



The Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP) in 2020

Pima County programs and initiatives implementing the vision of the SDCP to balance the protection of natural and cultural heritage with maintaining a vibrant and economically sound community.
Origins of the SDCP: [CLICK HERE](#). Click [HERE](#) for a timeline of SDCP accomplishments and projects.



Conservation Lands System

- [Implements the biological goal of the SDCP](#)
- [Identifies areas of high biological diversity, important riparian areas, and essential wildlife movement corridors](#)
- [Distinguishes areas suitable for conservation & for development](#)
- [Establishes conservation requirements for discretionary land development in CLS](#)
- [Guides open space acquisitions](#)
- [Informs County recommendations for mitigating federal/state projects](#)

2004 Open Space/Habitat Protection & 2006 RTA Bond Programs

- [Funded Open Space and Ranch acquisitions to County Conservation Lands](#)
- [Funded study for and protection of wildlife crossings in transportation corridors](#)
- [Provided natural habitats to allocate for MSCP mitigation](#)
- [Acquired properties in important riparian corridors](#)

Regulatory Tools

- [Riparian Protection & Mitigation Ordinance](#)
- [Native Plant Preservation Ordinance](#)
- [Environmentally Sensitive Roadway Design](#)
- [Removal of Rubbish, Trash, Weeds, Filth and Debris Ordinance](#)
- [Protection of Cultural Resources Policy](#)
- [Historic Landmark and Zone Ordinance](#)
- [Erosion Hazard Areas and Building Setbacks](#)
- [Open Space Buffer Overlay Zone Ordinance](#)
- [Site analysis for proposed rezoning](#)
- [Analysis of development on water supply and infrastructure](#)

Sustainable Operations & Economic Development

- BOS Sustainability and Climate Resolutions: [2007-84](#), [2017-39](#), and [2017-51](#)
- [Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations](#)
- [Tucson 2030 District](#)
- [Pima Prospers Comprehensive Plan](#)
- [Economic Development Plans](#)
- [Smart Transportation, Mobility on Demand](#)

Multi-species Conservation Plan (MSCP)

- [Resolves endangered species issues with County and private development](#)
- [Certificate of Coverage Program](#) for private sector development
- [Ecological Monitoring Program](#) for County conservation lands
- Science and Technical Advisory Team, US Fish and Wildlife provide oversight
- Annual compliance reporting of all actions to US Fish and Wildlife Service
- [Relies on mitigation lands allocated from County conservation lands](#)

Conservation Lands Program

- Managed per [BOS Conservation Lands Policy](#)
- Placement and enforcement of Restrictive Covenants
- [Provide & promote public recreation opportunities](#)
- Required biennial property inspections
- [Acquisition and maintenance of working ranches](#)
- Invasive species management programs
- [Research, inventory, and monitor biological and cultural resources](#)
- [Native Plant Nursery](#)
- [Environmental Education and Conservation Programs](#)
- [Management of three Mountain Parks](#)

Riparian Protection and Enhancement

- [Riparian habitat mitigation guidelines](#)
- [Conservation Effluent Pool Program](#)
- [Wastewater Treatment Facility upgrades](#)
- [Floodplain mapping and studies](#)
- [Floodplain management plan](#)
- [Riparian habitat and ecosystem restoration projects](#)
- [Flood-prone Land Acquisition Program](#)
- [Santa Cruz River Management Plan](#)
- [Open Space Land Stewardship Program](#)
- [Living River of Words Outreach Program](#)

Cultural Resource & Historic Preservation

- [Priority cultural resource sensitivity maps](#)
- [County project review and site inventory](#)
- [Historic built environment site preservation](#)
- [Certified Local Government designation](#)
- [Cultural Resources monitoring - AZ Site Steward Program management](#)
- [Cultural interpretation, public programming](#)

Ranch Conservation

- [Manage and lease 15 working ranches](#)
- Promote sustainable ranching and agricultural practices in southern Arizona
- Ranch Education Program
- [Pima County Range Management Standards and Guidelines](#)