



Multipurpose Open Space

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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.

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- RCIP Vision

The Lakeview/Nuevo planning area contains a variety of open spaces that serve a multitude of functions, hence the open space label of “multipurpose.” 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 Lakeview/Nuevo planning area open space system is rich and varied, including such features as the Bernasconi Hills, the Lakeview Mountains, and the San Jacinto River and provides open space, habitat, and recreation spaces. These quality spaces encompass a variety of habitats including riparian corridors, oak woodlands, chaparral habitats, and a number of lakes, groves, and agricultural fields, as well as a number of parks and recreation areas.

This Multipurpose Open Space section is a critical component of the character of the County of Riverside, and this is reflected in the Lakeview/Nuevo Area Plan. Preserving the scenic background and the natural resources covered by the Lakeview/Nuevo Area Plan 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. 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.



A watershed is the entire region drained by a waterway that drains into a lake or reservoir. 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 combinations of forests, glaciers, deserts, and/or grasslands.

LOCAL OPEN SPACE POLICIES

Watersheds, Floodplains, and Watercourses

The Lakeview/Nuevo planning area is located within the Santa Ana watershed, which includes the San Jacinto River. The San Jacinto River drains southwest toward Canyon Lake through the City of Perris. The San Jacinto River Channelization Project proposes to widen and improve the banks of the river in order to reduce the risk of flooding and, in the process, set aside a habitat area to accommodate wildlife movement. This watercourse provides a habitat corridor through developed land as well as links to other open space. This allows wildlife the ability to move from one open space to another without crossing developed land. The following policies preserve and protect this important watershed.

Policies:

- LNAP 10.1 Protect the Santa Ana River watershed and surrounding habitats, and provide flood protection through adherence to the Watershed Management section of the General Plan Multipurpose Open Space Element.

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A major thrust of the multipurpose open space system is the preservation of components of the ecosystem and landscape that embody the historic character and habitat of the County, even though some areas have been impacted by man-made changes.

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- RCIP Vision