

From Weed to Feed:

Targeting invasive species for use as zoo browse

Jennifer Hillmer, Invasive Plant Coordinator

Leigh Anne Lomax, Manager of Zoo Horticulture and Facilities

Board of Park Commissioners Information Item

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Browse Program

- Browse is live plant material collected and distributed to Animal Care Staff as a supplement to an animal's regular diet.
- Browse promotes health and natural behaviors in many animal species.
- Browse is given to: Primates, Hoofstock, Marsupials, Rodents, Insects, Reptiles, Bears, and Bats & Birds.

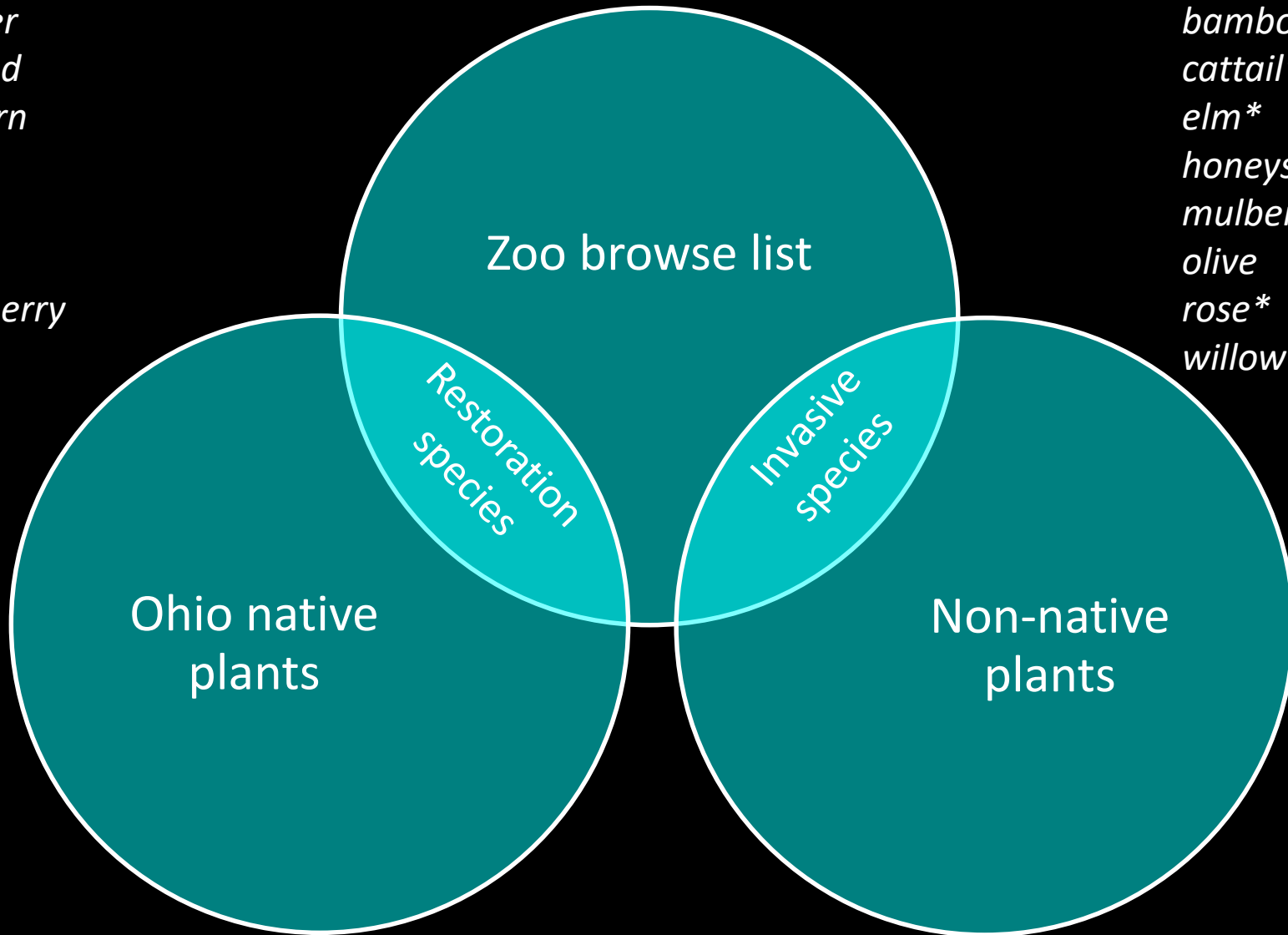






Restore:
*alder**
box elder
dogwood
hawthorn
oak
redbud
*rose**
serviceberry
*willow**

Remove:
*alder**
bamboo
*cattail**
*elm**
*honeysuckle**
mulberry
olive
*rose**
*willow**



* both native and non-native species present in parks

Browse Plants

- Apple
- Bamboo
- Banana
- Box Elder
- Forsythia
- European Alder
- Ornamental Grasses
- Pear
- Redbud
- Willow



Multiflora Rose

Rosa multiflora





European Alder

Alnus glutinosa







Benefits to date

- No additional costs or disruption to work flow
- Increased quantity and variety of browse
- Increased options for daily collection
- High staff satisfaction through contribution to animal enrichment
- Improved communication and satisfaction of working across Cleveland Metroparks operating divisions

Future collaboration

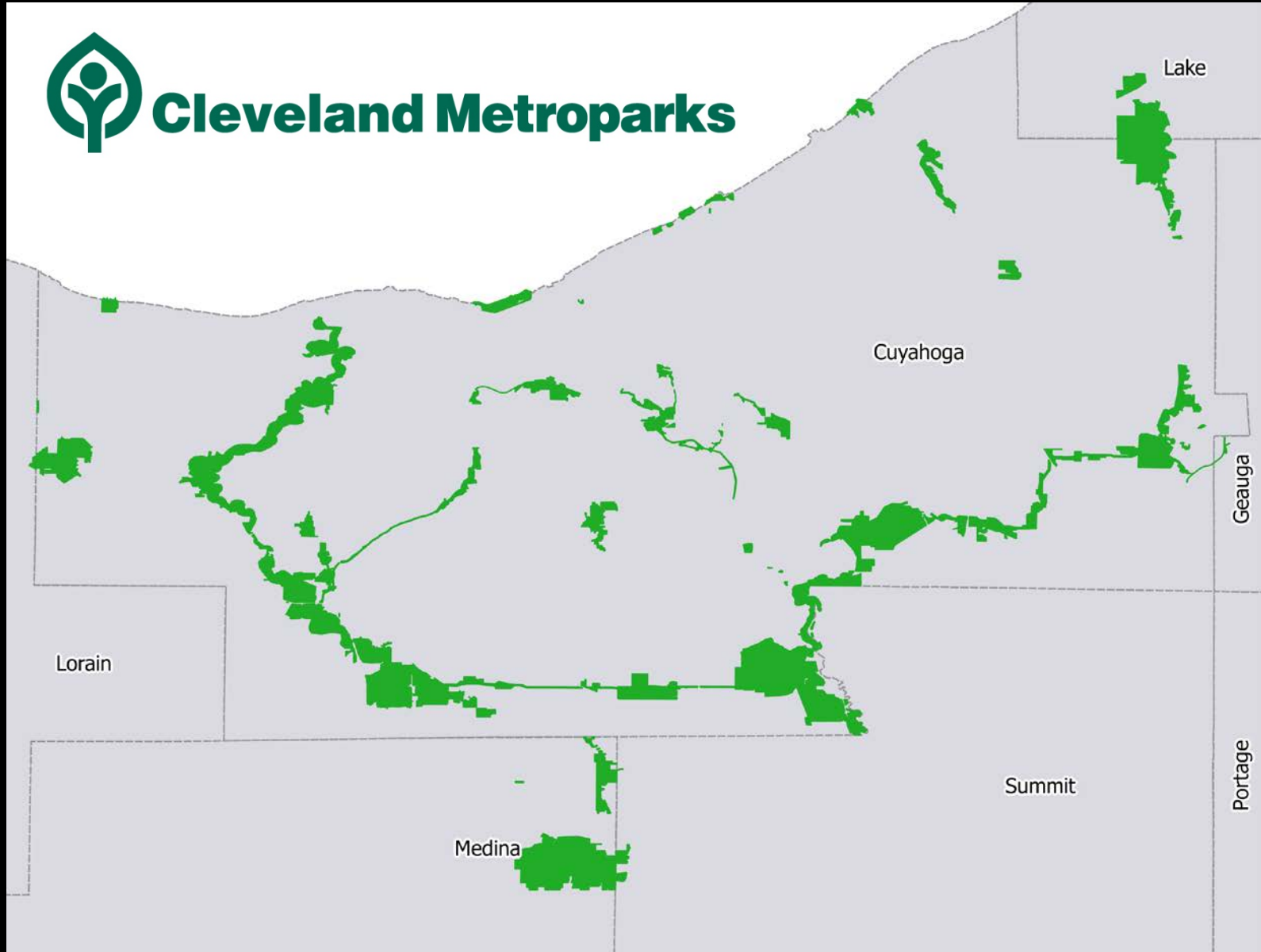
- Designate additional collection sites
- Improve recordkeeping
- Implement integrated vegetation management
- Report new locations of 'minor' species of browse material for collection



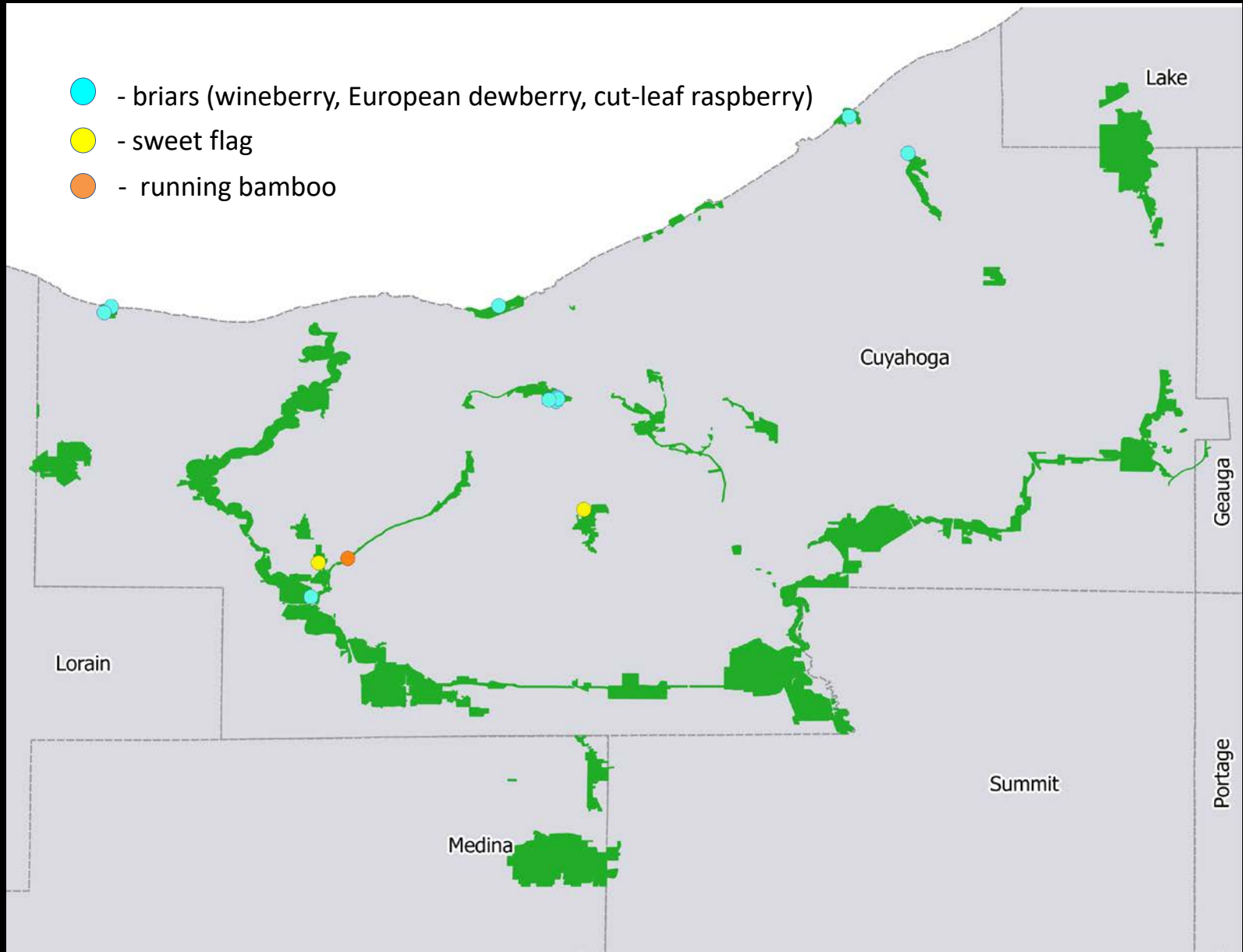
Clockwise from upper right: Bradford pear, white mulberry, forsythia, Siberian elm. Photos: bugwood.org

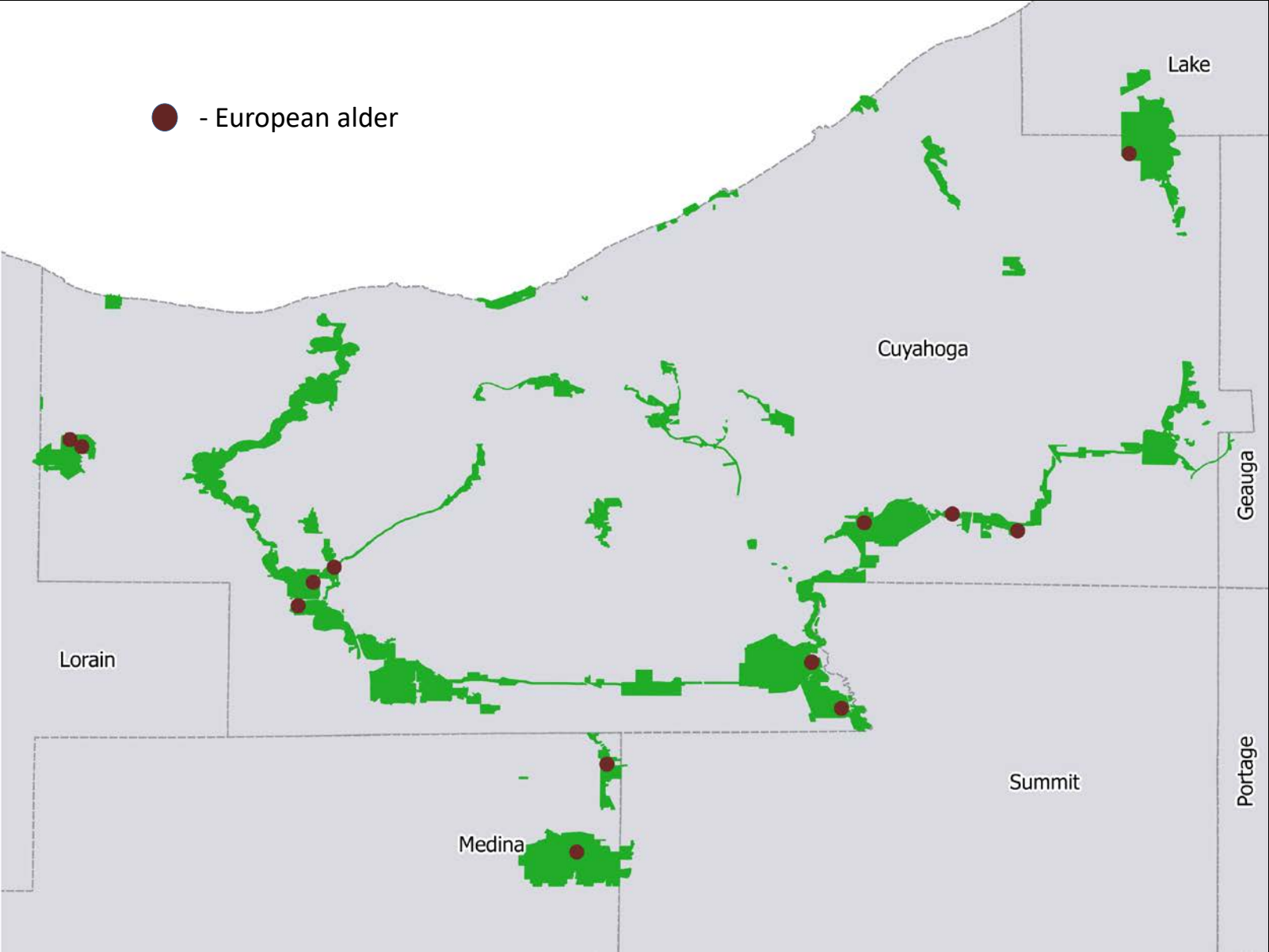


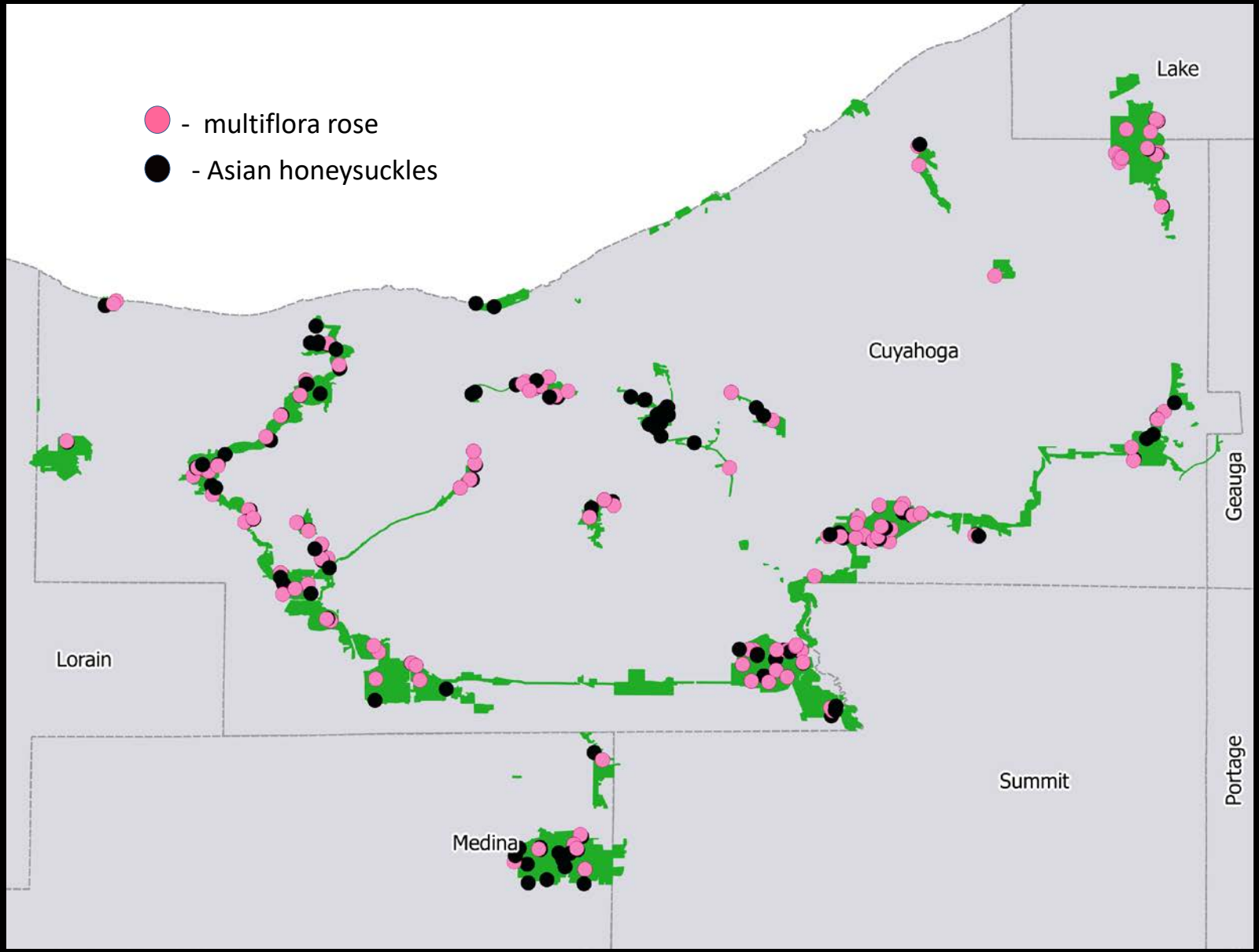
Cleveland Metroparks



- - briars (wineberry, European dewberry, cut-leaf raspberry)
- - sweet flag
- - running bamboo













Leigh Anne Lomax, Manager of Zoo Horticulture and Facilities

Jennifer Hillmer, Invasive Plant Coordinator
Park Operations, Division of Natural Resources