The Laguna's 22-mile channel extends from Cotati to its confluence with the Russian River north of Forestville, but the Laguna is far more than its main channel. It is a unique ecological system comprised of a mosaic of creeks, open water, perennial marshes, seasonal wetlands, riparian forests, oak woodlands and grasslands. The Laguna is an important stopover for thousands of birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway and is home to a wide variety of life: more than 200 species of birds ranging from bald eagles to hummingbirds, steelhead, mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, mink, badger, and river otter.

**The Laguna Watershed**

In addition to the habitat it provides for wildlife, the Laguna is used for agricultural, recreational and educational purposes. It serves as a natural holding basin during our wet season and as an overflow area for the Russian River during floods, slowing and capturing floodwaters and easing their impact on lower Russian River communities. As the receiving water of a watershed where most of the county’s human population lives, it is a landscape feature of critical importance to Sonoma County’s water quality, flood control, and biodiversity.

**Laguna de Santa Rosa Wildlife Habitat**

The Laguna Foundation © 2012

Map ID: 732-A

Cartography: Jessica Siegel

The Laguna de Santa Rosa Wildlife Habitat

Enjoy views of the creek and the riparian habitat. Great place for bird watching. Access on Willowside Road, half way between Guerneville Road and Hall Road.

**Santa Rosa Creek Trail**

Enjoy views of the creek and the riparian habitat. Great place for bird watching. Access on Willowside Road, half way between Guerneville Road and Hall Road.

**Laguna “Headwaters” Loop in Cotati**

This fairly flat 3-mile urban walk includes part of the Cotati Creek Critters 1-mile restoration site, a low-water permaculture "pocket park," and the surprising historic headwaters of the Laguna. For a detailed description of this walk plus a map of the area, navigate to the recreation section of the Laguna Foundation website.
Trails Included on the Map

**Laguna Wetlands Preserve**, Owned by City of Sebastopol
Behind the Sebastopol Community Center is a short walking trail that adjoins the Laguna channel and loops around two created ponds. From late spring to early fall a floating pedestrian bridge connects to a 1.5 mile trail on the east bank of the Laguna channel. **Access:** Trails are accessible to walkers and wheelchairs but not bikes. Dogs allowed on leash. **How to Get There:** West Side Entrance: From Hwy 12, turn north on Morris Street in Sebastopol. Park behind 425 Morris Street. East Side Entrance: Parking is available next to the Chevron gas station, 5640 Highway 12, just east of the Laguna Bridge.

**Kayak Put-In Site**, Owned by County of Sonoma
This waterfront property is a small, county-owned buffer between Balletto Vineyards and the Laguna de Santa Rosa. **Access:** Since there are not extensive trails, most visitors sit under the large valley oaks to fish or put in a boat along the sloping banks. There is a small gravel parking lot (6-8 cars max) on the south side of Occidental Road, to the east of the Laguna Bridge.

**Laguna Uplands Preserve**, Owned by Laguna Foundation
This is a small gem in Sebastopol’s backyard located just behind Palm Drive Hospital. The property is characterized by moderately sloping hillsides, with scenic views across the Laguna looking east toward Taylor Mountain and Santa Rosa. **Access:** Trails are accessible to walkers but not bikes. Dogs allowed on leash. From Highway 116 in Sebastopol, turn east on Palm Avenue and park at the end of the street. Please be careful not to block the neighbors.

**Joe Rodota Trail**, Owned by City of Santa Rosa
This 2.8 mile paved trail runs along an abandoned railroad line linking Sebastopol and Santa Rosa. The trail is a segment of the West County Trail and passes along agricultural ranches and the Laguna of Santa Rosa. The trail is an excellent place for year-round bird watching. **Access:** Trail is accessible for walkers and wheelchairs, bicycles, horseback riding, and roller skating. Dogs allowed on 6-foot leash. Parking is available in Santa Rosa on Merced Avenue and Sebastopol Road or in the town of Sebastopol, next to the trail head located off of Petaluma Avenue.

**Laguna de Santa Rosa Trail**, Planned opening: Summer 2013
Once open for use, the Laguna Trail will include approximately 2.4 miles of paths along City of Santa Rosa’s Kelly Farm and the City of Sebastopol’s Laguna Wetlands Preserve. The trail runs north-south between Hwy 12 and Occidental Road, on the east side of the Laguna channel. **Access:** Two trailheads (one on Hwy 12 east of Sebastopol, the other off Occidental Road in Santa Rosa) include educational signs, disabled parking stalls, bike racks and horse rail. From these staging areas access the 1.8-mile multi-use & wheelchair accessible trail, a seasonal 0.6-mile pedestrian-only trail leading to the riparian cover along the Laguna, and an overlook area at Kelly Wetland. For an extended walk loop around the Meadowlark Field section of the Laguna Wetlands Preserve and observe the restoration efforts underway on the site. In the summer months, cross the seasonal pedestrian bridge and enjoy the trails on the west side of the Laguna. Dogs on-lease permitted. For more information, please visit: [www.sonomaopenspace.org](http://www.sonomaopenspace.org)

**Laguna de Santa Rosa Environmental Center**
900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa
The Laguna Environmental Center is a site where visitors can come to learn more about the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Pathways lead to a series of educational interpretive signs about the natural and human history of the area. Landscaped with native plants, the grounds include beautiful views, spots to picnic, a bridge over a swale, a pond planted with wetland plants and an observation deck suitable for bird watching, photography, or just enjoying the vistas. Great Blue Heron Hall is the classroom for Laguna docent training and many other public education classes. The site is a special venue for Laguna events and can also be rented for community events aligning with our mission. Visit [www.lagunafoundation.org](http://www.lagunafoundation.org) for facility rental details.

Support the Laguna Foundation’s restoration, education and conservation science programs; become a member today!

900 Sanford Rd, Santa Rosa CA 95401
707.527.9277
[www.lagunafoundation.org](http://www.lagunafoundation.org)

Development and production of this brochure was achieved through the generous support of the Sebastopol Rotary Club.