



Chapter 5: Multipurpose Open Space Element

Introduction



The open space system and methods for its acquisition, maintenance and operation are calibrated to its many functions: visual relief, natural resource protection, habitat preservation, passive and active recreation, protection from natural hazards, and various combinations of these purposes. This is what is meant by a multi-purpose open space system.



– RCIP Vision Statement

MULTIPURPOSE OPEN SPACE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The County of Riverside’s environmental setting is a critical component of its Vision for the future and its quality of life. The Vision speaks to the importance of the many forms of open space in the County: scenic, habitat, recreation, and their importance in defining the edges for our communities. The Vision also addresses the importance of agriculture to the economy and culture of the County.

In response to the RCIP Vision and the California government code, this element addresses protecting and preserving natural resources, agriculture and open space areas, managing mineral resources, preserving and enhancing cultural resources, and providing recreational opportunities for the citizens of Riverside County.

The California Government Code describes the General Plan as a collection of seven mandatory elements that include: conservation, addressing the conservation, development and use of natural resources; and open space, detailing plans and measures for preserving open-space for natural resources, the managed production of resources, outdoor recreation, public health and safety, and the identification of agricultural land. The policy direction required in these two elements is provided in this single Multipurpose Open Space Element.

This element categorizes issues and policies into those that seek to *conserve*, or manage the use of, resources and those that seek to *preserve* resources for the purpose of sustaining their stocks in perpetuity. Additionally, the resource conservation section of the element is subdivided into *renewable resources* and *non-renewable resources*. Renewable resources, such as forests, are those that can reproduce, grow, and ultimately perish. Non-renewable resources as those that have a finite stock relative to human consumption over time, and that are not alive in the sense of having an ability to grow. Mineral resources, for example, are non-renewable.

SETTING

It is appropriate that the County of Riverside boasts of a “remarkable environmental setting” in the summary statement of its Vision. Within its roughly 7,400 square miles, the County incorporates a wide range of natural features, including mountain ranges, desert areas, riparian areas and rivers, vernal pools, and oak woodlands and forests.



Conserve-to protect from loss or harm by using carefully or sparingly.

Preserve-To keep in perfect or unaltered condition; maintain unchanged.

Reserve-A reservation of land or an amount of mineral, fossil fuel or other resource known to exist in a particular location.