



ABOUT the LAGUNA TRAIL

The Laguna de Santa Rosa Trail has two entrances:

- 6303 Highway 12, just east of Sebastopol
- 5420 Occidental Road, between Sanford Road and Irwin Lane, across from Rancho Caballo Lane, just west of Hanna Winery

Hours	The trail is open from sunrise to sunset.
Parking	No fee. The Highway 12 entrance has 12 parking spaces, including one ADA site, bike racks, three areas for horse trailers, a chemical toilet and trash and recycling bins. The Occidental Road entrance includes eight parking spaces, including one ADA site, and bike racks.
Dogs	Permitted on the multi-use trail segment on leash up to 6 feet. Dogs must stay on leash at all times.
Trail Condition	The trail surface is designed to enhance the trail experience and be more suitable for the environment. The County will continue to monitor the trail condition, perform crack repairs, and replace sections of trail as needed. Sonoma County Regional Parks department is responsible for monitoring and patrolling the trails.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Laguna de Santa Rosa trail is Regional Parks' newest trail, offering a unique opportunity to see the biologically diverse landscape of Sonoma County's largest freshwater wetland.
- The trail runs on the east side of the Laguna between Highway 12 and Occidental Rd, with trailheads and parking areas located off of both roads.
- **A 1.8-mile multi-use trail is open to hikers, cyclists and equestrians** and includes an overlook area with benches and Laguna and vineyard views. Paved with crushed stone, **the trail is fully accessible for wheelchair users.**
- **An unpaved .6-mile pedestrian-only (no dogs, no bicycles, no horses) path loops off of that segment toward the riparian cover along the channel.**

This trail can be accessed through the closed gate downhill from Kelly Marsh.

- During the summer months a floating bridge is installed over the Laguna channel by the City of Sebastopol, linking the Meadowlark field trail to the Laguna Wetland Preserve on the west side of the channel.
- The trail passes through the **Meadowlark Restoration Project**. Over 5,000 native trees and shrubs have been installed in this region to improve the ecologic function of the Laguna and to provide wildlife habitat.
 - The field needed restoration because of its former uses as an airplane landing strip and as a dispersal site for the waste from apple processing.
- The wetland area at the north section of the trail is called **Kelly Wetland**. It was constructed in 1986 as a demonstration wetland to test the ability of wetlands to polish water that has been recycled from our homes and industries. It was also used to study the benefits of tertiary-treated municipal wastewater (recycled water) for wetland creation, restoration and wetland habitat.
 - The pond contains mosquito fish
 - Birds and mammals have colonized the wetland, including:
 - Mink, river otter, skunk, deer, rabbit, fox, raccoon
 - Snowy and great egrets; great blue herons; mallards; common mergansers; western and pied-bill grebes, American white pelican; red-tailed hawk; cliff, tree and violet-green swallow; killdeer; California quail; marsh wren; red-winged blackbird, etc.
 - **No swimming** is permitted in the wetland waters.
 - **Dogs are not permitted in the water.**

The Laguna is internationally recognized for its ecological importance. Its marshes, vernal pools, riparian woodland and valley oak savannah are among the region's richest habitats for wildlife and plants, including the special-status California tiger salamander, Sebastopol meadowfoam and Lobb's aquatic buttercup.

DOGS

They are welcome on the hard-pack trail as long as they are on a maximum **6-foot leash at all times.**

Dogs are not permitted on the seasonal, pedestrian only trail

Dogs are not permitted to swim in the Kelly Wetland

From the County Parks website:

Parks are a place for all to enjoy, with a variety of visitors appreciating different things about each park. While some people are not comfortable around dogs in general, most don't want an unfamiliar dog bounding toward them when their owner has let them run off leash. No person, or their dog, should ever feel threatened by another's dog. **Parks need to remain a safe, comfortable place for all park users.**

A diverse array of wildlife and plants make their home in the county parks. All these inhabitants have laws to protect them from being disturbed.

- Unleashed dogs have been known to injure or kill park creatures ranging from gophers to deer.

Wildlife can also be a danger to the unleashed dog.

- A dog's curiosity may get him sprayed by a skunk or net him a snout full of quills.
- Pet dogs have been killed by wildlife, in self-defense or for a meal.
- There is also the potential for exposure to rabies and distemper.

In addition to the leash law in county parks, there is also a requirement that owners clean up after their dog.

- Dog feces are smelly, unhealthy and unsightly.
- In addition, **canine waste material carries diseases that can be deadly to foxes, otters, raccoons, skunks, and other animals.**

Park rangers will issue citations for dogs off-leash. Fines can reach upward of \$500.00 and may require court appearance

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- Be sure to visit the Laguna Environmental Center to learn more about the Laguna de Santa Rosa.
 - The Center is open on the **second Saturday** of each month from 10 am-3:00 pm for docent-led tours and hands-on activities.
 - The Center is open Monday-Thursday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm for self-guided visits.
 - Center is located at 900 Sanford Road. On the corner of Sanford and Occidental Road, just east of High School Road and just east of the Laguna
- Sign-up to receive the Laguna Foundation e-news to be informed of upcoming walks, talks and volunteer opportunities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- www.lagunafoundation.org
- http://www.sonoma-county.org/parks/pk_laguna_trl.htm
- www.sonomaopenspace.org

Document updated 2/25/2015