

## Goals and Policies for Open Space Resources

<b>Goal C/NR 1: Open space areas that meet the diverse needs of the County.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Open Space Preservation and Conservation of Natural Areas	Policy C/NR 1.1: Implement programs and policies that enforce the responsible stewardship and preservation of dedicated open space areas throughout the County.
	Policy C/NR 1.2: Protect and conserve natural resources, natural areas, and open spaces on park properties.
Open Space Acquisition	Policy C/NR 1.3: Support the acquisition of new available open space areas throughout the County. Augment this strategy by leveraging County resources in concert with the compatible open space stewardship actions of other agencies, as feasible and appropriate.
	Policy C/NR 1.4: Create an established network of dedicated open space areas that provide regional connectivity, between the southwestern extent of the Tehachapi Mountains to the Santa Monica Mountains, and from the southwestern extent of the Mojave Desert to the Puente Chino Hills.
	Policy C/NR 1.5: Increase and improve access to dedicated open space and natural areas for all users.
	Policy C/NR 1.6: Prioritize open space acquisitions for available lands that contain unique ecological features, streams, watersheds, woodlands, grasslands, and/or offer linkages that enhance wildlife movements and genetic diversity.

<b>Goal C/NR 2: Effective collaboration in open space resource preservation.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Open Space Collaboration and Financing	Policy C/NR 2.1: Establish new revenue generating mechanisms to leverage County resources to enhance and acquire available open space and natural areas in the County.
	Policy C/NR 2.2: Encourage the development of multi-benefit dedicated open spaces throughout the County.
	Policy C/NR 2.3: Improve understanding and appreciation for natural areas through preservation programs and educational facilities.
	Policy C/NR 2.4: Collaborate with public, non-profit, and private organizations to acquire and preserve available open space lands.

## Goals and Policies for Biological Resources

<b>Goal C/NR 3: Permanent, sustainable preservation of the County’s genetically and physically diverse biological resources and ecological systems including: habitat linkages, forests, coastal zone, riparian habitats, streambeds, wetlands, woodlands and SEAs.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Protection of Biological Resources	Policy C/NR 3.1: Conserve and enhance the ecological function of the County’s diverse natural habitats and biological resources.
	Policy C/NR 3.2: Create and administer innovative County programs incentivizing the permanent dedication of SEAs and other important biological resources as open space areas.
	Policy C/NR 3.3: Restore significant riparian resources such as degraded streams, rivers, and wetlands to maintain ecological function —acknowledging the importance of incrementally restoring ecosystem values when restoration is not feasible.
	Policy C/NR 3.4: Conserve and sustainably manage the County’s forests and woodlands.
	Policy C/NR 3.5: Ensure compatibility of development in the national forests in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service Land and Resource Management Plan.
	Policy C/NR 3.6: Assist state and federal agencies and other agencies, as appropriate, with the preservation of special status species and their associated habitat and wildlife movement corridors through the administration of the SEAs and other programs.
	Policy C/NR 3.7: Participate in inter-jurisdictional collaborative strategies that protect biological resources.
Site Sensitive Design	Policy C/NR 3.8: Discourage development in areas with identified significant biological resources, such as SEAs.
	Policy C/NR 3.9: Consider the following in the design of a project that is located within an SEA, to the greatest extent feasible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preservation of biologically valuable habitats, species, wildlife corridors and linkages;</li> <li>• Protection of sensitive resources on the site within open space;</li> <li>• Protection of water sources from hydromodification to maintain the ecological function of riparian habitats; and</li> <li>• Placement of the development in the least biologically sensitive areas on the site.</li> <li>• Watershed sensitivity by capturing, treating, retaining, and/or infiltrating storm water flows on site.</li> </ul>
	Policy C/NR 3.10: Require that development mitigate ‘in-kind’ for unavoidable impacts on biologically sensitive areas within the County—on site or nearby as feasible, but allow flexible off-site application to the benefit of other County SEAs or connectivity among them if on site is not feasible, and permanently preserve mitigation sites.
	Policy C/NR 3.11: Discourage new development from increasing the urban-wildland interface in undisturbed natural areas through compact design.

	Policy C/NR 3.12: Discourage development to maintain and support the preservation of riparian habitats, streambeds, and wetlands in a natural state, unaltered by grading, fill, or diversion activities.
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<b>Goal C/NR 4: Preserved and restored oak woodlands that are conserved in perpetuity with no net loss of existing woodlands.</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Oak Woodland Preservation	Policy C/NR 4.1: Conserve and sustainably manage the County's oak woodlands.

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**Oak Woodlands**

As defined by the California Department of Fish and Game, an oak woodland is an oak stand with a greater than 10 percent canopy cover or that may have historically supported greater than 10 percent canopy cover. Associated with that canopy cover and connectivity are over 300 vertebrate species and more than 5,000 invertebrates, as well as hundreds of native understory plant species. The County is supporting the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains in its preparation of the Oak Woodlands Conservation Management Plan through the provision of technical advice from the Fire Department and DRP.