



## 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

Jurupa contains a variety of open spaces that serve a multitude of functions, hence the open space 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 pattern of hills, valleys, and slopes provide open space, habitat, and recreation spaces alike. These open spaces encompass a variety of habitats including riparian corridors, oak woodlands, and chaparral habitats. Examples include features such as the Jurupa Mountains, the Santa Ana River, and the Pedley Hills. In particular, The Santa Ana River—a major riparian corridor—flows through the southern portion of this area plan, and many native and narrow endemic species thrive on the habitat this river provides.

This Multipurpose Open Space section is a critical component of the character of the County of Riverside and the Jurupa area. Preserving the scenic background and the natural resources of Jurupa 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 (such as Sunnyslope and Belltown), which is another important aspect of the Vision.

It is of the utmost importance to maintain a balance between growth and natural resource preservation throughout Jurupa to help preserve the overall character of this special environment.

## MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

Regional resource planning to protect individual species and habitats, such as the Stephens Kangaroo Rat and Coastal Sage Scrub Habitat, has occurred in Riverside County for many years. Privately owned reserves and publicly owned land have served as habitat for many different species. This method of land and wildlife preservation proved to be piecemeal and disjointed, resulting in islands of reserve land without corridors for species migration and access. To address these issues of wildlife health, and habitat sustainability, the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Program (MSHCP) has been developed. The MSHCP comprises a reserve system that encompasses core habitat, habitat linkages, and wildlife corridors outside of existing reserve areas and existing private and public reserve lands into a single comprehensive plan that can accommodate the needs of species and habitat in the present and future.



*The Wildlife Agencies includes The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG).*

### MSHCP Program Description

The Endangered Species Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered species. Taking is defined as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect" listed species. "Harm" includes destruction of a listed species' habitat. The Wildlife Agencies have authority to regulate this "take". The intent of the MSHCP is for the Wildlife Agencies to grant a "take authorization" for otherwise lawful actions that may incidentally "take" or