

NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER 2008



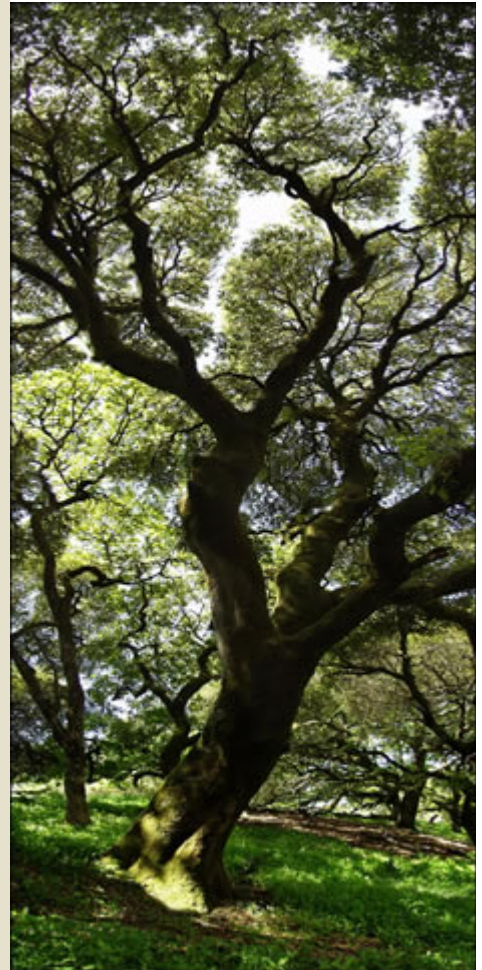
SONOMA COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION  
AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT  
[www.sonomaopenspace.org](http://www.sonomaopenspace.org)

## Falletti Ranch in Cotati Preserves Local Farming Tradition.

A joint agreement between the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and the City of Cotati will preserve the 4.4 acre Falletti Ranch in downtown Cotati. The property has been in agricultural use since the early 1900s and owned by the Faletti family since 1938. The historic ranch will now will be used as a community park. The farmhouse on the property will become a museum highlighting the history of the area. The Open Space Authority, recently approved funding for the project through a District matching grant.



The Falletti Ranch Matching Grant Project embodies the farming history of Cotati. The community park & museum planned for this property will continue the rural agricultural tradition for future generations.



## District Partners with Sebastopol to Protect Laguna de Santa Rosa.

One of the District's current Matching Grant Program projects is the City of Sebastopol's Laguna de Santa Rosa acquisition and improvement project. The scenic open-space property with natural resource habitat is highly visible along the Highway 12 eastern entrance to the city. The District will contribute funding for the purchase of a 9.1-acre campground area. Additionally, funding will pay for public access improvements and restoration of the Laguna de Santa Rosa channel.

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The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District E-Newsletter is distributed to Sonoma



The Laguna Acquisition & Improvement Matching Grant Project will provide a park in a natural setting along the Laguna de Santa Rosa channel that will link to the Joe Rodota Trail.

The project furthers goals in the Sonoma County General Plan by preserving the landscape along a scenic roadway, retaining the open character of an important scenic area, and restoring and enhancing the biotic resources associated with the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

## No Farms, No Food! Preserving the Land Base.

During your next meal, consider for a moment the effort it takes to grow the food you and your family are eating. Consider the costs involved, both economic and social. You might even spend a moment reading the packaging to learn more about the food's origin you'll find that the average distance traveled for much of our store-bought food is 1,500 to 2,000 miles, or the distance between Santa Rosa and Chicago. Ask yourself if this food takes a day or two to travel such a long distance, what other impacts does this have on our environment? Make a choice to support local agriculture and invest in farmland protection here in Sonoma County. Keeping our agricultural economy healthy and protecting productive farmland from being converted to non-agricultural uses has been a priority of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District since our inception 18 years ago.



## District Featured on Bay Area's TV50 Market Place and YouTube.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/TV50Marketplace>

Tune in to the Bay Area's TV50 Market Place September 17 to October 12 to learn more about the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. The Bay Area's TV50 Market Place will cover how the District and its partners are investing in the county's future by protecting and preserving land, scenic vistas, natural resources, and the rich agricultural heritage. The series will also be addressing many questions about agriculture and open space: How can we keep Sonoma County's family farms in business, producing local healthy food? How can we get kids outside and into nature? Why is our



County residents, partner agencies, and volunteers who support our work to permanently protect family farms, ranches, and scenic natural areas for people and wildlife.

## Don't Forget!!

The Executive Summary of the District's long-term acquisition plan, Connecting Communities and the Land, is now available. Call our Office (707-565-7360) for a copy. It has been designed for one side to be used as an attractive photo.

## Order Your Free Recreation Map Today!



Order your free recreational and open space map today and learn about beautiful places in Sonoma County that you can explore. Order from the website, write us at [openspace@sonoma-county.org](mailto:openspace@sonoma-county.org) or call the office (707-565-7360) and it will be in the mail to you soon.

[send me a map >](#)

## In Our Own Backyard



beautiful Sonoma Coast free of development and why are our beaches so accessible to the public? How does protecting open space improve the quality of our drinking water? From September 17 to October 12, check out TV50 Market Place every Wednesday at 10:30 am, Saturday at 2:30 pm, and Sunday at 7:00 pm (Comcast digital channel 199 and Direct TV/Dish Network Channel 50).

## **Tolay Lake Regional Park: Interim Public Access Plan.**



In August, our partners, Sonoma County Regional Parks issued the Tolay Lake Regional Park Interim Public Access and Resource Management Plan for public comment. This plan guides the use and management of the property until a master plan is developed and adopted. The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District acquired the 1,735 acres Tolay Lake Property in 2005. Under the interim plan, public access is allowed through a day-use permit program, where park users are required to attend a one-time orientation. The park will be open to permit holders Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during dry-weather season, and on Saturdays and Sundays during wet-weather season. Regional Parks will continue existing agricultural uses, operate an educational program for students in kindergarten through sixth grade, and expand the guided-tour program. The interim plan is available online at [Sonoma County Regional Parks website](http://Sonoma County Regional Parks website).

## **Fall is the Season to be Outdoors.**



The cooler temperatures, crisp air, beautiful colors, and golden light are all reasons to enjoy the outdoors during the fall. LandPaths and the District offer numerous outings and workdays over the next few months, all on properties that the District helped to protect. Enjoy a farm tour, a kayaking or birding trip, a preview of the future Bay Area Ridge Trail on Sonoma Mountain, or a family outing. On November 19, explore the majestic Grove of the Old Trees near Occidental with a Spanish-speaking guide. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer patrol on one of the District's properties, attend the training session at Jacobs Ranch on November 16. To read about all of the outings offered this fall, visit our website at [sonomaopenspace.org](http://sonomaopenspace.org)

This District educational program in partnership with LandPaths is a fun way for students of all ages to learn about our natural resources by actively participating in land management and conservation on properties that have been protected by the District. For more information about this District program, e-mail our partner, [LandPaths.org](http://LandPaths.org).

