



Multipurpose Open Space

The Sun City/Menifee Valley 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. This Multipurpose Open Space section is a critical component of the character of the County of Riverside and of the Sun City/Menifee Valley Area Plan. Preserving the scenic background and natural resources of the Valley 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. 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.

LOCAL OPEN SPACE POLICIES

Watercourses

The Warm Springs Creek, which eventually flows into the Santa Margarita River, begins in the Harvest Valley/Winchester Area Plan and traverses a corner of this plan. Salt Creek divides the Plan area from east to west. Paloma Wash, mostly east of Interstate 215, is a less visible but important major watercourse within the planning area.

Policies:



SCMVAP 19.1 Protect Warm Springs Creek, Paloma Wash, and Salt Creek through the application of General Plan Multipurpose Open Space policies and sensitive development design practices.

Cultural Resources

The Sun City/Menifee Valley Area Plan contains historical, archaeological, cultural, and/or paleontological resources. The Menifee Archaeological Site ("Ringing Rock" site) will be the nucleus of a Native American Interpretive Park connected by trails to other archaeologically valuable sites and recreation centers.

Policies:



SCMVAP 20.1 Protect the Sun City/Menifee Valley’s historical, archaeological, cultural, and paleontological resources through adherence to General Plan Multipurpose Open Space Element policies.



The 36-acre Ringing Rock site in Menifee was purchased by the County in October 1990 in order to preserve it. The rare rock, which resonates like a bell when struck, may have been used in Native American religious ceremonies.