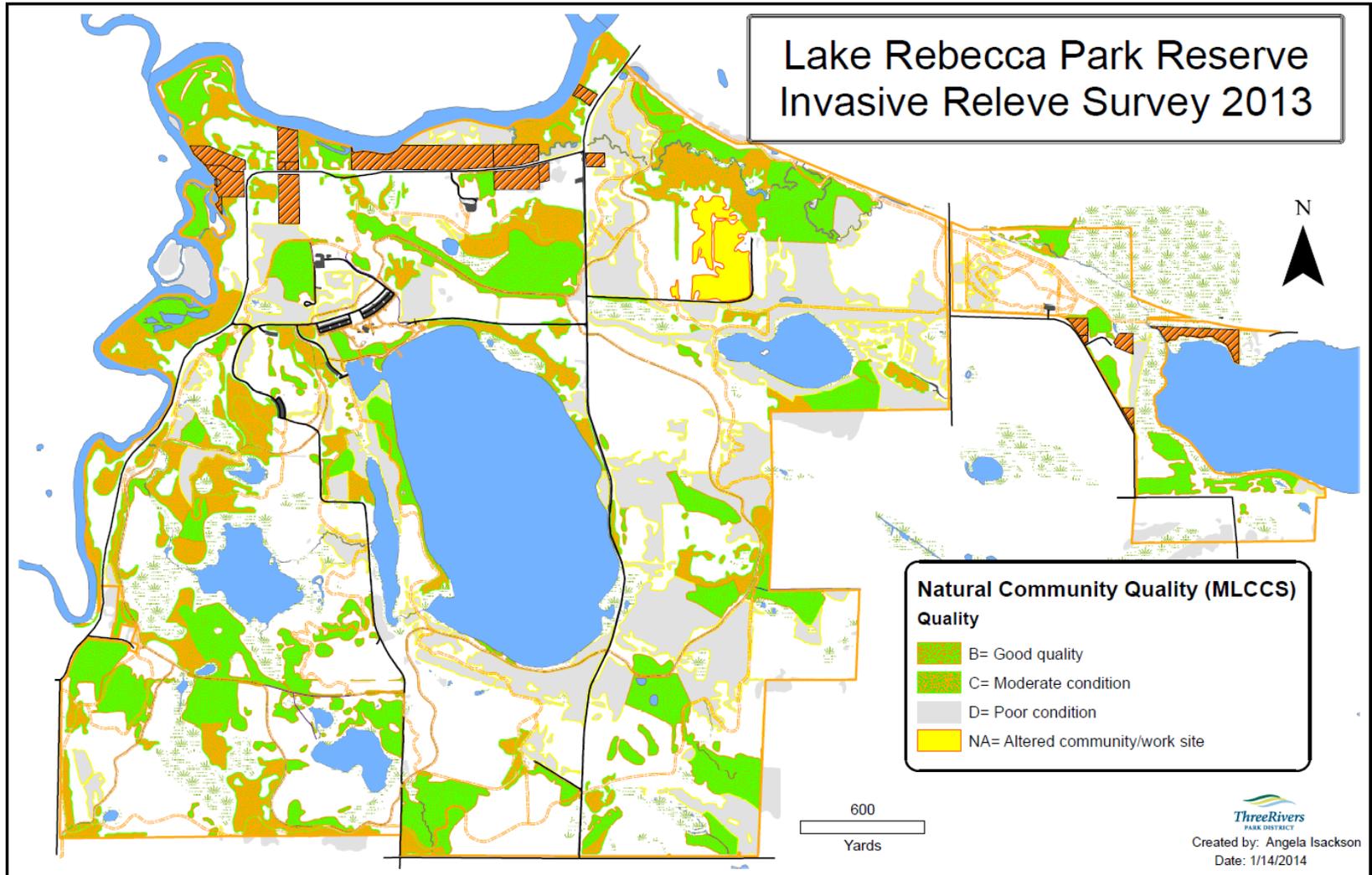
Yards



Created by: Angela Isackson  
Date: 12/5/2013

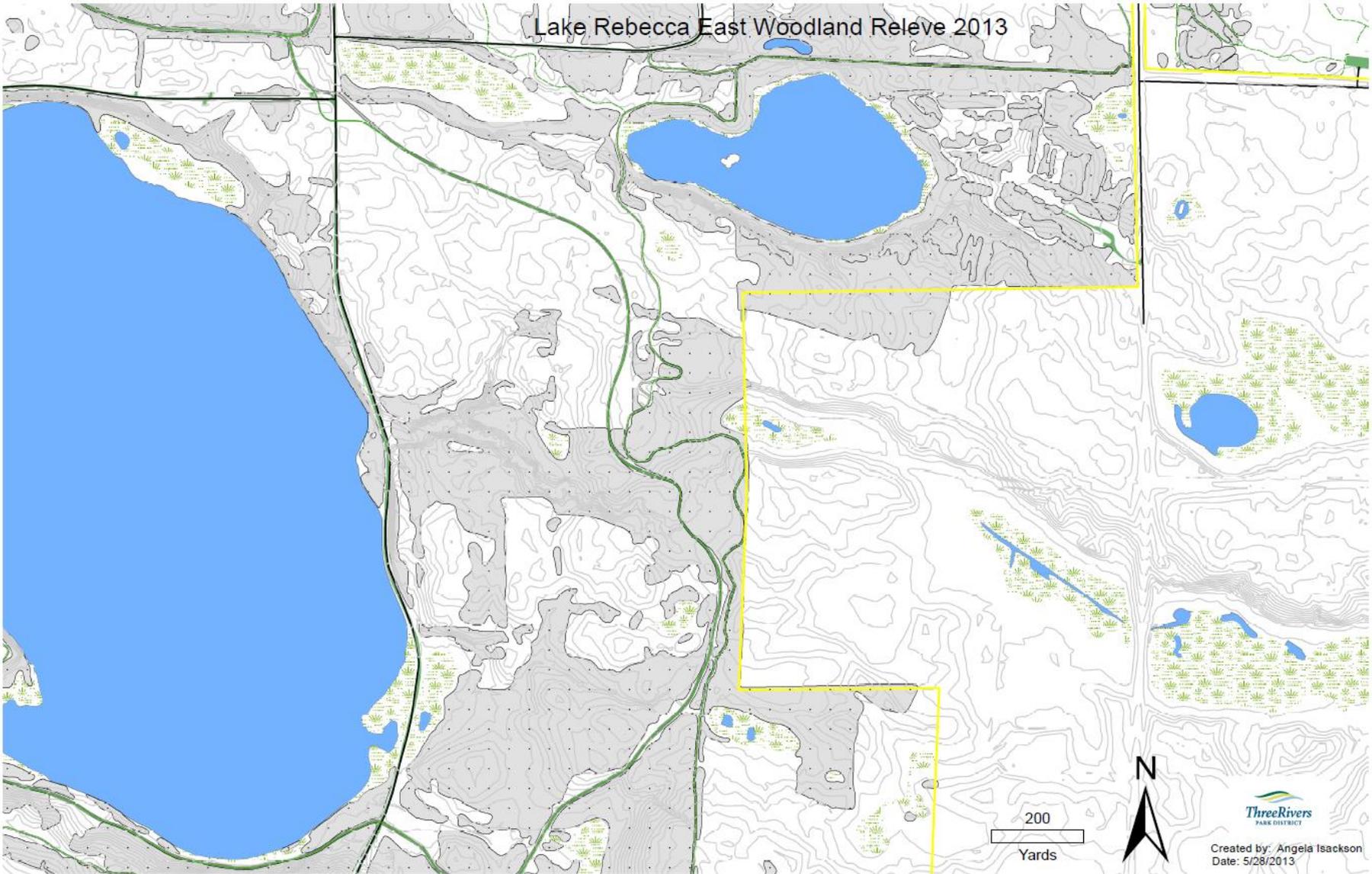


# Releve Mapping





Lake Rebecca East Woodland Revele 2013



200

Yards

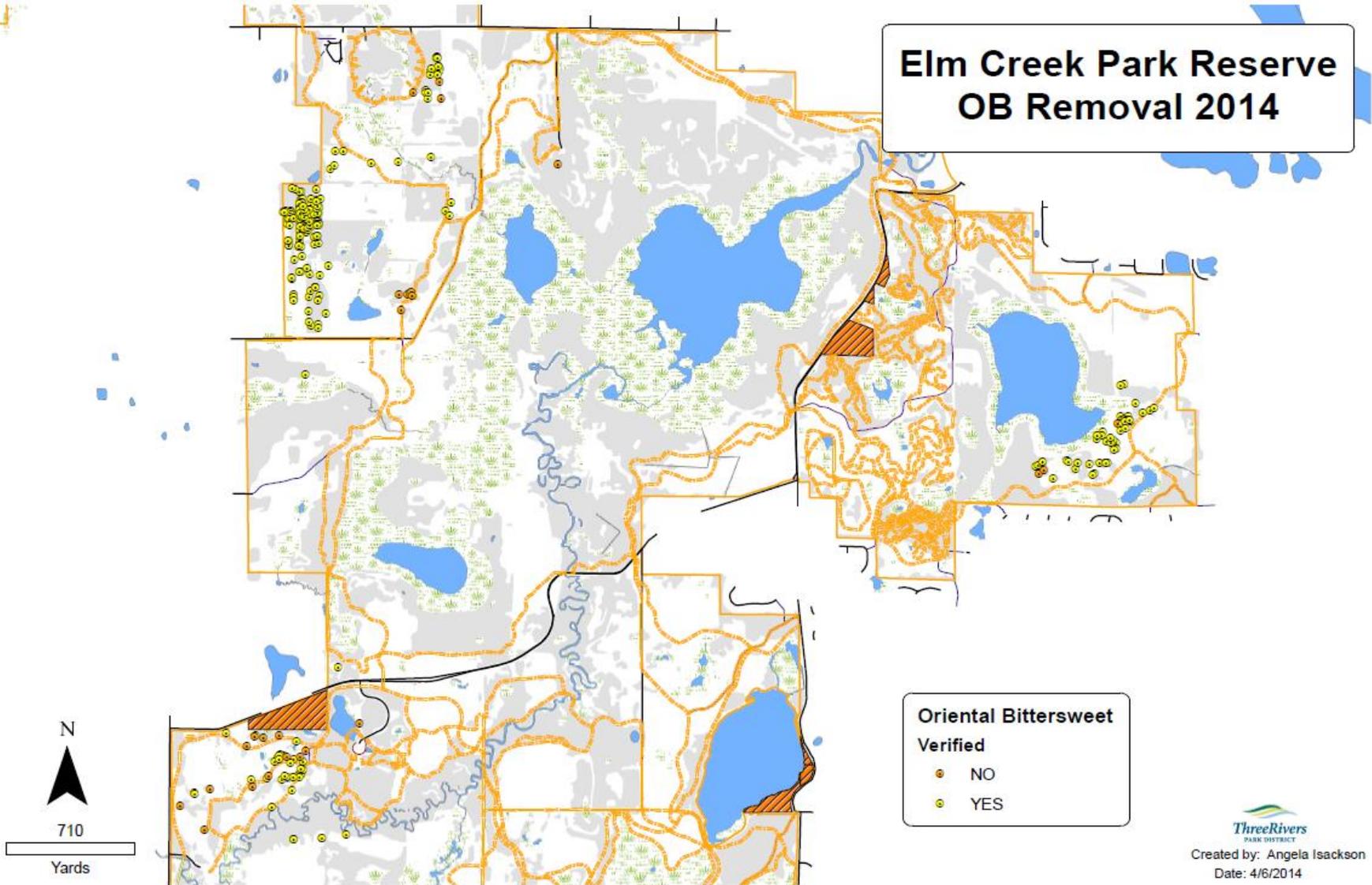


Created by: Angela Isackson  
Date: 5/28/2013

# Moving Forward

- Lots of OB to still remove
- Re-visit previous sites for follow-up
- Largest infestation over 14 acres
  - Test different removal methods/times
  - Fecon areas (forestry mulcher)
  - Restoration
- Continue monitoring/rotate parks

# This may take some time...



# Adopt-A-Woodlot

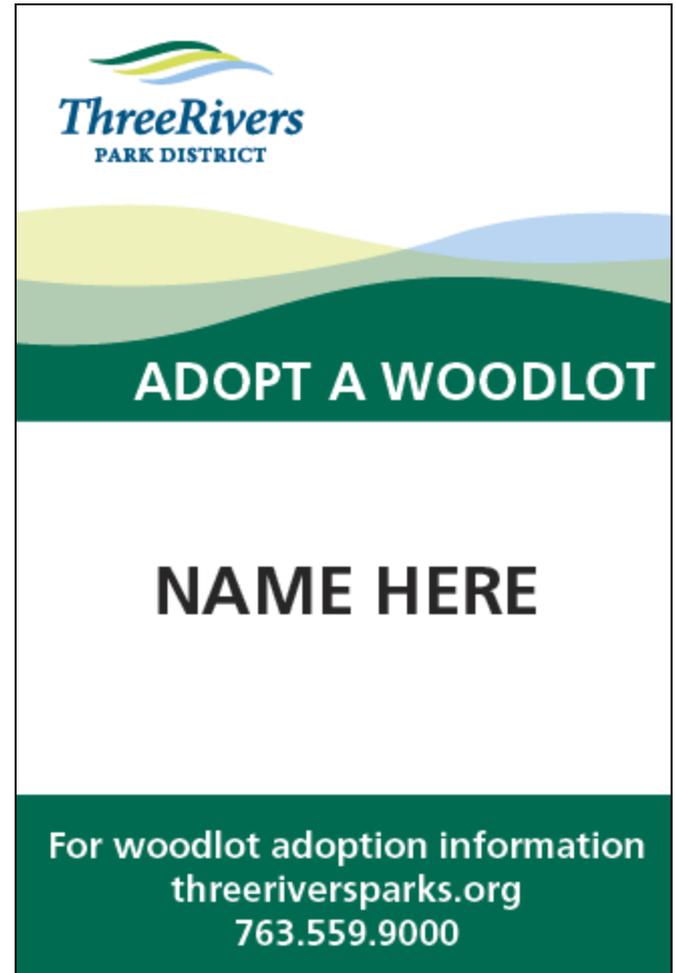
## **Purpose of the program:**

*"To reduce the threats of  
invasive plants."*

## **Your sponsorship benefits:**

- Park visitor experience
- Wildlife
- The natural heritage of our forests
- Three Rivers Parks and surrounding communities
- You!

***Thanks for your support!***



# Thank You!

- Angela Isackson
- Invasive Species Coordinator
- [aisackson@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:aisackson@threeriversparkdistrict.org)
- 763.694.7817

