



Multipurpose Open Space



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

The Elsinore area contains an unusually rich concentration of open space resources, for both habitat, recreation and scenic purposes, 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 importance of the resources here means that they require thoughtful preservation and, in some cases, restoration. In many cases, the focus here must be on establishing and maintaining vital linkages, without which the vital habitat and recreational potential of this area would be severely compromised. This Multipurpose Open Space section is a critical component of the character of the County of Riverside and of the Elsinore Area Plan. Preserving the scenic background and natural resources here 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 quite dominant. In addition to their extensive basic “supply” value, they offer design opportunities for quality development. 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 and linkages to make the open space system work to its optimum.



A watershed is the entire region drained by a waterway that flows into a lake or reservoir—or the ocean. It is the total area above a given point on a stream that contributes water to the flow at that point, and the topographic dividing line from which surface streams flow in two different directions. Clearly, watersheds are not just water. A single watershed may include a wide variety of resources and environments.



LOCAL OPEN SPACE POLICIES

Watersheds, Floodplains, and Watercourse Policies

The Elsinore Area Plan contains a major portion of the Santa Margarita River watershed, which includes Murrieta creek. This watershed, and its included watercourses, provide a truly unique habitat for flora and fauna of statewide significance. The watercourses provide corridors through developed land as well as linking open spaces outside of development areas. This allows wildlife the ability to move from one locale to another without crossing developed land. The following policies preserve and protect these important watershed functions.

Policies:

- ELAP 12.1 Protect the Santa Margarita watershed and habitat, and provide recreational opportunities and flood protection through the adherence to the policies found in the Open Space, Habitat, and Natural Resource Preservation section of the General Plan Land Use Element, and the Environmentally Sensitive Lands, Watershed Management, and the Open Space, Parks and Recreation sections of the Multipurpose Open Space Element.