

Pinal County
OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN - DRAFT

VISION

Pinal County's Open Space and Trails Master Plan promotes the quality of life of the region by providing areas of passive and active recreational opportunities, while conserving existing resources such as natural scenic beauty, view corridors, wildlife habitat, agricultural resources designated at risk, and cultural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations. This plan will encourage appropriate long-range growth planning opportunities, provide for a wide range of recreational activities for residents and visitors, preserve the County's rural and natural open space character, and contribute to the well being of its communities.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Develop a connected system of open space areas that protect and conserve natural, physical, cultural, and social resources.

Objective 1.1: Preserve, protect, or conserve areas of critical habitat and high habitat value and wildlife movement corridors.

Objective 1.2: Conserve large contiguous areas of the natural environment representative of the varying landscape characters within the County.

Objective 1.3: Preserve, protect, or conserve the existing natural drainage system.

Objective 1.4: Preserve, protect, enhance, and promote local histories, cultural, and agricultural resources designated at risk within existing and new developments.

Objective 1.5: Preserve, protect, and provide areas for traditional cultural activities.

Objective 1.6: Provide and develop passive recreational activities for a spectrum of quality user experiences that are sensitive to the natural environment.

Objective 1.7: Develop private, state, and federal land acquisition techniques to implement the Open Space and Trails Master Plan.

Goal 2: Develop a safe, multi-use trail system that provides connectivity throughout the County and to adjacent recreational areas.

Objective 2.1: Establish linkages to municipalities, regional parks, and state and federal recreational areas.

Objective 2.2: Provide for a wide range of non-motorized trail usages including hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking.

Objective 2.3: Incorporate designated Western U. S. and State trail corridors into the overall County trail system.

Objective 2.4: Provide for a safe separation of non-motorized and motorized trail networks and corridors.

Objective 2.5: Provide standards for planning, designing, and developing trails that ensure compatibility with the natural environment, existing land uses, and variety of users, as well as provides for the safety of all.

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Goal 3: Develop an accessible, comprehensive regional park system that provides a balance of passive and active recreational opportunities for County residents and its visitors.

Objective 3.1: Promote public health by providing areas for regional passive and active recreational activities within the natural environment and accessible to all.

Objective 3.2: Develop appropriate levels of service and standards for neighborhood, community, and regional park facilities within the unincorporated areas of the County.

Objective 3.3: Protect, conserve, or provide county-wide opportunities to allow for future park and recreational trends.

Objective 3.4: Provide a coordinated process to maximize municipal, county, state, and federal park and recreational resources and service levels.

Objective 3.5: Promote the development of park and recreational facilities that support the quality of life and economic development of the County.

Goal 4: Develop park, open space, and trail guidelines for planned area development (PAD) and subdivision development that supports long-term sustainability.

Objective 4.1: Promote and provide incentives for conservation subdivision and PAD planning and design to conserve natural, cultural, and physical resources within the county.

Objective 4.2: Implement Growing Smarter and Growing Smarter Plus legislation policies to protect the County's open space and water resources.

Objective 4.3: Develop standards and development criteria for integration of parkland, open space, and trails into PADs and subdivisions.

Objective 4.4: Identify specific park, open space, and trail amenities and their timely implementation to provide the service level desired by County residents and visitors.

Goal 5: Develop a framework to effectively manage the County's regional parks, open space, and trail system.

Objective 5.1: Develop an access management plan that identifies responsible parties for operating, maintaining, and enforcing the appropriate usage of the County's regional parks, open spaces, and trail corridors.

Objective 5.2: Develop a management plan to maintain and enhance the desired type and level of wildlife habitat within the County's regional park and open space areas.

Objective 5.3: Develop a wildfire management plan for the County's regional park and open space areas to minimize hazardous conditions in the natural and built environment.

Objective 5.4: Develop open space and trail standards and criteria to provide sufficient buffer zones relative to roadways, river and wash corridors, and development areas.

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Objective 5.5: Develop a watershed management plan that protects the County's key contributing areas to promote water quality and conservation for future generations.

Objective 5.6: Promote collaboration among municipalities, county, state, and federal landowners/managers to provide an equitable level of recreation and open space opportunities.