

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

General Plan Legislation

The Open Space and Conservation Elements were first required to be part of city and county General Plans in 1970. The focus of this legislation was to underline the importance of protecting open spaces and recreational areas to serve the population for many years to come.

Purpose and Function

The Open Space Element designates "open-space land", which is defined by Section 65560 (b) of the Government Code, as "any parcel or area of land or water which is essentially unimproved and devoted to open space use." Open space use, in turn, is defined to encompass four principal categories: natural resources; managed production of resources; outdoor recreation; and public health and safety.

The Conservation Element is required for the purposes of establishing a management plan for natural resources to prevent waste, destruction or neglect. This element of the General Plan is concerned with the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources such as water, soils, rivers, harbours, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources.

Relationship of Other General Plan Elements

The Conservation Element overlaps those categories of the Open Space Element which deal with "open space for the preservation of natural resources" and "open space for the managed production of resources". As a result of this overlap and interdependence, the two elements have been combined, which is permitted under State law.

INVENTORY OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

The City of Villa Park was incorporated in an effort to preserve the rural atmosphere. The significance of the extensive rolling terrain located in the northeasterly portion of the City and the physical influence of the Santiago Creek on the environment and their relation to community development have been carefully assessed. The rolling hills in the eastern and northern sections provide superior natural barriers to insure preservation of an open