DRY CREEK RANCH

RECREATION PLAN

Executive Summary

The following plan describes the existing and future planning guidelines for use and maintenance of the Dry Creek Ranch Planned Community trail system, parks, and Village Centers. The goal of this document is to provide an outline of designations to provide a quality recreational experience within a conservation focused community. In the event there is a conflict between the Dry Creek Ranch Recreation Plan (DCRRP) and the Dry Creek Ranch Wildlife Mitigation Plan (WMP), the WMP shall govern in all regards.

The DCRRP outlines use designations associated with user safety, wildlife habitat management, trail maintenance, and sustainability guidelines. The intent of the DCRRP is to create a sustainable trail and community park system, and limit user conflicts and impacts to wildlife and associated habitat.

The DCRRP also outlines the decision process for reviewing community events, developing annual work plans, recommendations regarding new trails or designs, and season closures (if necessary). These ideas will be submitted to the Dry Creek Ranch Recreation Board (DCRRB). The DCRRB will make recommendations to the Dry Creek Ranch Conservation Advisory Committee (DCRCAC).

This plan is intended to create a process that provides for changing needs and conditions of the community park and trail system. As recreation patterns, regional trail systems, and adjacent land ownership changes, the DCRRP process will adapt to the needs and opportunities to provide the best user experience and recreational opportunities while maintaining conservation goals.

User Designations and Guidelines

A wide range of recreational opportunities exist throughout the community park and trail system for all types of users. In an effort to create the most enjoyable recreational experience while balancing conservation requirements, user safety, and trail limitations, Dry Creek Ranch has developed use designations for specific areas and trails. Understanding that this may restrict some users from desirable areas and trails, it is the best way to try to manage user conflicts and provide the best overall user experience for all user types.

In addition to designating areas and trails to reduce user conflicts, portions of the trail system may be restricted for weather related conditions. Trail conditions will be monitored during the winter months to determine if adjustments are needed to protect the stability of the trail.

User Types

As previously noted some of the trails within Dry Creek Ranch will be connected to the regional trail system governed by Ada County Parks and Waterways. To maximize the user experience and preserve the natural resources on the land, Dry Creek Ranch has designated some areas by user type, and mode of transportation. Trail users may include hikers and wildlife viewers, mountain bikers, equestrians, on and off leash dogs.

Use Designations
There are four regional trails within the Dry Creek Ranch Planned Community. Those trails are as follows:

1. The natural surface regional trail running east and west along the north side of Dry Creek.

2. The paved surface regional trail running east and west along the south side of Dry Creek.

3. The natural surface trail running north and south through the southern portion of the planned community, connecting the Eagle Bike Park to Dry Creek Road.

4. The natural surface trail running north and south through the northern portion of the planned community, connecting the regional trail along the north side of Dry Creek to the off-site trails located at the northeast boundary of the development.

Mountain Bikers
All trails in the Dry Creek Ranch planned community are available for use by mountain bikers. However, future plans could include directional trail use, such as downhill only, which would reduce potentially dangerous encounters, but at this time there are no directional trails. If problems with encounters are present, the Dry Creek Trail Board may recommend directional flow to increase safety for all trail users. In the case of direction designations, signage will be posted to inform and direct users to proper use and alternative routes.

Hikers / Foot Traffic
The trails in the Dry Creek Ranch planned community are open for all hikers and other foot traffic. However, hikers must comply with the seasonal closures listed in the prior section.

Equestrian
Several trails within the Dry Creek Ranch planned community are available for equestrian trail users. These trails are the natural surface east/west regional trail located on the north side of Dry Creek and the natural surface north/south regional trails. These trails are also identified on the attached exhibit labeled "Equestrian Use Trails". (see attached map)

Motorized Vehicles
All motorized vehicles (including e-bikes and e-scooters) are prohibited on Dry Creek Ranch trails. All motorized vehicles used in association with emergency medical services (EMS), trail construction and maintenance, and permitted livestock operations are exempt from the restriction.

Seasonal Closures
As previously noted, portions of the trail system may be restricted during any season depending on ground conditions effected by weather. Due to the elevation and topography of some of the trails within the system, there may need to be closures during the winter months when adverse weather may make the trails dangerous or where use may cause damage to the trail. During the time period between November 1st and March 1st the trails located within the higher elevations will be monitored to assess user safety and the possibility of trail damage if used. If the DCRRB determines a trail needs to be closed, notice will be provided to the residents and signage posted indicating the trail closure.

Dogs
Dogs are permitted on all trails within the Dry Creek Ranch planned community. However, to prevent conflicts with users, wildlife protection, and to insure the safety of the dogs and other trail users, off-leash restrictions exist on all trails. All dogs must be on a leash on all trails. The on-leash restrictive time period is to protect the nesting birds within the Dry Creek Ranch planned community. Some wildlife may be present near open trails during certain parts of the year, and off-leash dogs may threaten winter survival by chasing or disturbing wintering wildlife.

Hunting
No hunting by residents or the general public will be permitted within the Dry Creek Ranch planned community.

Trail Design Guidelines and Maintenance
For any new trail construction or re-routing of trails at Dry Creek Ranch, general trail building guidelines will be followed during each step in the planning and construction process. Following the general guidelines will help create a more sustainable and user friendly trail system. While reducing maintenance or reconstruction requirements of faulty trail design and construction.

Trail design should follow the five essential elements of sustainable trails if feasible, as presented in the US Forest Services trail design parameters. Although certain stretches of new trails may require deviations, the following five principals should be used during planning and construction of all new trails within the Dry Creek Ranch planned community.

1. The Half Rule: The grade of the trail, if feasible should not exceed half of the grade of the hillside or side slope that the trail traverses. Trails that exceed the half rule are considered fall-line trails and encourage water flow down the trail rather than across it, increasing probability of erosion damage.

2. The Ten Percent Average Guideline: On average, if feasible the overall trail grade ([elevation gain/trail length] x 100) should not exceed 10%. Although some trail segments may exceed ten percent grade, the general rule for a sustainable trail is an average of 10% over the length of the trail.

3. Maximum Sustainable Trail Grade: Although the 10% rule is a general rule for an entire trail, if feasible determining a maximum grade (typically 15%-20%) for trail segments should be determined in planning based on site specific factors:

    - Half Rule
    - Soil Type
    - Rock
    - Annual Rainfall
    - Grade Reversals
    - Types of Users
    - Number of Users
    - Difficulty Level

4. Grade Reversals:Grade reversals are spots in the trail where a climbing trail levels out then changes direction, dropping subtly for up to 50 feet before rising again. The change in grade allows water to exit the trail at the low point, reducing erosive power of water running down the trail. Depending on soil stability, if feasible grade reversals should be placed every 20 to 50 feet.

5. Outslope: When a trail contours across a hillside, if feasible the downhill edge of the tread surface should tilt slightly down and away from the high side of the trail, promoting water flow across the trail rather than down the trail. A general rule is to build all trails with a 5% outslope. In looser soils, i.e. sandy soils, frequent grade reversals will aid in cross trail drainage.

In addition to using these five design guidelines, all new trail construction will require approval from the DCRTB and the DCRCAC.

Annual Trail Maintenance

Trail maintenance is a critical component to a sustainable trail system. As such, an annual work plan will be developed by the DCRRB and submitted to the DCRCAC. The annual work plan will outline the dates, recommended actions, and associated justification for more intensive maintenance actions throughout the trail system. Intensive maintenance actions include, but are not limited to:

- Trail Diversions or Reroutes
- Projects Associated with Wetlands/Riparian Areas
- New Construction Projects

In contrast, routine maintenance actions will not be included in the annual work plan, and do not require approval from the DCRCAC. Routine maintenance actions include, but are not limited to:

- Light Mechanical Vegetation Control (pruning, grubbing, lopping, hand pulling)
- Noxious Weed Control
- Minor Erosion Control and Emergence Trail Stabilization

However, these actions will still require approval from the Land Owner/Developer, prior to implementation.

Community Events

The Dry Creek Ranch planned community provides a wealth of recreation opportunities for residents and the general public. As previously noted there are four regional use trails that cross through the planned community. In addition, there are numerous community trails, parks, village center amenities, community centers, and pools. The wealth of recreation facilities offered within Dry Creek Ranch provide opportunities for community organized events. Possible community events include but are not limited to:

- Bike Races
- Running Races
- Informative Nature Hikes
- Field Sports Practices and Games
- Equestrian Events

As the population of Dry Creek Ranch and the surrounding community increases, impacts on the recreation facilities will increase. It is imperative that community events are well organized, have a minimal effect on the recreation facilities, and result in a net gain for the system. Regardless of the applicant, all community events will go through the DCRRC application process and be submitted to the DCRCAC for approval. Some exceptions may apply; however, the Dry Creek Ranch Owners/Developer reserves the right to disapprove any applicant.

Dry Creek Ranch Recreation Board

The DCRRB will be made up of one representative from each of the following groups:

- Dry Creek Ranch Owner/Developer
- Dry Creek Ranch Home Owners Association
- Dry Creek Ranch Conservation Advisory Committee Member
- One Person From Each User Group
  - Hiking/Running
  - Biking
  - Equestrian

The purpose of the review board is to monitor trail use, identify and address any concerns or conflicts, develop the annual work plan, and review and make recommendations on proposed trail developments and community events.

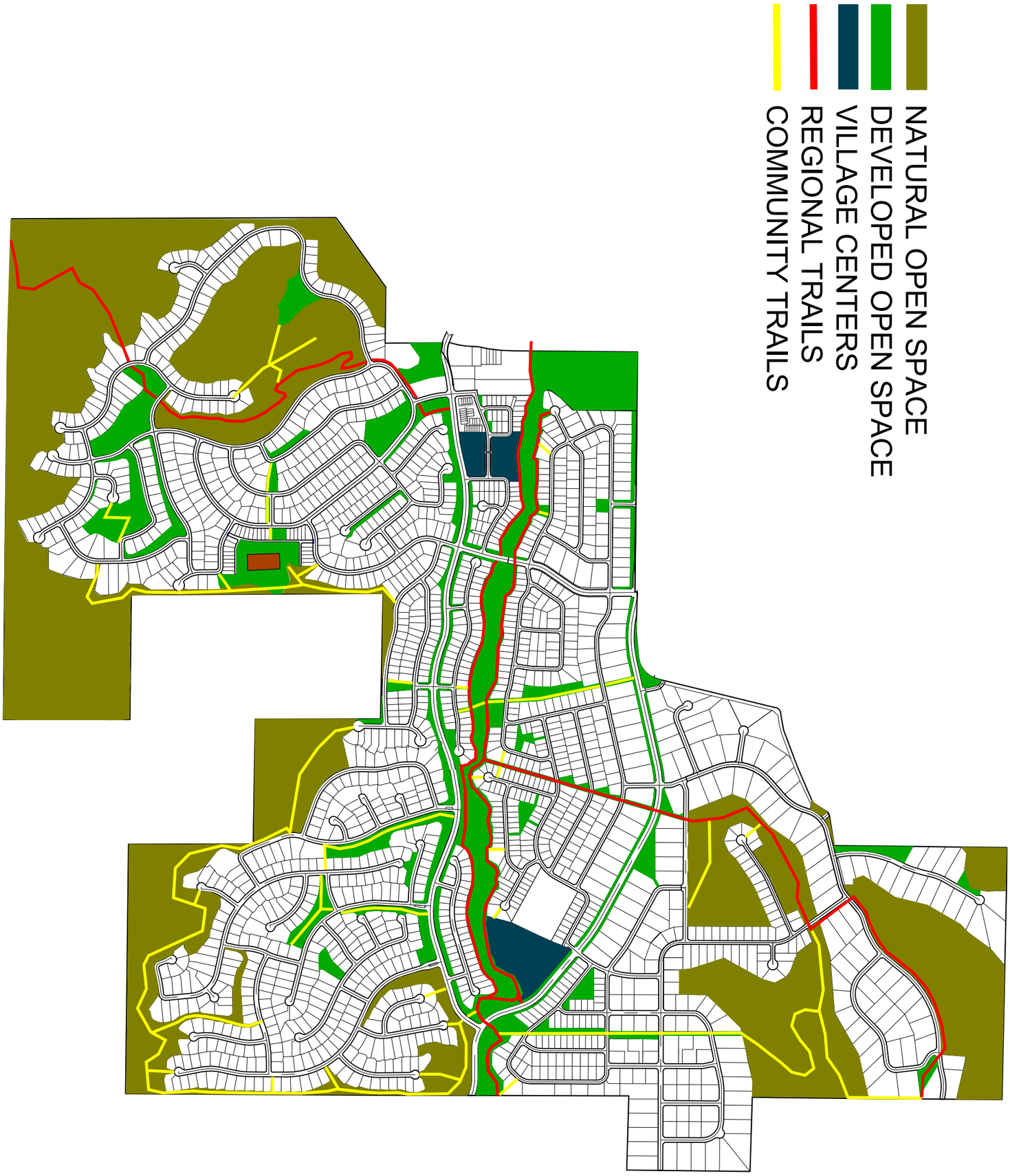
The DCRRB will meet on a quarterly basis or more often if the need arises. The board will make professional recommendations on trail designations, new construction, maintenance issues, and conflicts, which will be presented to the DCRCAC (see attached flowchart). The DCRCAC will review the trail board's recommendation and make the final ruling on any issues or proposed changes to the trail system and its users. Modifications and/or amendments and/or repeal of the recreation plan must be made pursuant to Idaho Code 67-6509 and Ada County Code.

Funding

The HOA trails may be maintained at the discretion of the HOA with HOA funds. A large portion of work to be done on the trail system has and will continue to be completed through volunteer efforts and community support/building projects by Dry Creek Ranch residents and the surrounding communities.

Attachments

Dry Creek Ranch Recreation Plan Map
Dry Creek Ranch Equestrian Trails Map
Dry Creek Ranch Recreation Board Process

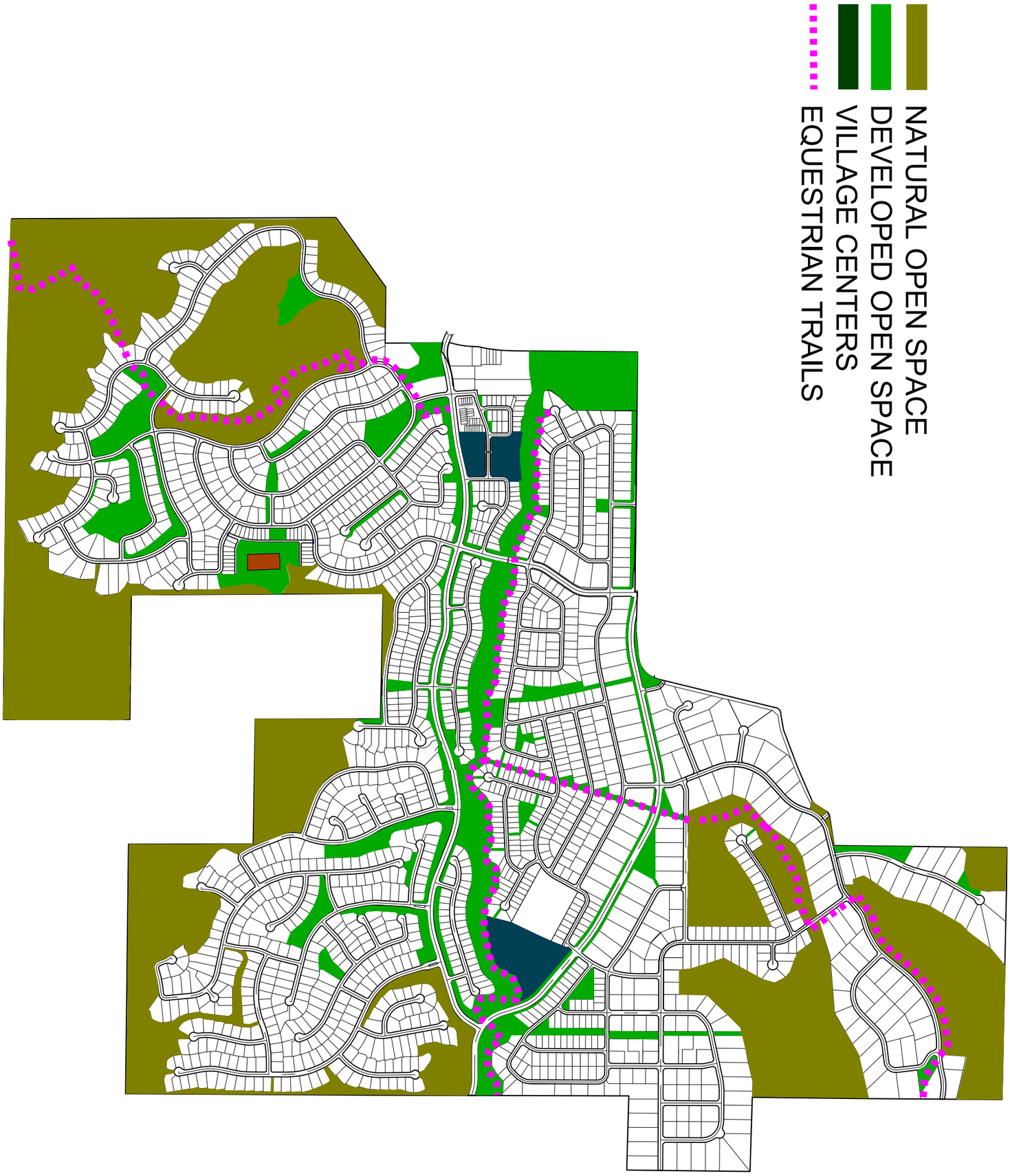


BOISE HUNTER
HOMES

DRY CREEK RANCH

SITE PLAN

RECREATION PLAN MAP



BOISE HUNTER
HOMES

DRY CREEK RANCH

EQUESTRIAN TRAILS MAP

SITE PLAN

DRY CREEK RANCH

RECREATION BOARD PROCESS

Applicant (Start)
- User Group or Individual Proposes Project (Trail, Race, Event, Other)
- Applicant must provide:
  - Location Map
  - Timetable
  - Funding Mechanism
  - Maintenance Plan
  - Net Benefit Mechanism

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Dry Creek Ranch Recreation Board
- Review applications and makes a recommendation to the DCRCAC
- Recommends changes to the Recreation Plan (Additional Trails, Seasonal Closures, Trail Designations, etc.)
- Makes a recommendation to the Dry Creek Ranch Owner/Developer
- Develops Annual Work Plan
- Works with Ada County, BLM, and other adjacent land owners

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DCRCAC: HOA, Owner/Developer, Conservation Director; Ada County; IDFG
- Reviews and approves changes to WMP, Fire Plan, and Recreation Plan
- Reviews and approves Annual Work Plan, races, and events