



## Quarterly E-News

### Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership Newsletter Spring | 2026

#### **The Eco-Friendly Garden Tour is back! Save the date for May 9th**

Find inspiration at the 16th annual Eco-Friendly Garden Tour, a self-guided event showcasing low-water, sustainable landscapes across Sonoma and Marin counties. The tour features 27 unique gardens including both professionally designed spaces and personal passion projects which all demonstrate how beautiful gardens can thrive with less water.

One highlight this year is a cluster of neighboring gardens in Petaluma where homeowners came together to transform their street. The street has been designated as Petaluma's first Neighborhood Greenway. It started as a traffic-slowing initiative, but the group used that as a springboard for greening efforts. They have collaborated with ReLeaf Petaluma, Daily Acts and Cool Petaluma on different environmental initiatives. By redesigning their landscapes with locally adapted, drought-tolerant plants, the group reduced stormwater runoff, supported biodiversity, and created a shared sense of place. Their collaboration shows how community-driven efforts can make a meaningful environmental impact, and it's a must-see stop on the tour.

This year's tour introduces 20 new gardens, making it well worth a return visit. A full list of participating gardens is available now on the Partnership's website. In April, garden locations will be available to those who have registered for the event, allowing attendees to plan their route in advance.



We look forward to seeing you!

***Saturday, May 9 from 10am-4pm across Sonoma and Marin counties.  
Registration is free but required.***

[Learn more about the tour](#)

***Leaks can run, but they can't hide! EPA Watersense's Fix a Leak week is almost here:***



Participate in this year's Fix a Leak Week celebration from March 16-22 by putting on your detective hat to find and fix leaks in your home. Programs offered by your water provider may be able to help you identify leaks if you need help doing so.



**HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS:**

- Enter the [Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership's Dye Tab Challenge](#) for a chance to win a \$25 gift card. All you have to do to qualify is test your toilets for leaks!
- Schedule a [free water use survey](#) (if offered by your water provider) to have a knowledgeable technician inspect your irrigation system in time for spring watering!

[See what programs your provider offers!](#)

***Landscape Professionals: Set yourself apart with a QWEL Rainwater certification!***

Looking for a way to sharpen your landscaping skills? Get your Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) Rainwater certification to set yourself

apart!

Rainwater is a valuable resource that when collected and stored, can be used as an alternative water source helping offset the demand on existing water systems, such as wells, and municipal water. Water is a precious resource in California and rainwater catchment is one strategy that can help protect this resource. The purpose of this training is to introduce landscape installers and other water system professionals to the basics of rainwater catchment system design and installation.

**This class is limited to professionals working in Sonoma, Marin, and Mendocino counties.**

The class schedule is as follows:

- **Tuesday, April 21** from 8am-4pm
- **Wednesday, April 22** from 8am-4pm
- **Thursday, April 23** from 10am-4pm



**Classes will take place at Sonoma Water's Redwood Room in Santa Rosa**

[Register online](#)

## **Celebrate the return of the steelhead trout at Sonoma Water's Steelhead Festival:**

Get ready to celebrate spring and the spectacular return of the steelhead trout at the 17th Annual Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival.

Sonoma Water is proud to host this free, family-friendly event, which is one of California's premier celebrations of wildlife and watershed stewardship, drawing thousands of nature lovers, families, and outdoor enthusiasts each year to witness the awe-inspiring migration of endangered steelhead as they make their way upstream to spawn the next generation.

There will be live music, activities for all ages, and booths from many local organizations. Don't miss out!

A promotional poster for the 17th Annual Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival. The poster features a blue header with the text "Free family fun!" and social media icons for Instagram and Facebook. Below the header is a photograph of a steelhead trout jumping out of the water. The text on the poster includes: "The 17th Annual Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival", "Saturday, March 7, 2026", "10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.", and "A free, family-friendly event offering fun entertainment and activities for everyone!". It also lists the location: "Milt Brandt Visitors Center &amp; Congressman Don Clausen Fish Hatchery, 3288 Skaggs Springs Road, Geyserville". The poster includes a QR code and a list of sponsors: Gold Sponsors (County of Sonoma, Event Services Plus Rentals), Steelhead Sponsors (Above &amp; Beyond Event Rentals, Brandt Insurance, Bear Republic Brewing Co., Downtown Bakery &amp; Creamery, Healdsburg Rotary Club, Healdsburg Running Company, Lake Sonoma Marina, LeafFilter Gutter Protection, Quivira Vineyards, Recology, Russian River Watershed Association, Sonoma County Winegrowers), and Festival Hosts (Sonoma Water, Lake Sonoma, California State Parks, US Army Corps of Engineers). The website "steelheadfestival.org" is listed at the bottom.

***Saturday, March 7 from 10am-4pm at the Milt Brandt Visitor Center and Congressman Don Clausen Fish Hatchery in Geyserville***

[Click here to learn more about the festival](#)

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***Volunteer Opportunity at the Laguna Environmental Center's Native Plant Garden:***



Get your hands dirty for a good cause—volunteer in the native plant garden and help pollinators thrive. Snacks provided!

Help the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation's native plant garden flourish while connecting with community and nature. Volunteers play a vital role in keeping the Laguna Environmental Center beautiful and thriving. Typical tasks include planting, pruning, weeding, and spreading wood chips—there's always something rewarding to do!

The diverse landscape features native wildflowers, grasses, sedges, forbs, and trees, along with special highlights like a living willow tunnel in the Children's Playscape, a scenic bridge over a swale, a tranquil pond, and an observation deck with sweeping views.

No experience is needed—just bring your enthusiasm and curiosity about native plants. They provide training, tools, and plenty of hearty snacks. Wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty. Only heavy rain cancels—we hope to see you there!

***Friday, March 13 from 9am-12pm at the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation***

[Click here to learn more](#)

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***Visit the Petaluma Library on March 14 to receive free water saving devices!***

Celebrate Fix a Leak Week with the City of Petaluma by dropping by the Petaluma Library on March 14 for FREE water saving devices including showerheads, hose nozzles, faucet aerators, and toilet leak detection tabs.

Learn tips for how to find and fix common household leaks. The City will also provide information about the water conservation rebate and incentive programs available to City of Petaluma Water customers.



***Saturday, March 14 from 10am-3pm at the Petaluma Regional Library***

[Click here to learn more](#)

### **Learn about city and county programs at Healdsburg's Community Housing and Research Fair:**

The City of Healdsburg, Corazón Healdsburg, and community partners invite residents and families to the Community Housing & Resource Fair on Sunday, March 22, from 1 to 5 pm at the Foley Family Community Pavilion in Healdsburg.

This free community event brings together more than 25 local organizations offering information and assistance related to housing, health, education, employment, legal services, financial resources, transportation, and more. Attendees can connect directly with service providers, learn about programs available in our community, and receive help navigating applications and support services.



The fair will also include live music, children's activities, raffles, and interactive booths designed to make accessing services welcoming and family-friendly. Plus, attendees who are in the Healdsburg CARE program can enter a drawing to win a free e-bike!

Whether you are looking for housing assistance, community programs, or simply want to learn what resources are available in Healdsburg, this event is open to all and no registration is required.

Make sure to drop by the City of Healdsburg's Utilities table, which will be promoting water conservation!

***Sunday, March 22 from 1-5pm at the Foley Family Community Pavilion***

[Click here to learn more](#)

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***Join a Water Distribution Tour with Sonoma Water to learn about how water reaches your home:***



Do you know where your drinking water comes from? Travel with Sonoma Water to see the pumps, pipelines and treatment facilities that deliver fresh drinking water across our region.

This tour is FREE but requires pre-registration. If you pre-register, you will be notified with additional details and directions closer to your tour date.

***Saturday, April 11, from 9-11:30am. Location details will be shared closer to the date of your tour.***

[Click here to register!](#)

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***Celebrate Earth Day with the City of Santa Rosa!***



This FREE, family-friendly, zero-waste festival brings the community together through fun activities, live performing arts, great food, and inspiring exhibits that raise environmental awareness. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate our vibrant city and get involved by learning about solutions to address drought, climate change, and environmental concerns in our community.

About the event:

- 50+ exhibitors
- Outdoor showcase of Santa Rosa's performing arts scene
- Food & drink
- Kids' activities & crafts courtesy of Santa Rosa Recreation & Parks
- Local & earth-friendly products
- Hydration station
- Zero Waste Event
- Giveaways
- Free bike parking courtesy of Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition
- Free & family friendly
- Beer & wine garden
- Fare-free transit on Santa Rosa CityBus, Petaluma Transit, and Sonoma County Transit

***Saturday, April 25 from 12-4pm at Old Courthouse Square in Downtown Santa Rosa, rain or shine!***

[Click here to learn more](#)

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## ***Celebrate Earth Day with Marin Water at Earth Day Marin 2026***

Join Marin Water from 12-3 p.m. Sunday, April 26, for an Earth Day celebration in Mill Valley. The event will feature fun activities, green exhibits, art and music for all ages, and takes place within Marin Water's service area, home to more than 191,000 people.



During the event, Marin Water will debut new outreach materials meant to encourage greater Cash for Grass participation. Visitors to the Marin Water booth will be able to take a quiz to find out their personal landscape vibe – and match their preferences with one of four model backyards.

[Click here to learn more](#)

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## ***Wastewater Treatment Plant Public Tours:***

Get a behind-the-scenes look at how wastewater is collected, cleaned, and reused. This tour includes a visit to the onsite lab, where millions of live microorganisms are monitored daily to help protect waterways and public health. The tour is free but requires pre-registration. If you pre-register, you will be notified with additional details and directions closer to your selected tour date.



**Saturday, May 2 from 10:00-11:30am**

**Russian River County  
Sanitation District**

**Saturday, May 16 from 10:00-11:30am**

**Sonoma Valley County  
Sanitation District**



California American Water - Larkfield · City of Cloverdale · City of Cotati · City of Healdsburg  
Marin Water · North Marin Water District · City of Petaluma · City of Rohnert Park · City of Santa Rosa  
City of Sonoma · Sonoma Water · Valley of the Moon Water District · Town of Windsor

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