

WATERS Collaborative Founded on a History of Common Interest

Sonoma Water and SSU have a long history of working together on water-related issues. The majority of engagement has focused on Copeland Creek.

Restoration Projects

- Sonoma State Restoration Project – SSU students have been actively engaged in restoring the section of Copeland Creek that crosses campus for many years. First begun as a project of the student club Friends of Copeland Creek, the effort now includes work with AmeriCorps, Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps, North Coast CCP, Point Blue, JUMP, Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, and others.
- Copeland Creek (Alluvial Fan) Restoration Project - With funding from Sonoma Water, Sonoma Resource Conservation District and Point Blue restored and monitored approximately 6,000 feet of stream bank on Copeland Creek’s alluvial fan between 999-2014. The project, located between Roberts and Petaluma Hill roads, included stabilizing banks, decreasing creek sediment load, excluding cattle from the creek, and improving habitat for steelhead and other native fish and wildlife.
- The Copeland Creek Watershed Detention/Recharge, Habitat Restoration, and Steelhead Refugia Project - This multi-million dollar project improves flood protection, fish habitat, and recreation while reducing sediment. Partners include Sonoma Water, SSU, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma County Regional Parks, the City of Rohnert Park, Conservation Corps North Bay, and the University District, LLC.
- Native Plant Propagation Services – Over the last decade, Sonoma Water has hired SSU faculty and staff to grow native plants from local stock to supply regional restoration efforts. The plants are grown in part by students taking Native Plant Propagation courses.

Academic Programs & Initiatives

- Academic Studies - Since the founding of SSU in 1961, faculty, students, and staff have studied issues surrounding water management and over 40 students have completed Master's degrees on freshwater and local marine topics.
- Campus Gardens – Three campus gardens are devoted to learning and hands-on experiences: Garden Classroom, Native Plant Garden, Butterfly Garden
- Fairfield Osborn Preserve - This 450-acre outdoor laboratory lies in the headwaters of Copeland Creek and has been a focus for student field trips and studies since its donation to SSU in 1997.

- Copeland Creek Brass Quintet (2004-present) - Founded by music educators at SSU, Copeland Creek Brass plays brass music to suit all tastes, from the timeless Canzoni of the Italian Baroque to Dixie, Broadway and Americana.
- Water Works (2012-13) - Water Works explored inland water flow as a resource, theme, and metaphor, through a year of academics, fine arts, and live theatre and dance. Coordinated by the Department of Theatre Arts & Dance.
- Copeland Creek Project (2012) – The Department of Theatre Arts & Dance conducted interviews with community members and presented a unique creek-bank presentation “of the voices of the Creek’s waters, of creation itself, and how they flow in, through, and out of our lives.
- Sustainable Waterways Educational Engagement Program (2010-11) - SSU's Learn and Serve America Grant engaged students in projects on topics related to sustainable watersheds in Copeland Creek and adjacent watersheds.

Regulations & Permitting

SSU and Sonoma Water have a history of collaboration surrounding management responsibilities on Copeland Creek. Here is brief summary of the type of responsibilities by each partner on the reaches of the Creek:

Section of Creek	Channel Type	Sonoma Water	SSU	Guiding Document
Laguna de Santa Rosa to Hwy 101	Engineered	Fee Title	--	Stream Maintenance Program Manual and EIR
Hwy 101 to SSU campus	Engineered	Easement	--	Stream Maintenance Program Manual and EIR
SSU campus	Modified	Easement	Fee Title	Stream Maintenance Program Manual and EIR, Copeland Creek Master Plan
SSU campus to Fairfield Osborn Preserve	Unmodified	--	--	--
SSU Fairfield Osborn Preserve	Unmodified	--	Fee Title	Conservation Easement (The Nature Conservancy)