



PW-12

**Desert woodland preserve**

In response to a request from homeowners who were concerned about changes to the natural landscape, the Lancaster, California (119,000), city council created the Prime Desert Woodland Preserve. The community was involved at all phases of the project, including the design of the preserve and the development of educational programs. Many of the features suggested by community members were included in the final design. The preserve opened its doors in October 2001, and it now occupies 100 acres. It features almost three miles of trails through dramatic sand dunes, plant life, and Joshua and juniper trees. The preserve offers special programs and curricula for elementary school children, and an energy-efficient interpretive center provides information on Native American lifestyles and regional plants and animals. Interpretive signs along the trails describe animal tracks, special features, and information on how Native Americans used the indigenous plants and animals.

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