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Parks Protect Wildlife Populations

When parks and greenspaces connect lands together, it allows our plants and wildlife room to roam, forage, and reproduce.

A relatively new science called conservation biology points out how our parklands need to be big enough to support the largest predators and the suite of smaller species that are natural to the ecosytem. Preserves must be large and have a diverse array of species within them, and those species must be spread throughout. To support a healthy ecosystem, landscapes should not be fragmented by roadways that separate open spaces from one another.

Conservation biology provides the scientific explanation as to why our landscapes would change without connections to other open spaces. Wildlife would eventually die out due to inbreeding (lack of suitable, unrelated mates). Orange County boasts important connections that maintain viable and healthy populations of wildlife in our open spaces, but these connections are often threatened by poorly planned development.

Areas may need to be "retrofitted" to re-establish safe passages. Providing wildlife corridors can be as simple as adding habitat onto existing parks, adding culverts between fragmented landscapes, or even building underpasses or overpasses for roadways.

Our parks and natural lands offer places for our wildlife to forage for food, mate, raise their young, and act as a temporary stop between destinations or as a permanent home. Parks offer our plants and wildlife a way to continue thriving—especially when they are connected to a regional system of open spaces.

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