



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of San Diego and Regional Partners Celebrate 25 Years of Natural Habitat Conservation Efforts

AGENCIES INVITE COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MULTIPLE SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM

SAN DIEGO – Calling all nature lovers! The City of San Diego and its regional partners invite community members to join them on Friday, Nov. 3, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the [Multiple Species Conservation Program \(MSCP\)](#). The Program preserves natural habitat and open space, protects biodiversity and enhances the region’s quality of life.

The City and nine other jurisdictions and agencies will hold a fair at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center, from 9 a.m. until noon, where attendees can learn more about the MSCP. The event will feature exhibits, guided hikes and remarks by agency leaders.

Spanning a 900-square-mile area in southwestern San Diego County, including Mission Trails Regional Park, the MSCP area was designated for conservation in 1998 to protect natural habitat and open space for 85 sensitive plant and animal species. This includes the California gnatcatcher, burrowing owl and Shaw’s agave.

“Protecting plants, animals and ecosystems is so important to San Diego’s future,” said City Planning Director Heidi Vonblum. “We are excited for all that we have accomplished in the past 25 years and look forward to continuing to work with our partner agencies to protect our precious open spaces and habitats.”

The MSCP also helps maintain a balance between the preservation of natural resources and regional growth and economic prosperity. It improves people’s quality of life by giving them access to natural preserves for passive recreation.

Local jurisdictions and special districts are responsible for implementing their own subarea plans. So far, the City of San Diego has conserved 98% of its subarea plan. The City acquires land through grants, dedications, land donations and its Habitat Acquisition Fund.

Once 100% of the area is acquired, agencies will continue to manage, maintain and restore the land to continue to provide quality habitat for covered species and focus on species recovery.

“The MSCP is one of the most innovative conservation efforts of our time,” said the County of San Diego’s Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Land Use and Environment Group Sarah Aghassi. “It is a national model for protecting wildlife and streamlining housing development in the right places. The investment of more than \$230 million by our current and past Board of Supervisors, along with the commitment of our team and partners, has preserved more than 80,000 acres of land for wildlife to thrive and for residents and visitors to enjoy the great outdoors.”

In addition to the City and County of San Diego, other agencies participating in Friday’s event include the San Diego County Water Authority, Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation, San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, City of Chula Vista, the United States Geological Survey, San Diego Management and Monitoring Program and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To learn more about the event and to register, visit the [City of San Diego’s Biodiverse SD webpage](#).

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