



Multipurpose Open Space

The Eastvale area contains a multitude of functions, hence the label of “multi-purpose.” The point is that open space is really a part of the public infrastructure and should have the capability of serving a variety of needs and diversity of users. The Eastvale natural open space resources are somewhat more limited than in certain other parts of the County. That means that each resource that does exist requires thoughtful preservation and, in some cases, restoration. This Multipurpose Open Space section is a critical component of the character of the County of Riverside and of the Eastvale Area Plan. Preserving the area’s remaining natural resources gives meaning to the “remarkable environmental setting” portion of the overall Riverside County Vision. Not only that: these open spaces also help define the edges of and separation between communities, which is another important aspect of the Vision.

In this area plan, the natural characteristics are not dominant. They offer design opportunities for quality development, but on a somewhat limited basis. Habitat preservation opportunities are less extensive here than in many other areas. The single exception is the very significant Santa Ana River, which offers valuable frontage to development all along the south face of the planning area. Achieving a desirable end-state of valued local open space to benefit residents and visitors will require sensitive design attention in laying out development proposals.



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



- RCIP Vision

Though urban development is destined to envelope much of the area, the Eastvale Area Plan does seek to preserve the character and habitat value of the Santa Ana River corridor, thus enhancing its value as an important ecological habitat, as a scenic and recreational resource, and as a natural buffer between Eastvale and the City of Norco. The proposed network of recreational parks and multi-use trails will also serve to provide additional open space areas within Eastvale. This Multipurpose Open Space section is an important component in achieving whatever sustainable open space can be set aside.

LOCAL OPEN SPACE POLICIES


Watersheds, Floodplains, and Watercourses

The Eastvale planning area is part of the Santa Ana River watershed, which centers on the Santa Ana River and also includes Cucamonga Creek. Both natural and man-altered watercourses affect this area. In addition to their fundamental water-related functions, these watercourses provide corridors through developed land and link open spaces together. Among other things, these corridors are what allows wildlife to move from one open space to another without crossing developed land. The following policy preserves and protects these important watercourses.

Policies:



- EAP 11.1 Protect the Santa Ana River watershed, its tributaries, and surrounding habitats, and provide flood protection through adherence to those policies located in the Open Space, Habitat & Natural Resource Preservation section of the General Plan



Watercourses are the corridors of streams, rivers, and creeks, whether permanent or seasonal, and whether natural or channelized.