

Navarro River Estuary Natural Forces at Work

DID YOU KNOW?
Invasive, non-native plant species can eventually replace native vegetation and devastate natural habitat.



View of Navarro Mill and town in 1880.
Mendocino County Historical Society Robert J. Lee Collection

Changing Landscape
The area that surrounds you was much different 150 years ago when it was a bustling mill town. The town of Navarro included a large mill, school, church, company store, assembly hall, worker housing, barns and agricultural fields, the Mill Superintendent's residence (now referred to as the Mill House), private homes, and the holdings of Captain Fletcher that included the Inn, his home, blacksmith shop, ship building shed, and other structures.

Decline of the Town
An economic recession in the 1890s and a series of natural events, including fires, floods, and even the 1906 earthquake took a heavy toll on the town. Eventually, only the Inn and Mill House survived. Even the town's name was taken in 1923 when Wendling (located about 14 miles east) was renamed Navarro. Remnants of the original town are scattered in the surrounding area, and the pilings from old piers and the railroad on the north bank are visible if you look carefully.

Nature Reclaims the Town
Over time, nature has been reclaiming the land disturbed by past human settlement. Marshlands, meadows, and riparian woodland now reoccupy the once bustling town. Water diversion and changes in freshwater flows in the Navarro River, sea level rise, and other factors continue to influence the natural conditions found here today. A number of highly invasive plant species still provide an indication of human occupation and disturbance. Invasive plant and animal species tend to displace native plants and animals, compromising habitat values.

Need for Continuing Stewardship and Habitat Restoration
A major opportunity for further stewardship focuses on invasive plant control and, ideally, eradication. Aggressive invasive plant species found here today also dominate much of the coast shoreline and riparian habitats of California as they continue to spread and replace native vegetation.

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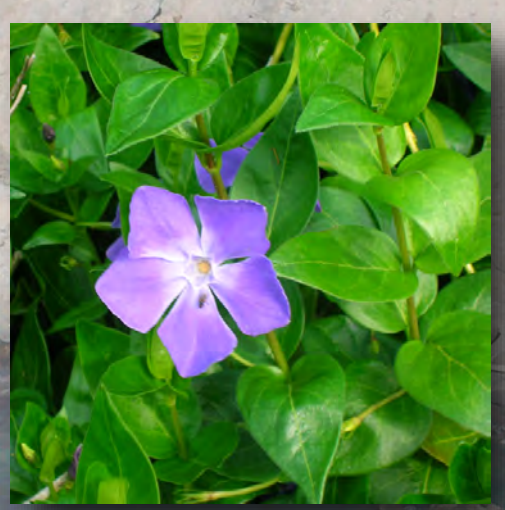
Visit the Navarro-by-the-Sea-Center website or: 

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

Problem Invasive Plants



pampas grass
Cortaderia spp.



periwinkle
Vinca major



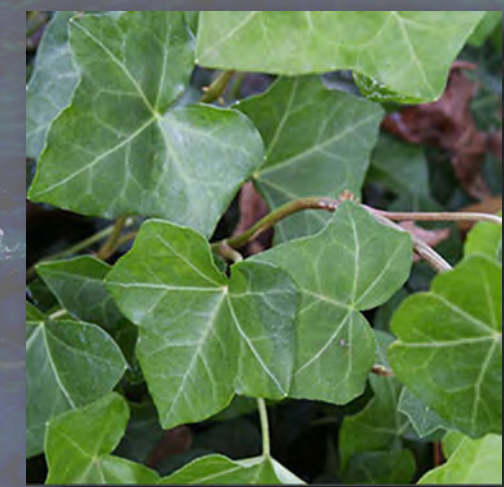
blue gum
Eucalyptus globulus



Cape ivy
Delairea odorata



French broom
Genista monspessulana



English ivy
Hedera helix

CHALLENGE

Conservation organizations like the California Invasive Plant Council are working to educate the public about the threats of invasive plants. Would you volunteer to help remove invasive species and protect natural habitat?