



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides   



**Joe Rodota
Trail**
California



Joe Rodota Trail

California

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Named for the first director of Sonoma County Regional Parks, the Joe Rodota Trail offers some of the county's most sweeping rural vistas. The rail-trail is built along the corridor of the old Petaluma and Santa Rosa Railway, which once ran between Santa Rosa, Petaluma, and Sebastopol. Seamlessly linked with the [West County Regional Trail](#) in Sebastopol, the rail-trail system was designated as a Community Millennium Trail by then-First Lady Hillary Clinton and the White House Millennium Council, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

In Santa Rosa, the trail begins at a pedestrian/bicycle bridge intersection with the [Prince Memorial Greenway](#). However, the recommended—and more scenic—route

begins 3.1 miles farther west at the Sebastopol Road Trailhead along CA 12 (just west of N. Wright Road). Although this segment heads southwest paralleling the highway, a wide, brushy, and tree-filled median between trail and road provides a pleasant experience.

The trail soon emerges into scenic farmland evoking the area's pastoral heritage. The trail runs along a creek and meanders through the Laguna de Santa Rosa, the largest freshwater wetland complex in Sonoma County. If you're lucky, you may encounter a bald eagle, a white pelican, or an osprey. Note that there are unimproved trail crossings at Merced Avenue (0.4 mile from the Sebastopol Road Trailhead) and at Llano Road (1.5 miles from the trailhead), requiring caution by trail users.

Approaching Sebastopol, you'll come to a signed intersection with an accompanying trail map. Here, you can either go straight to CA 116/Petaluma Avenue, where you'll find a trailhead and parking area near charming downtown Sebastopol, or turn right, following signs for Graton and Forestville (the latter option allows you to pick up the West County Regional Trail north of town).

The Joe Rodota Trail crosses CA 12 at the signalized Morris Street intersection, then continues as an on-street connection (via bike lanes and sidewalks) heading north on Morris Street, skirting the Barlow commercial district and the eastern edge of town. About 0.4 mile from the CA 12 intersection, Morris Street curves west, and you'll soon find the signed trail on your right paralleling Eddie Lane. For part of this next segment, you'll be sharing the road right-of-way with vehicles on Eddie Lane.

After passing a high school, the trail brings you to North Main Street, where you'll turn left and go 0.1 mile using bike lines until you turn right again at the signed trail. Here, the wooded path is a heavily used commuter route connecting adjacent neighborhoods to the high school and downtown Sebastopol.



Joe Rodota Trail

California

States: California

Counties: Sonoma

Length: 8.5miles

Trail end points: Prince Memorial Greenway, 0.2 mile southwest of W Third St & Railroad St (Santa Rosa) to West County Regional Trail at Mill Station Rd & CA 116/Gravenstein Hwy N (Sebastopol)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Parking & Trail Access

To access the Wright Road trailhead from US 101 in Santa Rosa, take the State Route 12 exit toward Sebastopol and head west on the highway. After a short distance, turn left on N. Wright Road, and immediately turn right on Sebastopol Road. The trailhead parking area will be on your left. Parking is also available in Sebastopol at the trailhead on Petaluma Avenue.



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