

City Council

Mayor Una Glass
Vice Mayor Patrick Slayter
Michael Carnacchi
Sarah Glade Gurney
Neysa Hinton

**City Manager**

Larry McLaughlin
lmclaughlin@cityofsebastopol.org
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC
Mary Gourley
mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org

City of Sebastopol**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****CONTACT:** Mary Gourley

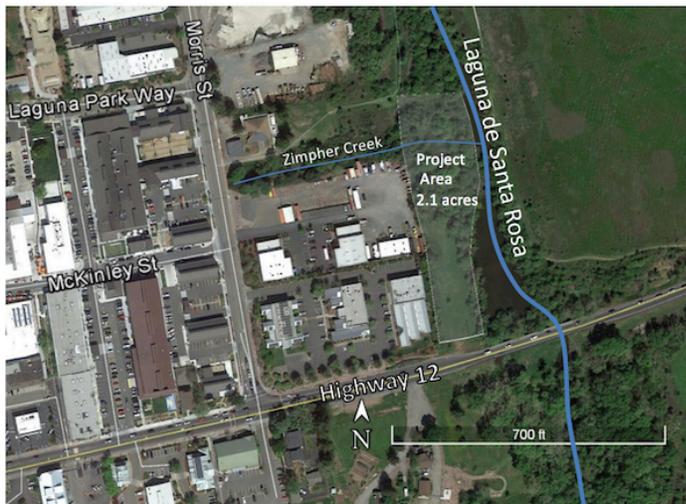
Assistant City Manager/ City Clerk, MMC

mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org

(707) 823-1153

LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA FOUNDATION RECEIVES \$75,000 GRANT*Grant to Fund Restoration of Laguna Wetlands Preserve in Sebastopol City Limits*

SEBASTOPOL, CA, APRIL 10, 2017 — On March 23, 2017 The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation received a \$75,000 grant from the Sonoma County Water Agency Watershed Partnership Program to fund a 2.1-acre restoration project in the Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands Preserve. The target restoration area is the City-owned property next to/paralleling the Laguna channel between Zimpher Creek and Highway 12. The restoration will be the first step toward creating a trail that connects the AmeriCorps Trail with the Joe Rodota Trail by way of Tomodachi Park. The grant does not require any matching funds from the City.



The project will implement a portion of the restoration goals of the City's Laguna Preserve Management Plan, and ties in with a potential City capital improvement project (extension of the AmeriCorps Trail to Sebastopol Avenue).

The restoration project will address replacement of non-native plants (primarily Himalayan blackberry) with durable native plants suitable to the Laguna ecosystem.

Wendy Trowbridge, Director of Restoration and Conservation Science Programs with the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, says “We will need to rely heavily on community volunteers to help us remove the roots. We are hoping that people will be excited about helping restore this important part of the Laguna right in the center of Sebastopol.”

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Kenyon Webster, Planning Director for The City of Sebastopol adds, “The project is benefiting the City’s Laguna Preserve entirely and is an active effort to implement the goals of the Laguna Park Master Plan and Laguna Preserve Management Plan and restore native ecology. The project is an inspiring example of partnerships with community organizations to leverage expertise and the advancement of City goals.”

The Laguna de Santa Rosa is the largest freshwater wetlands complex on the northern California coast. In a state known for extraordinary biological diversity, it is located in the second-most biologically rich county, Sonoma, and is a major contributor to the County’s biological diversity. The Laguna’s 22-mile channel forms the largest tributary to the Russian River, draining a 254-square-mile watershed which encompasses nearly the entire Santa Rosa Plain. This includes all or part of the communities of Windsor, Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Forestville, and Sebastopol.

For more information on the City’s Laguna Preserve Management Plan and the Laguna Park Master Plan, visit the [Parks Planning page](#) on the City of Sebastopol website.

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