

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

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Policy:

All County parks shall be classified to one or more of the following five categories: (1) scenic parks, (2) recreation areas, (3) special recreation facilities, (4) historic/archaeological sites, and (5) regional equestrian, hiking and bicycle trails.

The above classifications should be applied to the major use of each particular County park unit with full knowledge that there are overlapping qualifications in many cases. The following criteria shall apply to all County parks with the exception of the network of equestrian, hiking, and bicycle trails:

- a. They shall possess outstanding qualities of landscaping, special park and recreation values or features of special natural and historical/archaeological significance that make their preservation and use a matter of County-wide or regional concern;
- b. They shall be on a scale worthy of inclusion in the County regional park system; and
- c. They shall be unified in complete areas with logical boundaries.

1. Scenic Parks

Scenic parks are areas of outstanding natural significance where the major values are geological, botanical, or zoological. The purpose of a scenic park is primarily the preservation of its outstanding natural features. Development should be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment in a manner consistent with the preservation of the natural values. Uses for which developments may be made are camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, riding, etc., involving no major modification of their lands, forests, or waters and without extensive introduction of artificial features that are primarily of urban character. In planning for developments and uses which are compatible, the intensity of the use as compared to the ability of the natural area to accommodate people without impairing its quality, shall be carefully studied. Over use shall be avoided whenever possible.

2. Historical/Archaeological Sites

Historical and archaeological sites are units or areas established to preserve objects or locations of historic events representative of Riverside County's history.

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Development or rehabilitation should be as historically accurate as possible and be for the purpose of enriching the experience and increasing the appreciation of the historical significance of the site. Convenience features such as parking and picnicking areas should be sited so as not to distract from the authenticity. Understanding of the significance should be promoted through interpretive devices and programs.

3. Recreation Areas

A recreation area should be comparatively large, accessible, of County rather than local importance with County-wide and regional drawing power, and capable of providing adequate non-urban recreational activities such as camping, swimming, picnicking, boating, fishing, riding, etc. These are primary reasons for operating the areas. Geographical distribution and relationship to concentrations of population should be important factors in the selection of recreational areas.

Special recreational facilities include parks that serve a special recreational function such as equestrian center complexes, off-road vehicle parks, youth group resident camps, and other facilities which cater to the needs of special interest groups within the region. These parks are unique in character and shall be developed in response to the changing recreational needs of the purpose of Riverside County. These parks are typically difficult to develop in urban communities and might also include such activities as rifle ranges, hand glider launch areas, archery ranges, etc.

4. Regional Equestrian, Hiking and Bicycle Trails

Regional trails for riding, hiking and bicycling purposes are those trails as designated on the County's adopted General Plan. The trails are principally located within, radiating out from and interconnecting the principal recreation areas in the County.

Reference:

Minute Order dated 02/18/75
Minute Order 3.4 of 12/18/07