



Multipurpose Open Space



Lake Perris

The Reche Canyon/Badlands open spaces perform 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 Reche Canyon/Badlands natural open space resources are quite extensive and specialized. That means that each resource 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 Reche Canyon/Badlands planning area. Preserving the scenic background and natural resources of this special area 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.



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 appeal of the Reche Canyon/Badlands area lies in its dramatic and expansive natural setting. The Reche Canyon/Badlands area contains a unique open space network that encompasses a diverse variety of habitats, including riparian corridors, vernal pools, grasslands, foothills and mountains, wetlands and agricultural fields. These open space areas provide visual relief, serve as habitat for plants and animals, provide recreational opportunities, and otherwise establish the area’s unique character. Open space areas also are important in protecting citizens from natural hazards.

Due in part to its proximity within the growing Inland Empire, the Reche Canyon/Badlands area continues to experience growth and development pressures threatening the very setting that makes this such a unique region. Establishing a balance between preserving open space areas and accommodating additional population needs is essential to maintaining the open space and rural character of the area.

Policies:

RCBAP 11.1 Protect visual and biological resources in the Reche Canyon/Badlands area through adherence to General Plan policies found in the Multipurpose Open Space Element, as well as policies contained in the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.



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

Floodplains and Watercourses

Reche Canyon Creek and San Timoteo Canyon Creek serve as the major drainage areas for the northern portion of the planning area. The San Jacinto River and Mystic Lake accommodate drainage patterns in the region’s southern portion. Due to the area’s mountainous terrain, there are several major drainage courses throughout the planning area. These and smaller perennial streams create a system of ever-changing channels within the Reche Canyon/Badlands area which gradually change its physical appearance.



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

Policies:

RCBAP 12.1 Protect the watercourse and floodplain areas, and provide recreational opportunities and flood protection through adherence to policies in the Open Space, Habitat & Natural Resources Preservation section of the General Plan Land Use Element, and the Watershed Management section of the General Plan Multipurpose Open Space Element.

Mining Operations

The Reche Canyon/Badlands Land Use Plan designates the current Valley Rock & Sand Company mining operations on Jack Rabbit Road as Open Space-Mining. Mining operations are expected to continue through the 20-year planning horizon of this area plan.

Policies:

RCBAP 13.1 Limit the future conversion of mining operations to uses that are compatible with the surrounding area.

**MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT
CONSERVATION PLAN**



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

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 Western Riverside County 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.

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 "harm" species or habitats outside of preserve areas, in exchange for supporting assembly of a coordinated reserve system. Therefore, the MSHCP will allow the County to "take" plant and wildlife species within identified areas through the local land use planning process. In addition to the conservation and management