

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 flood plain, channels, pools and marshes; the second largest freshwater 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 flood plain 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.

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"Preservation, Restoration & Education"



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

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