

village open space network

The Village open space network seeks to heighten the experience of being in the spectacular mountain setting by establishing a network of natural and pedestrian oriented open spaces that weave through Village areas while maximizing views to the surrounding mountainsides, forest and meadow. The Plan sets aside approximately 60 acres for this open space network including 43 acres of open space comprised of the Squaw Creek corridor (V-CP) and forest recreation lands (V-FR). The remaining 17 acres of open space within the Plan area include a vibrant pedestrian network and generous landscape buffers and corridors that bring the forest “into” the Village. This network is the portal to the over 6,000 acres of adjacent recreational lands that surround the Village areas.

4.1 Village Open Space Concept

The Plan is organized around a Village pedestrian and open space network that provides links to all neighborhood areas and adjacent recreational areas. It provides a pattern of landscaped buffers and corridors that seek to bring the forest into the Village. This network enhances and renews the Village areas so they are connected, safe and walkable. Refer to Figure 4.1- The Village Open Space Network. This network is made up of five basic components:

- ▶ Primary pedestrian corridors – The main pathways that interconnect all neighborhoods within the Village;

- ▶ Secondary pedestrian corridors – The smaller passageways, alleys and lanes within each Village neighborhood;
- ▶ Gathering spaces – The snow beach (southern edge of Plan Area), plazas, courtyards and event venue spaces along the pedestrian corridors;
- ▶ Landscape Corridors and Buffers – Generously landscaped open spaces within neighborhoods that provide visual buffers and links to the surrounding forested areas, and;
- ▶ The Squaw Creek Preservation Corridor – A generous open space corridor set aside for future enhancement and restoration activities.

4.2 Open Space Goals & Policies

- Goal OS- 1: Emphasize an all-season pedestrian environment within the Village.
- Goal OS- 2: Employ open space areas as opportunities for environmental enhancement and protection.

Goal OS- 3: Connect open space areas within the Village to the larger natural context of Squaw Valley.

Policy OS- 1: Provide a system of landscaped pedestrian pathways and corridors (streets, plazas, courtyards, recreation and event venues, outdoor dining areas, etc.) as all-season functional passages and community gathering spots throughout the Village.

Policy OS- 2: Provide a system of pedestrian streets as the unifying system that provides strong links to all Village areas, activity nodes, adjacent recreational areas and to the existing Granite Chief and Shirley Lake trailhead.

Policy OS- 3: Extend the natural mountain landscape into the Village by requiring the use of native or naturalized vegetation along pedestrian corridors, within gathering areas and for landscape buffers and green spaces.

Policy OS- 4: Protect and improve water quality with site-specific stormwater BMPs that slow the delivery of water to receiving channels and offer treatment through filtration, nutrient uptake, and sediment sequestration. This will include incorporation of stormwater drainage into landscaped and open space areas, using vegetated bio-swales and naturalized channel and floodplain systems, in

addition to traditional stormwater treatment structures.

Policy OS- 5: Take advantage of the mountain frontage for primary gathering spaces and organize the pedestrian network to converge at these areas.

Policy OS- 6: Protect Squaw Creek by providing an appropriate open space corridor and limiting activities to those that do not degrade water quality or the stream and riparian habitat within the corridor. Appropriate activities within the Squaw Creek open space corridor may include sediment collection and/or removal facilities, minor streambed alterations to improve flood control, habitat and/or water quality, trails, signage, and other interpretive elements.

Policy OS- 7: Integrate landscape corridors throughout each neighborhood to preserve mountain views, provide transition zones to surrounding natural areas and to create visual buffers.

4.3 The Components

The open space network provides a multi-layered system that creates a high quality pedestrian mountain environment that encourages walking, recreating and socializing. All plantings throughout the Plan Area utilize natural or naturalized plantings from the Approved Plant List (see Appendix C). This list takes

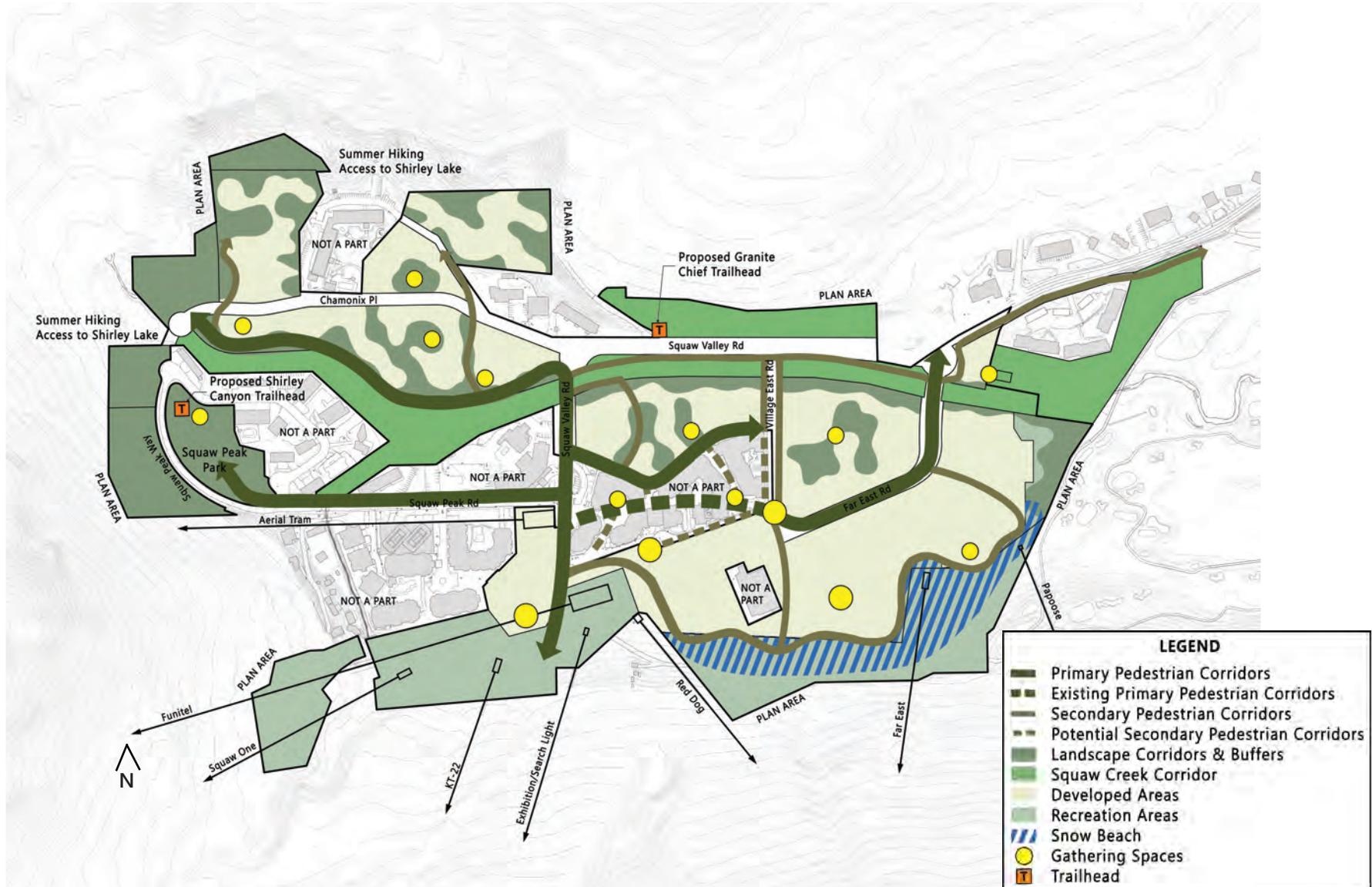


Figure 4.1–Village Open Space Network

its cue from the surrounding mountain planting palette. The components of the system are:

4.3.1 Primary Pedestrian Corridors

These corridors are the main passageways that interconnect the Village neighborhoods with the “Snow Beach” along the southern edge of the Plan Area. These corridors are primarily pedestrian environments and can include corridors utilizing road rights-of-ways combined with a bike trail. These corridors also act as Emergency Vehicle Accessways (EVA’s) where needed. These pedestrian streets vary in width to create variety and are generally 20 to 30 feet wide and are sized to provide emergency access. These corridors are articulated by a variety of building frontage uses such as retail, resort residential, lodging and recreation. Landscape treatments along pedestrian streets bring the surrounding forest plant palette into the Village to further reinforce these corridors by highlighting entries and main gathering spots and to help give buildings scale and context.

4.3.2 Secondary Pedestrian Corridors

These are the smaller passageways that provide the connections within neighborhoods, such as residential walkways, paths or pedestrian bridges. These corridors are pedestrian dominant environments with the exception of where they overlap with a bike trail access. These pedestrian streets would vary in width, but are generally 12 to 20 feet wide and would be articulated by a variety of building frontage uses such as retail, residential and recreational opportunities. EVA access, when needed shall be a minimum of 16 feet wide. Landscape treatments are provided along these passageways to define secondary gathering spots,

bring the forest “into” the Village, and help to screen service and utility structures as they occur.

4.3.3 Primary and Secondary Gathering Spots

These are the series of spaces along the pedestrian corridor system that provide the main gathering spaces for seasonal and cultural events, recreational opportunities, water features, art and sculptures, outdoor dining or mini-parks. The main gathering spot is the “Snow Beach” at the southern edge of the Plan Area where multiple recreational, entertainment and cultural activities occur. Secondary spaces such as plazas, courts and mini-parks occur along the pedestrian corridors to animate the Village areas.

4.3.4 Landscape Corridors and Buffers

Landscape corridors and buffers are used as a transition to the Plan Area and connect to the surrounding forested landscape and/or recreational lands while bringing the forest “into” Village areas. All landscaped corridors utilize the Approved Plant List (Appendix C), which emphasizes native or naturalized plantings. The Development Standards and Design Guidelines (Appendix B) set aside generous buffers and open space areas for each neighborhood to ensure that adequate landscape buffers are established.

4.3.5 Squaw Creek Corridor

The Squaw Creek stream environment has been set aside in lands designated as “Village - Conservation Preserve.” This corridor ranges from 20 to 200 feet and will allow for maintenance and/

or improvement of riparian functions and values, which includes groundwater recharge, sediment deposition, terrestrial, avian, and aquatic habitat, and flood protection. Allowable uses within this corridor include multi-purpose trails, passive recreational uses and/or picnicking. Refer to Section 7.3 for Squaw Creek improvements.

- ▶ Establish landscape buffers and open space plantings that provide a gradual transition to the adjacent forested environment and recreation areas.

4.4 Landscaping & Plant Materials

The Village open space network relies on the use of a native dominant plant palette to renew, enhance and extend the forested mountain environment throughout Village areas. In general, the planting design for the landscape corridors and pedestrian network takes its cue from the surrounding forested areas. An Approved Plant List is provided in Appendix C. The main objectives of the establishment of a healthy, mountain landscape are:

- ▶ Revegetate disturbed areas with native or naturalized plant materials so that the demarcation between new and existing landscaped areas is obscured.
- ▶ Use plant materials and tree groupings to anchor buildings to the site, define gathering places, screen service areas, and animate pedestrian corridors.
- ▶ Utilize native or naturalized plant materials to decrease the reliance on intensive irrigation and implement plant species that celebrate native american culture and heritage.