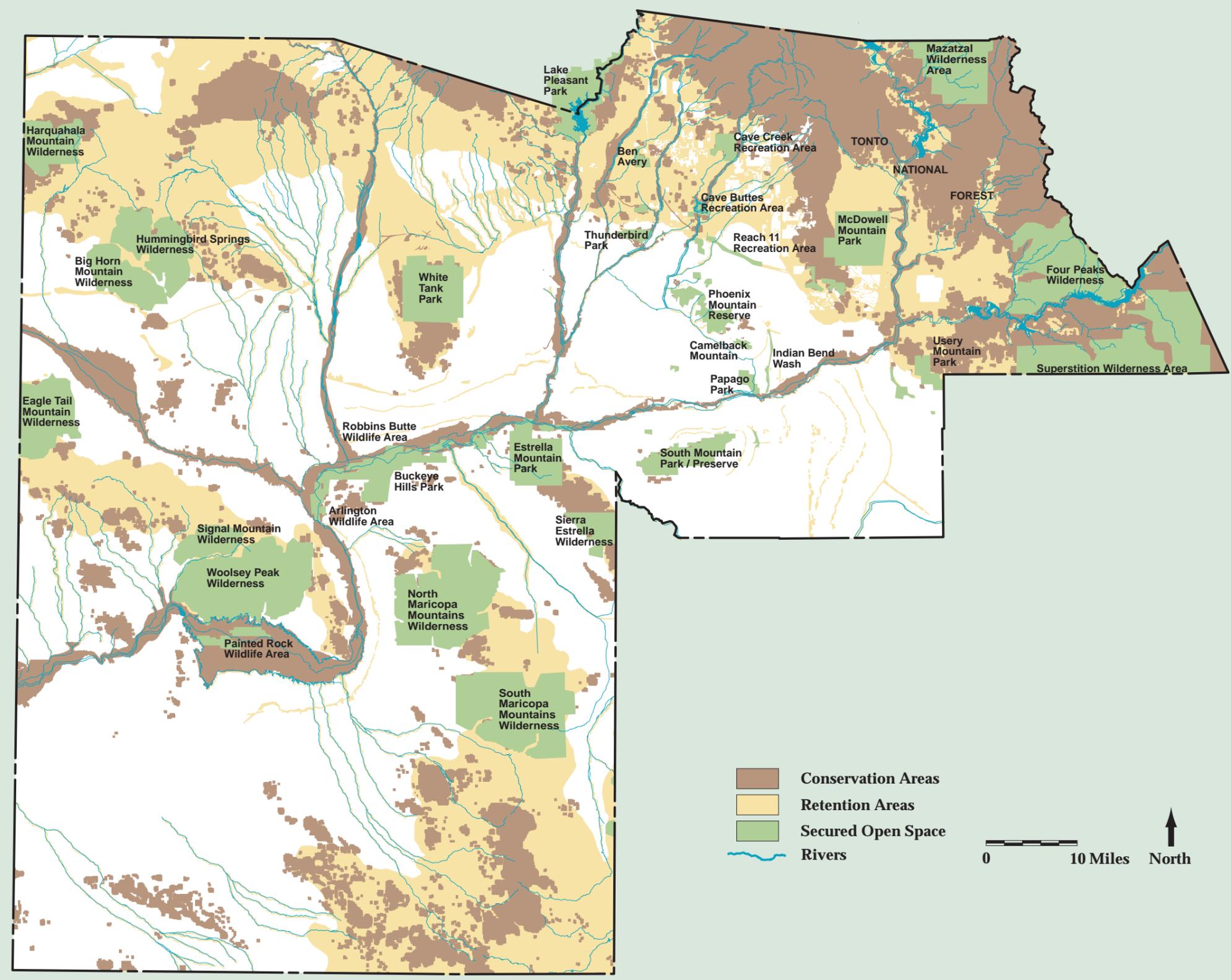


Open Spaces



Desert Spaces is a regional open space plan designed to guide the members of the Maricopa Association of Governments in protecting open space while allowing for future community growth and development. The Plan is intended to be used by federal, state, county and municipal agencies as a framework for decision making and coordinating local and regional efforts directed toward establishing a viable open space system. This map shows areas identified for conservation and retention in the plan. They include mountains, foothills, rivers, washes, canals, cultural sites, upland desert vegetation, wildlife habitat, and existing parks and preserves.

Areas identified for conservation in the plan have outstanding open space value for recreational, aesthetic and biological purposes. They are given the highest priority for protection from development and its effects. The plan recommends that public access to these lands should be protected. The means of protection could be amendments to land use policies, easements, restrictions, and/or acquisition.

The Retention Area category includes areas with natural resources that have significant open space value that can co-exist with sensitive development. Sensitive development is defined as any land use change that takes place while maintaining the character of the desert landscape and the natural and cultural resources that define that character.

The areas designated as Secured Open Space resources include existing federally managed multiple-use and wilderness areas, Arizona Game and Fish lands, Maricopa County regional parks and municipal mountain preserves. Some of these lands provide recreational opportunities near the urbanized area. Little human impact is allowed in federal wilderness areas, which are protected in nearly pristine condition.

Data Source: Maricopa Association of Governments, *Desert Spaces Plan*, 1997