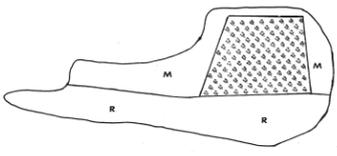


Eucalyptus in Coastal Parks and Open Space

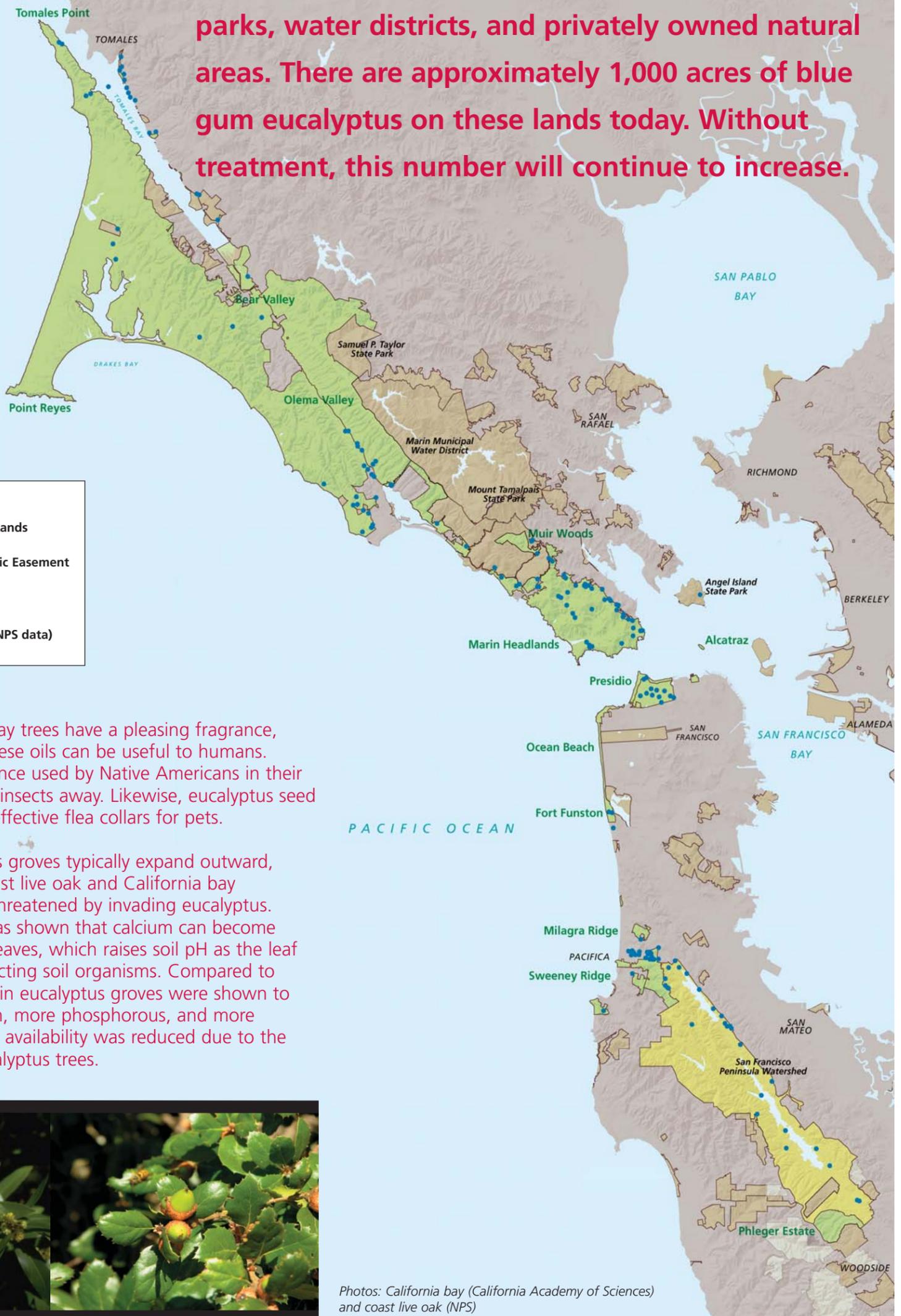
GROVE EXPANSION
EXAMPLE (Angel Island)



Shaded Area =
original planting 0.6 acres, 1915
Outer Area =
expansion to 2.2 acres, 1988

Reference: *Focused Environmental Study, Restoration of Angel Island Natural Areas Affected by Eucalyptus*, CA Dept of Parks and Rec, 1988.

The lands shown here include national parks, state parks, water districts, and privately owned natural areas. There are approximately 1,000 acres of blue gum eucalyptus on these lands today. Without treatment, this number will continue to increase.



LEGEND

- National Park Service Lands
- Golden Gate NRA Scenic Easement
- Other Public Lands
- Blue gum eucalyptus (NPS data)

Like eucalyptus, California bay trees have a pleasing fragrance, derived from natural oils. These oils can be useful to humans. California bay leaves were once used by Native Americans in their homes, under rugs, to keep insects away. Likewise, eucalyptus seed pods have proven to make effective flea collars for pets.

Once established, eucalyptus groves typically expand outward, displacing native plants. Coast live oak and California bay communities are especially threatened by invading eucalyptus. Fieldwork on Angel Island has shown that calcium can become concentrated in eucalyptus leaves, which raises soil pH as the leaf litter decays, potentially affecting soil organisms. Compared to native forest types, the soils in eucalyptus groves were shown to have significantly less carbon, more phosphorous, and more nitrogen. Additionally, water availability was reduced due to the extraordinary uptake of eucalyptus trees.



Photos: California bay (California Academy of Sciences) and coast live oak (NPS)

Key Concerns

Hazardous Fuels - *eucalyptus groves produce large fuel loads*

Community Fire Protection - *eucalyptus near residential areas can quickly carry fire to homes*

Natural Resource Preservation - *as eucalyptus expands, it reduces native habitat*

Cultural Resource Preservation - *some eucalyptus trees are historically significant*

Cost of Treatment - *eucalyptus removal is very expensive*