

## What is the Laguna de Santa Rosa?

- **A waterway 14 miles long**, stretching from Cotati and Rohnert Park to Forestville. At 250 square miles, the Laguna-Mark West system is the largest tributary of the Russian River.
- **A distinctive type of wetland** combining elements of floodplain, channels, pools and marshes; at one time the second largest wetland in coastal Northern California.
- **A unique mosaic of habitats**, open water, wetlands, forest, woodland, grassland and vernal pools distributed among 21,000 acres, help make Sonoma County one of the top 10 bird watching areas in the country. More than 250 kinds of birds visit or live in the Laguna year round.
- **A floodplain that slows and ponds urban runoff**, and acts as an overflow basin for Russian River floods.
- **An agricultural area** with extensive family farms, preserving open space and a traditional way of life.
- **A cultural resource** containing the sites of Southern Pomo settlements, at one time the center of a thriving culture supported by abundant natural resources. Some areas of the Laguna have been occupied for more than 8,000 years.
- **A green island** surrounded by Sonoma County's largest cities, offering recreation and opportunities to observe and enjoy the natural landscape. The Laguna is a community separator with vistas of majestic valley oaks from all directions.

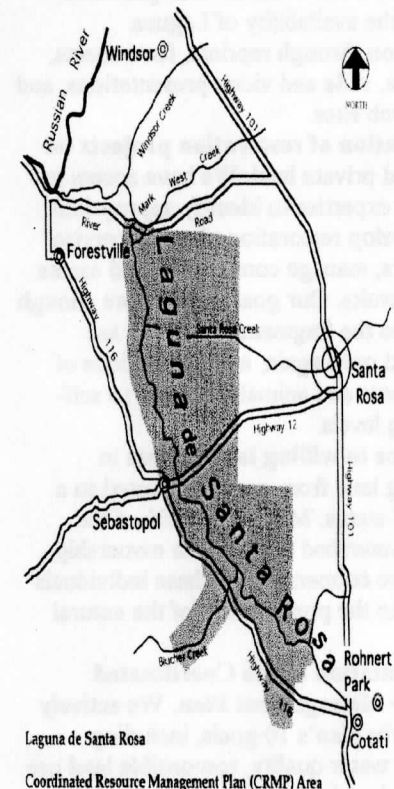
The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation  
P.O. Box 797  
Sebastopol, California 95473



## The Laguna de Santa Rosa

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*"The Laguna is a dynamic system, and our efforts to protect and restore must be a continually evolving process"*



## Foundation Programs

- **Friends of the Laguna Docent Program**  
Our goal is to train enough docents by the year 2003 to be able to serve all the elementary schools that surround the Laguna de Santa Rosa.
- **Resource for the community** in terms of information. We provide reports, research data and photographs from our comprehensive collection to elected officials, public agencies, schools, community groups and interested individuals. Our goal is to increase the availability of Laguna information through reprints, facts sheets, brochures, slide and video presentations, and on-line web sites.
- **Coordination of restoration projects** on public and private land. We have access to technical expertise to identify appropriate sites, develop restoration plans, supervise volunteers, manage contractors, and assess project results. Our goal is to restore enough acreage so the fragmented habitats are connected once again, and populations of native plants and animals increase to self-sustaining levels.
- **Assistance to willing landowners** in conveying land from a non-protected to a protected status. More than 90% of the Laguna watershed is in private ownership, making the cooperation of these individuals essential to the preservation of the natural habitat.
- **Implementation of the Coordinated Resource Management Plan.** We actively promote the plan's 10 goals, including improved water quality, responsible land use and agricultural practices, and increased public access, and enjoyment of the Laguna by creating a system of hiking trails and nature walks.
- **Stewards for donations** of both land and funds for restoration, preservation and education. Our goal is to establish programs that will create value for generations to come.

## Our Mission

*To preserve, restore, and enhance the Laguna de Santa Rosa. To study and to foster understanding of the Laguna. To educate and increase awareness of the unique attributes of the Laguna de Santa Rosa.*

## Board of Directors

The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization incorporated in 1990. The Foundation has a broad base of community support, reflected by the members of our Board of Directors who come from a variety of backgrounds and professions. The Board is assisted by Technical Advisors who volunteer their expertise in education, government, ecology, hydrology and environmental restoration. We are funded primarily through grants and cash contributions. If you or your organization would like to support our preservation, restoration and education efforts, please contact the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation attention:

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## Foundation Accomplishments

### Preservation

- Encouraged gift to the Foundation by the owners of the eight-acre Laguna Uplands property in Sebastopol. Supported earlier community efforts to secure a conservation easement on the property.

### Restoration

- Coordinated and conducted several volunteer restoration projects: debris cleanup, removing non-native vegetation and planting native grasses, tress and shrubs. Well over 1500 tress and shrubs have been planted through these projects.

### Education

- Established an outdoor environmental education program with the Sebastopol Union School District which is now in its sixth year.
- Developed a training program focusing on the biological and cultural resources of the Laguna for classroom teachers and volunteers.

### Resource Management

- Organized the State of the Laguna Conference
- Developed the Coordinated Resource Management Plan for the Laguna
- Participated in design of the award-winning Laguna Park Master Plan for the City of Sebastopol.
- Selected as stewards for contributions towards implementing of the Laguna Park Plan and constructing the Loretta Blincoe Memorial Trail.
- Supported adoption of the natural resources program of the Sub-Regional Wastewater Reclamation System.
- Advocated for the protection of public land in the Laguna, preventing development that would have diminished habitats for many kinds of native plants and animals.