



## Multipurpose Open Space




*Provision of community open space is a fundamental principle of community planning. Open space in this context means usable open space, available for residents to enjoy in a manner appropriate to its design, acceptance of human impacts and consistency with the aims of the General Plan.*



- RCIP General Plan Principles


REMAP contains a multitude of open spaces of different types and with different 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 is especially true with the notable scale, value and diversity of open space resources in this planning area. This 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 REMAP. Preserving the scenic background and natural resources of this spectacular mountain and valley region, described in the Setting section of this 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.

In this area plan, the natural characteristics are truly dominant. They offer preservation and design opportunities for quality, yet rustic development. Habitat preservation opportunities are far more extensive here than in many other areas. Achieving a desirable end state of valued local open space to benefit residents and visitors will require sensitivity in both managing open space resources and designing development proposals.

 For further information on the MSHCPs please see the Multipurpose Open Space Element of the General Plan.

## MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANS

Regional resource planning to protect individual species and habitats such as the Stephens Kangaroo Rat, the Fringe Toed Lizard, 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) and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments MSHCP have been developed.

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

These MSHCPs are intended to result in reserve systems that encompasses core habitat areas, habitat linkages, and wildlife corridors outside of existing reserve areas and existing private and public reserve lands into two comprehensive plans that can accommodate the needs of species and habitat in the present and future.

### Western Riverside County 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