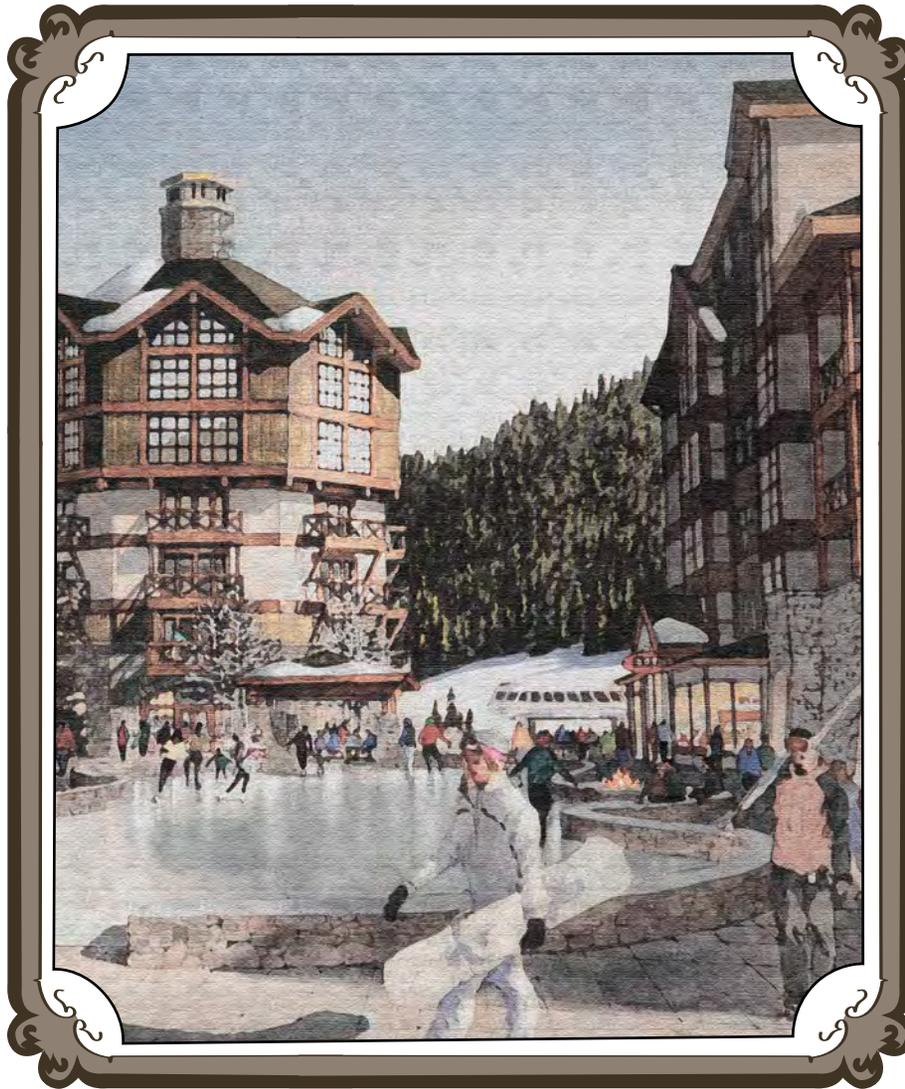


# 4

## VILLAGE OPEN SPACE NETWORK



4.1 VILLAGE OPEN SPACE CONCEPT

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# VILLAGE OPEN SPACE NETWORK

The Village open space network highlights Squaw Valley’s spectacular mountain setting by establishing a network of natural and pedestrian-oriented open spaces that weave through the Plan Area, providing views to the surrounding mountainsides, forests, and meadow. There is additional open space acreage provided; about 35 acres (V-CP and V-FR) within the Village, including approximately 10 acres for the Squaw Creek corridor (V-CP). Further, additional approximately 4 acres of open space is provided on the East Parcel. Additional open space acreage is provided throughout the Village Commercial area, which includes a vibrant pedestrian network and generous landscape buffers and corridors that bring the natural setting “into” the Village. This network is the portal to the over 2,700 acres of adjacent recreational lands that surround the Village areas.

## 4.1 VILLAGE OPEN SPACE CONCEPT

The Specific 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- Village Open Space Network. This network is made up of six basic components:

- ✦ Primary Pedestrian Corridors – The main corridors that interconnect all neighborhoods within the Village;

- ✦ Secondary Pedestrian corridors – The smaller corridors, alleys and lanes within each Village neighborhood;
- ✦ Pedestrian Parking Lot Corridors – Corridors that provide safe pedestrian circulation between the surface parking lots and the Village;
- ✦ Gathering Spaces – The Snow Beach (southern edge of the 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 AND 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 the Olympic Valley.

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

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

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 Best Management Practices (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 measures such as vegetated bioswales, rain gardens, naturalized channels, 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 corridor may include sediment collection and/or sediment removal facilities and equipment, minor streambed alterations to improve flood control, and habitat or water quality, trail construction, fishing, and 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 which encourages

## FOUR - VILLAGE OPEN SPACE NETWORK

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 its cue from the surrounding mountain plant palette. The components of the open space network are:

### 4.3.1 PRIMARY PEDESTRIAN CORRIDORS

These corridors are the main pedestrian routes that connect the Village Neighborhood to the Village Core and the “Snow Beach” along the southern edge of the Plan Area. These are primarily pedestrian environments and can include corridors utilizing road right-of-ways combined with bike trails. These pedestrian corridors vary in width to create variety and are generally 10 to 50 feet wide. Where corridors also act as Emergency Vehicle Accessways (EVAs), routes shall be at least 20 feet wide with minimum 2 foot wide shoulders.

### PASSAGEWAYS

Passageways, specifically, are the primary pedestrian corridors within the Village Core and Village Neighborhood. These passageways can be no less than 40 feet wide and are defined as the space between vertical walls and can include landscape and/or hardscape. Where there may be a decorative articulation or activity within the passageway such as a fountain, statue, landscaped island, ice rink or play structure, there must be at least 40 combined feet of unobstructed pedestrian corridor on both sides. These corridors are articulated by a variety of building frontage uses such as retail, resort-residential, hotel, lodging, and recreation.

### 4.3.2 SECONDARY PEDESTRIAN CORRIDORS

These are the smaller pedestrian routes that provide the connections within the Village Neighborhood and to the Village Core. These routes are pedestrian dominant, with the exception of bikes, and may include residential walkways, paths, or pedestrian bridges. These routes vary in width, but are generally 10 to 20 feet wide. EVAs, when needed shall be a minimum of 20 feet wide with 2 foot wide shoulders. Generally, landscape treatments are provided along pathways.

### PATHWAYS

Pathways, specifically, are the secondary pedestrian corridors within the Village Core and Village Neighborhood, excluding cabins lots 16 and 18. These pathways can be no less than 20 feet wide and are defined as the space between vertical walls and can include landscape and/or hardscape. These corridors are articulated by a variety of building frontage uses such as retail, resort-residential, hotel, lodging, and recreation.

### 4.3.3 PEDESTRIAN PARKING LOT CORRIDORS

These are pedestrian connections that safely move people across the parking lots. They have landscape and curb buffers to physically separate and protect pedestrians from vehicles and vehicular traffic in the parking lots. These paths connect the pedestrian paths along Squaw Valley Road and the Village neighborhoods to the Village core. They can include bike trails. They also provide safe routes for pedestrians moving from their parked cars to the Village. They are landscaped to reinforce the integration of the forest plant palette “into” the Village and will be lit with low spill lighting. These pedestrian corridors are generally 8 to 12 feet wide and are articulated

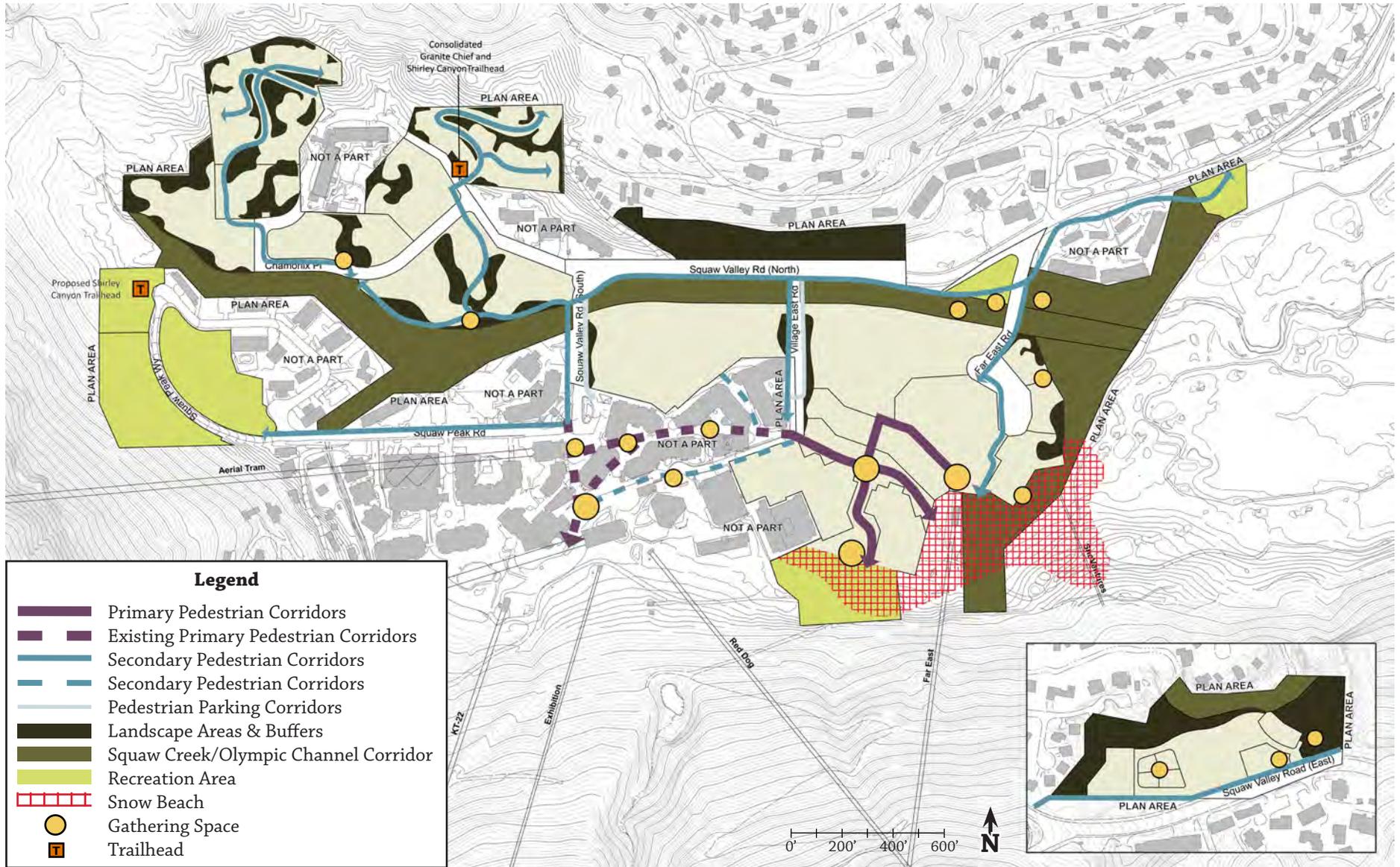


FIGURE 4.1-VILLAGE OPEN SPACE NETWORK

## FOUR - VILLAGE OPEN SPACE NETWORK

by landscaping and curbs. Primary and Secondary Gathering Spots may not be located on these passageways.

### 4.3.4 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY GATHERING SPOTS

These are a 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 pocket 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 pocket parks occur along these pedestrian corridors to animate the Village areas.

### 4.3.5 LANDSCAPE CORRIDORS AND BUFFERS

Landscape corridors and buffers are used as a transition to the Plan Area and connect to the surrounding natural landscape and recreational lands. They bring the natural setting “into” the Village. 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.

### 4.3.6 SQUAW CREEK CORRIDOR

The Squaw Creek stream environment has been set aside in lands designated as “Village - Conservation Preserve.” This corridor ranges from 150 to 200 feet wide and will accommodate 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 picnicking. Refer to Section 7.3 for Squaw Creek improvements.

## 4.4 LANDSCAPING AND 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 use plant species that celebrate Native American culture and heritage.
- ✦ Establish landscape buffers and open space plantings that provide a gradual transition to the adjacent forested environment and recreation areas.