Copeland Creek Gardens

From its headwaters near SSU’s Fairfield Osborn Preserve, Copeland Creek flows through campus and empties into the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Explore the string of existing and proposed gardens scattered along the creek. Copeland Creek is increasingly incorporated into interdisciplinary classroom and field studies. Fairfield Osborn Preserve is open for guided tours. www.sonoma.edu/preserves.

A. Garden Classroom:
A busy hub of campus activity located next to the Environmental Technology Center, the campus garden is maintained by student interns and volunteers. Community partners include the Sonoma County School Garden Network, the California Rare Fruit Growers, the California Native Plant Society, and Slow Food.

B. Butterfly Garden:
SSU gardener Karen Tillinghast established this garden in 1993, choosing plants known to attract both butterflies and their larvae. Some butterflies commonly spotted here include Painted Ladies, Mourning Cloaks, Anise Swallowtails, and Pipevine Swallowtails. The garden is maintained with the help of volunteers from the Santa Rosa Garden Club.

C. Kenneth M. Stocking Native Plant Garden:
A legacy of Dr. Kenneth Stocking, founder of the Environmental Studies and Planning Department, the garden was established in 1973. Native plants represented in this garden range from grasses to shrubs to the trees that shade the garden and line Copeland Creek. A descriptive guide is available in the campus bookstore.

D. Leprechaun Garden:
The Leprechaun garden, just north of Stevenson Hall is dedicated to Patrick LaMarca, Class of ’95, who passed away after a bout with cancer. Patrick was a beloved student who was liked and respected by his peers, professors, and co-workers, with whom he worked on campus.

E. Alumni Grove:
The Alumni Grove is made up of an engraved brick path, dedicated by alumni and friends of SSU. Featuring words that range from simple to sentimental, the bricks border two sides of the lakeside path, just a few steps from the Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Grove. In 2001, a time capsule was buried in the Alumni Grove and will be reopened at SSU’s 100th anniversary in 2061.