



Strategic Plan

2024 – 2029

Our Vision

Metro Vancouver communities are free of invasive species, with sustainable programs in place to contain, control, educate, and prevent future introductions.

Our Purpose

The ISCMV seeks to protect the environment for the benefit of the public by minimizing the negative impact of invasive species through leadership on invasive species management and the provision of invasive species management-related education, reference materials, conferences, workshops and support services in the Metro Vancouver region.

An invasive species is one that occurs outside its natural range and whose introduction and spread has significant ecological, social and/or economic impacts.¹

Land Acknowledgment

The Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver acknowledges that the region's residents live, work, and learn on the shared territories of many Indigenous peoples, including 10 local First Nations: ǫ́ ícǎ́y̓ (Katzie), ǫ́ ʷá:ńłǎń (Kwantlen), kʷíkʷǎł ǎm (Kwikwetlem), máthxwi (Matsqui), xʷməθkʷə́y̓əm (Musqueam), qíqéy̓t (Qayqayt), se'mya'me (Semiahmoo), Skwx wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), scə́wáθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen), and səlílwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh).

Who We Are

The Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver (ISCMV) represents and serves a diverse range of invasive species management interests across the Metro Vancouver region. Members include representatives from all levels of government, stewardship groups, academic institutions, environmental professionals, nurseries, landscapers, non-profit organizations, and the public.

Originally established in 2006 as the Greater Vancouver Invasive Plant Council, the ISCMV is a non-profit society and one of many regional invasive species organizations across British Columbia. In 2023, the ISCMV obtained charity status under the Canadian Charities Directorate. The ISCMV works closely with land managers and other partners throughout the Metro Vancouver region on invasive species issues.

Background

Invasive species are one of the biggest drivers of global biodiversity loss and species extinctions.² They can impact the environment, the economy and public health and safety. Their presence has implications for biodiversity, food security, recreation, culture, housing and real estate, transportation, climate-change planning, infrastructure, agriculture, horticulture, and forestry.

While the Metro Vancouver region is a relatively small geographic area of British Columbia, over half the provincial population lives within its 3,000 square kilometers. This region is a major transportation hub for both goods and people, and a significant center for horticultural trade and land development, key pathways for the introduction and spread of many invasive species.

Many native plants and animals have cultural and spiritual significance for Indigenous Peoples, in addition to being important food and medicine sources. Indigenous communities in BC have collectively called for measures to prevent, manage, and control invasive species due to their negative impact on cultural practices, human health, ecosystems, and the economy. Further collaboration with Indigenous Peoples will deepen our understanding about the impact invasive species have on Indigenous ways of life and our shared environment.

Researchers predict that this region will experience warmer temperatures year-round; a decrease in snowpack; longer dry spells in summer months; more precipitation in autumn, winter and spring; more intense extreme events; and an extended growing season as our climate continues to change. These changes will stress many sensitive ecosystems, increasing their vulnerability to invasion. Invasive species are adaptable and they will spread, unless we take proactive measures now.

¹ [Canadian Council on Invasive Species](#)

² [International Union for the Conservation of Nature](#)

FIVE YEAR Strategic Plan 2024 - 2029

Goal 1: Provide strong and sustainable leadership

Finding a balance between effective management practices and protecting the environment is an ongoing challenge that requires long-term leadership and collaboration. The ISCMV will continue to be a resilient and adaptable organization in the dynamic world of invasive species management.

STRATEGIES:

- a) Collect, compile and share information on invasive species and effective management
- b) Expand collaboration with local, regional, provincial, national, Indigenous, and international partners
- c) Respond to the needs of regional partners³, identify gaps, and strive to fill those gaps where appropriate
- d) Explore sustainable and innovative funding partnerships
- e) Seek representation from a diverse range of backgrounds for the ISCMV Board



Visiting a giant hogweed site

Credit: ISCMV

Goal 2: Improve awareness and understanding

The ISCMV is a knowledge hub for information and expertise within the region for anyone seeking solutions and support. The ISCMV strives to be a lead organization for invasive species information and technical training in the Metro Vancouver region.

STRATEGIES:

- a) Deliver public education and outreach programs, including those that serve people with diverse needs (e.g., languages, accessibility) and from various age groups (e.g. youth, seniors)
- b) Refresh the ISCMV website and keep key resources up to date
- c) Host biannual forums and events that present relevant issues of concern
- d) Facilitate collaborative and professional development opportunities for invasive species practitioners



Tackling Himalayan blackberry during a school event

Credit: Chris Kimmel

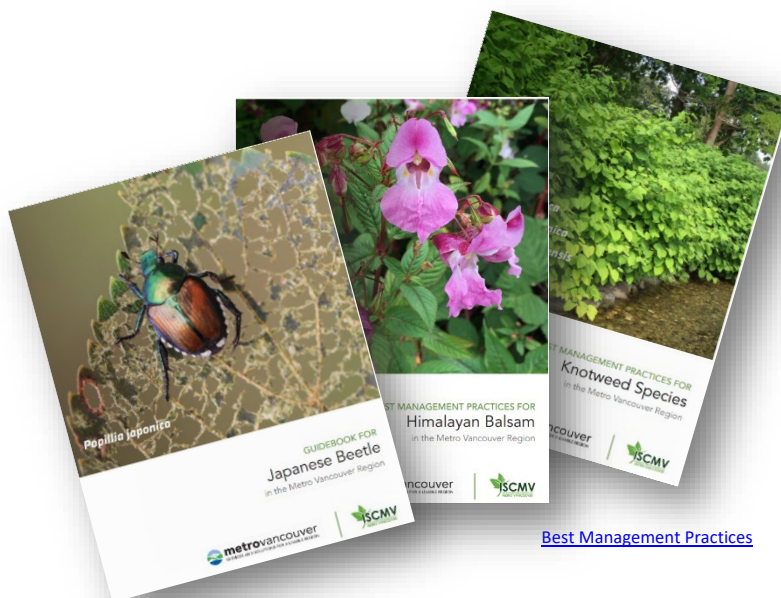
³ Regional partners include all levels of government, stewardship groups, practitioners, and other groups with an interest in invasive species management.

Goal 3: Promote effective invasive species management

The ISCMV has expert knowledge on current and new invasive species management approaches and will continue to provide support and guidance for partners to improve management efforts in the Metro Vancouver region.

STRATEGIES:

- a) Work with partners to develop, maintain, and advocate for best management practices for priority invasive species
- b) Support and promote invasive species research (e.g., detection and disposal methods, climate change impacts)
- c) Offer specialty operations services and facilitate early detection-rapid response
- d) Celebrate local success stories (e.g., profile wins via social media)
- e) Advocate for updated legislation, more enforcement, and regional support for coordination



[Best Management Practices](#)

Goal 4: Track progress and reach

Adaptive management involves monitoring progress, identifying challenges, and finding solutions to overcome those challenges are key elements of this plan. Through monitoring, assessment, and collaboration with partners, the ISCMV will continue to adapt its programs in response to new threats, technological advances, changing regulatory regimes, and other factors.

STRATEGIES:

- a) Build the ISCMV's annual work programs and budgets to align with the strategies in this Strategic Plan
- b) Compile an annual progress report and review this Plan every five years
- c) Track progress using indicators such as:
 - # of events ISCMV attended (e.g., presentations to garden clubs, conferences)
 - # of participants at ISCMV-hosted events
 - # of responses to inquiries (via email, phone, media interviews)
 - # of in-region invasive species reports on BC Invasives



Volunteers ready to remove English ivy

Credit: City of Delta



Priority Invasive Species (in alphabetical order)

- American bullfrog
- Butterfly bush
- Bamboo
- Cherry laurel
- Common periwinkle
- English and Irish ivies
- English holly
- European chafer beetle
- European fire ant
- Garlic mustard
- Giant hogweed
- Hedge bindweed
- Himalayan balsam
- Himalayan blackberry
- Japanese beetle
- Knotweeds
- Orange hawkweed
- Parrot's feather
- Purple loosestrife
- Reed canarygrass
- Scotch broom
- Spurge laurel
- Wild chervil
- Yellow archangel
- Yellow flag iris



An American bullfrog

Credit: Laurie Bates-Frymel



European fire ants

Credit: ISCMV



Scotch broom

Credit: ISCMV