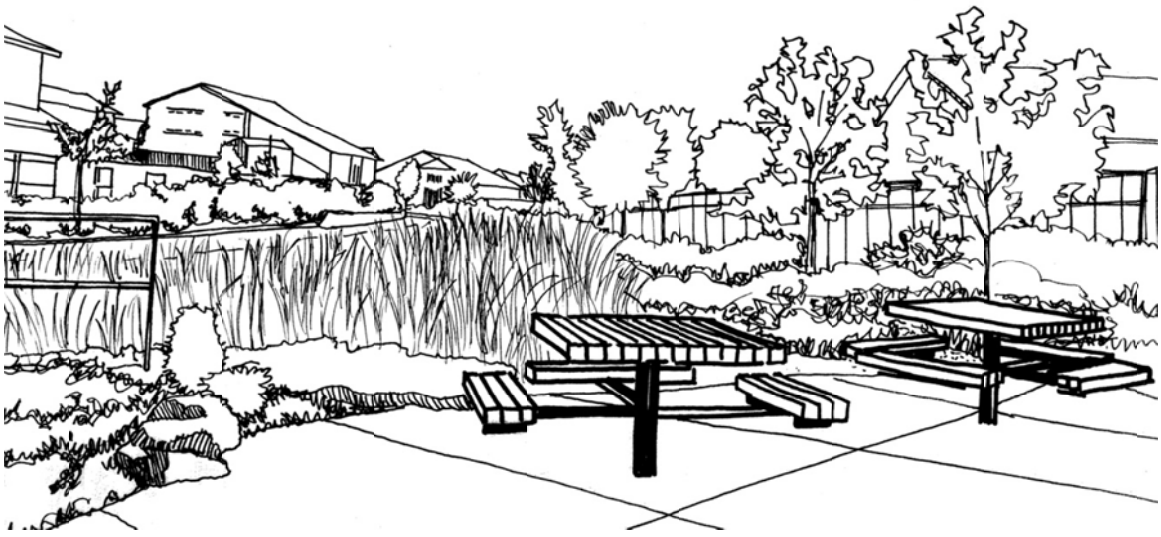
6 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

6.1 OVERVIEW

The natural undeveloped character of the West Roseville Specific Plan consists primarily of non-native grassland with relatively flat topography on the southern portion of the Plan Area, and gently rolling topography on the northern portion of the Plan Area. Intermittent creek corridors, Kaseberg, Curry and Pleasant Grove Creeks, traverse the site. Riparian and oak woodlands line portions of Pleasant Grove and Kaseberg Creeks, with seasonal wetlands, including vernal pools, clustered throughout the Plan Area.

Coordination with other agencies and conservation efforts is a fundamental principle and key objective of the WRSP resource management approach.

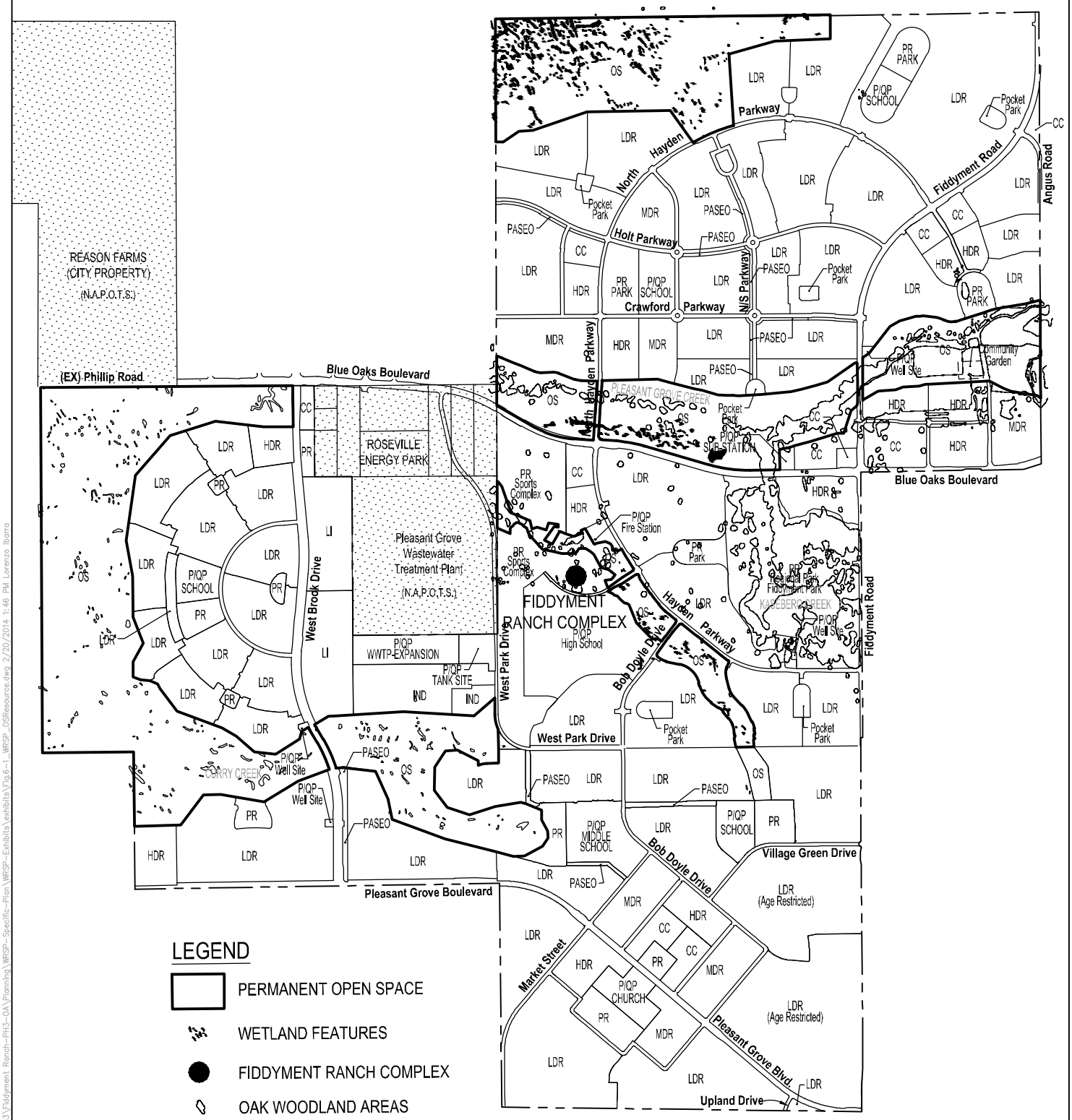
The WRSP establishes contiguous open space areas that are driven by the protection of significant natural resources and allow for potential connectivity with larger-scale conservation efforts. Over twenty percent (20%) of the WRSP is designated as permanent open space (see Figure 6-1). In addition to resource protection, the designated open space areas play a significant role in defining the visual character of the WRSP and provide for passive recreation opportunities, pedestrian and bike access, storm drainage, flood water conveyance, backbone sewer infrastructure and land use buffering.



Open Space

OPEN SPACE AND RESOURCE AREAS

Figure 6-1



Note: Underlying parcel basemap used in this figure is not regularly updated.
Refer to Figure 4-1 for the most up to date parcel basemap.

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The WRSP is planned to comply with the City of Roseville General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element. The form of the WRSP resource management approach has also been appreciably influenced by early consultation with appropriate federal and state resource agencies. The resource management approach is designed to be consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service relating to the Pleasant Grove Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. In addition, the WRSP and related off-site preservation and restoration efforts being undertaken consistent with State and federal permit requirements are intended to complement larger-scale regional conservation strategies for Placer County. These include the County proposed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) and Placer Legacy. Coordination with other agencies and conservation efforts is a fundamental principle and key objective of the WRSP resource management approach.

Typically, open space areas are dedicated to the City. It may be appropriate, however, to dedicate portions of the open space to another public, private or institutional entity charged with maintaining and enhancing natural resources. Such dedication could occur in concert with complementary regional conservation efforts.

Based on the characteristics of the WRSP area, the resource management approach in the Specific Plan focuses on wetlands, riparian and oak woodlands, grassland habitat, and the site's historic resources. Additional resources are further addressed in the project EIR.

6.2 WETLAND RESOURCES

The WRSP is situated within the Pleasant Grove Creek and Curry Creek watersheds. As previously noted, Kaseberg Creek, Curry Creek, and the main and southern branches of Pleasant Grove Creek, traverse the WRSP site (see Figure 6-1). In addition, another small creek, Coyote Creek, crosses a portion of the WRSP. These ephemeral (intermittent) creeks have historically flowed with winter rainfall and run dry (or below the surface) during the summer months, although small surface pools may remain into the dry season. Increased irrigation runoff from urban development is expected to result in the creeks becoming more perennial (year round) in character.

Vernal Pool

In addition to the creeks, there are small swales and drainages throughout the WRSP that carry water briefly during winter rainfall. Outside of the creeks and swales, vernal pools and seasonal wetlands are found primarily within grassland areas. The vernal pools and seasonal wetlands fill with rainwater, and can remain inundated until spring or early summer. The wetland areas include habitat potentially suitable for certain federal and/or state special-status plant and wildlife species.

A total of 63.89 acres of verified wetlands or "other waters" of the U.S. occur within the WRSP in its undeveloped state. It is estimated that implementation of the WRSP will preserve 40.19 acres, or 63%, of Plan Area jurisdictional wetlands. The remaining 23.21 acres, or 37%, will be directly impacted, with additional acreage indirectly impacted. Table 6-1 summarizes the estimated acreage of preserved and potentially impacted WRSP wetlands by type.

Table 6-1: Jurisdictional Wetlands

	Vernal Pools	Vernal Swale	Wet Swales	Seasonal Wetland	Emergent Marsh	TOTAL
Pre-Development	33.91 ac	8.05	17.39 ac	3.92 ac	0.62 ac	63.89 ac
Preserved	19.62 ac (58%)	4.76 (59%)	13.22 ac (76%)	2.59 ac (66%)	0 ac (0%)	40. 19 ac (63%)
Impacted (Direct)	13.80 ac[1] (42%)	3.29 (41%)	4.17 ac (24%)	1.33 ac (34%)	0.62 ac (100%)	23.21 ac[1] (37%)

1. 0.49 additional acres of vernal pool was impacted and permitted by City of Roseville Wastewater Treatment Plant Pipeline (USFWS 1-1-01-F-0034).

The overall goal of the WRSP mitigation program is no net loss of wetland functions, habitat and values. To achieve this goal, it is anticipated that the WRSP mitigation program may incorporate a combination of: 1) on-site avoidance and preservation of wetlands; 2) on-site enhancement and creation of wetlands; 3) off-site acquisition of existing wetlands; 4) off-site restoration of degraded wetlands; and/or, 5) purchase of habitat credits at an agency-approved mitigation bank.

To promote coordination and ensure compliance with the Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts, design of the WRSP mitigation program has involved early consultation with the resource agencies. Prior to submittal of an application for the WRSP, the City and WRSP landowners initiated regular meetings with representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Development of the mitigation program has followed the process outlined in the City and USFWS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from May 2000. The purpose of the MOU is to minimize the indirect impact of incidental take of vernal pool species resulting from future City growth served by the then under construction Pleasant Grove Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. To accomplish this, the MOU commits the City to development of an "interim conservation strategy" to address City development that would be served by Phase I treatment plant operation, and a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) or equivalent for future City development served by Phase II operation. At the time the MOU was signed, the planning area was restricted to existing City boundaries and did not include the WRSP. The MOU, however, includes provisions to incorporate annexed lands, such as the WRSP, into the "planning area" covered by the MOU.

The City is committed to developing a "vernal pool strategy" which is generally consistent with the MOU and subsequent consultation with the USFWS. This includes, in the context of an annexation project such as the WRSP, development of an overarching management strategy to tie the existing City preserve system together under a broader more unified framework. It also includes the commitment to develop an annexation area conservation plan in a manner compatible with the larger-scale conservation efforts sponsored by Placer County, such as the HCP/NCCP and Placer Legacy. This compatibility will extend to opportunities for efficiency and consistency in operations and maintenance approaches between these efforts, existing City preserves and annexation conservation plans.

Based on consultation with the resource agencies, an appropriate strategy for the WRSP will include a combination of avoidance and a substantial on and off-site preservation component. To preserve the vernal pools, site design, grading and drainage plans will be designed to maximize maintaining the existing hydrology in the preserve areas. Vernal pool inventory mapping prepared to formulate the County's HCP/NCCP vernal pool conservation strategy will influence the location of the off-site mitigation and preservation component. The ultimate mitigation and subsequent monitoring program will be subject to approval through the 404 permit process. A 404 permit must be secured prior to any development activity within the WRSP.

Both on-site and off-site wetlands associated with the WRSP mitigation program will be preserved and managed in perpetuity. Maintenance and management of the preserve areas will be in accordance with the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan, and deed restrictions, both are requirements of the Clean Water Act 404 permit, and will comprise the methodology for preservation and management of the preserve areas. The O&M Plan will include standards and methods for wetland preservation, monitoring and adaptive management (including fire protection measures). Funding for the management of on-site preserve areas will be provided by a long-term landowner endowment (or equivalent) managed either by the City or a third party such as a local non-profit or land conservancy.

6.3 RIPARIAN & OAK WOODLAND RESOURCES

Riparian and oak woodlands are found in the central portion of the WRSP generally along Pleasant Grove Creek, Kaseberg Creek and some of their unnamed tributaries (see Figure 6-1). Limited woodlands exist outside of these corridors. The riparian woodland occurs immediately adjacent to the creeks and includes valley oak, cottonwood, alder, willow, ash and other species. The oak woodland occurs upland and adjacent to the riparian woodlands and creek channels, and consists primarily of blue oak, with small amounts of interior live oak and valley oak. Both the riparian and oak woodlands are an important habitat for a variety of wildlife species, and a significant visual amenity. There are approximately 110.3 acres of woodland in the WRSP in its undeveloped state.

The WRSP land use plan designates creek corridors, their associated floodplains and a majority of the related riparian and oak woodland areas for preservation as open space. In addition, the densest concentration of oak woodland, along Kaseberg Creek near its confluence with Pleasant Grove Creek, has been included in Fiddyment Park. Uses within open space are generally limited to trails, stormwater drainage, floodwater conveyance, roadway/utility crossings, and passive recreation. It is estimated that approximately 91% of the WRSP woodlands are within open space or park areas. Outside of open space and park areas, preservation of native oaks will be addressed through review of individual projects and improvements.

Oak Woodland along Pleasant Grove

Development in the WRSP, including public and private improvements, is subject to the City of Roseville Tree Preservation Ordinance. Regulated activities within the protected zones of native oaks, and proposed tree removals, are subject to approval of a tree permit by the City. The Tree Ordinance requires that trees approved for removal be compensated on inch-for-inch bases either through regeneration/replanting or payment of mitigation fees.

Oak Woodland compensation in the WRSP focuses on habitat value by requiring regeneration/replanting receiving zones adjacent and connected to preserved woodland areas, as well as providing for

compensation through replanting in landscape corridors or other formalized landscape settings. In addition to designating receiving zones, required infrastructure (irrigation) and monitoring/maintenance programs are required. Beyond accommodating compensation from Plan Area projects, the WRSP regeneration/replanting receiving zones may also accept compensation from outside the Plan Area, either directly or through the City's mitigation fees, and contribute to larger-scale regional conservation efforts. See Figure 6-2 for the location of WRSP Oak Woodland regeneration/replanting receiving zones within the Plan Area. In addition, off-site oak woodland compensation may occur outside of the WRSP.

6.4 GRASSLAND HABITAT

Annual grassland habitat is the most common habitat type within the WRSP. It occurs throughout the undeveloped areas as either a distinct habitat type or as an understory to the oak and riparian woodlands. The grasses are mainly of the non-native type, dominated by ripgut brome, California brome, wild oats, ryegrass, Mediterranean barley, and medusahead grass. Other species may include bur clover, filaree, spikeweed, and yellow-star thistle. Native plant species such as Dwarf downingia (Downingia pusilla) may occur within the grassland habitat associated with vernal pools. The Dwarf downingia is an annual herb in the bellflower family that has been classified as rare, threatened or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere (California Native Plant Society List 2 plant).

Grassland habitat is an important resource that supports a variety of wildlife, including foraging habitat for Swainson's hawk (Buteo swainsoni) and other winter migrant bird species living in the west Placer region. The Swainson's hawk (Buteo swainsoni) is a state-listed threatened species and is protected pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act. The Swainson's hawk is considered a neotropical migrant; it nests in North America (Canada, western United States, and Mexico) and winters in South America (mainly Argentina). In California the Swainson's hawk nesting season ranges between mid-March and late August. Swainson's hawks and one potential active nest have been observed during surveys of the project area. Foraging habitat includes open grassland, low-cover crop fields, and livestock pastures.

Small mammals present within the grassland may include the California vole (Microtus californicus), black-tailed jackrabbit (Lepus californicus), deer mouse (Peromyscus maniculatus), and pocket gopher (Thomomy spp.). These mammals represent potential foraging for predators such as the Swainson's hawk, northern harrier (Circus cyaneus), red-tailed hawk (Buteo jamicensis), burrowing owl (Speotyto cunicularia), white-tailed kite (Elanus leucurus), gopher snake (Pituophis catenifer) and western rattlesnake (Crotalus viridus).

Grassland habitat will be preserved as part of the project's Open Space system. The two largest open space preserve areas containing grassland habitat are located in parcel W-81 and parcel F-80 on the western and northern edges of the plan area. Active management of tall grasses by agricultural mowing, harvesting, discing and irrigating has been shown to provide prey opportunities. The onsite preservation of grasslands as outlined in the WRSP Open Space Operations and Maintenance Plan includes measures to actively manage the grassland to ensure it provides adequate long-term habitat. The grassland is an important component of the mitigation strategy for wildlife impacts, which is outlined in the Final WRSP EIR.

6.5 FIDDYMENT RANCH HISTORIC RESOURCES

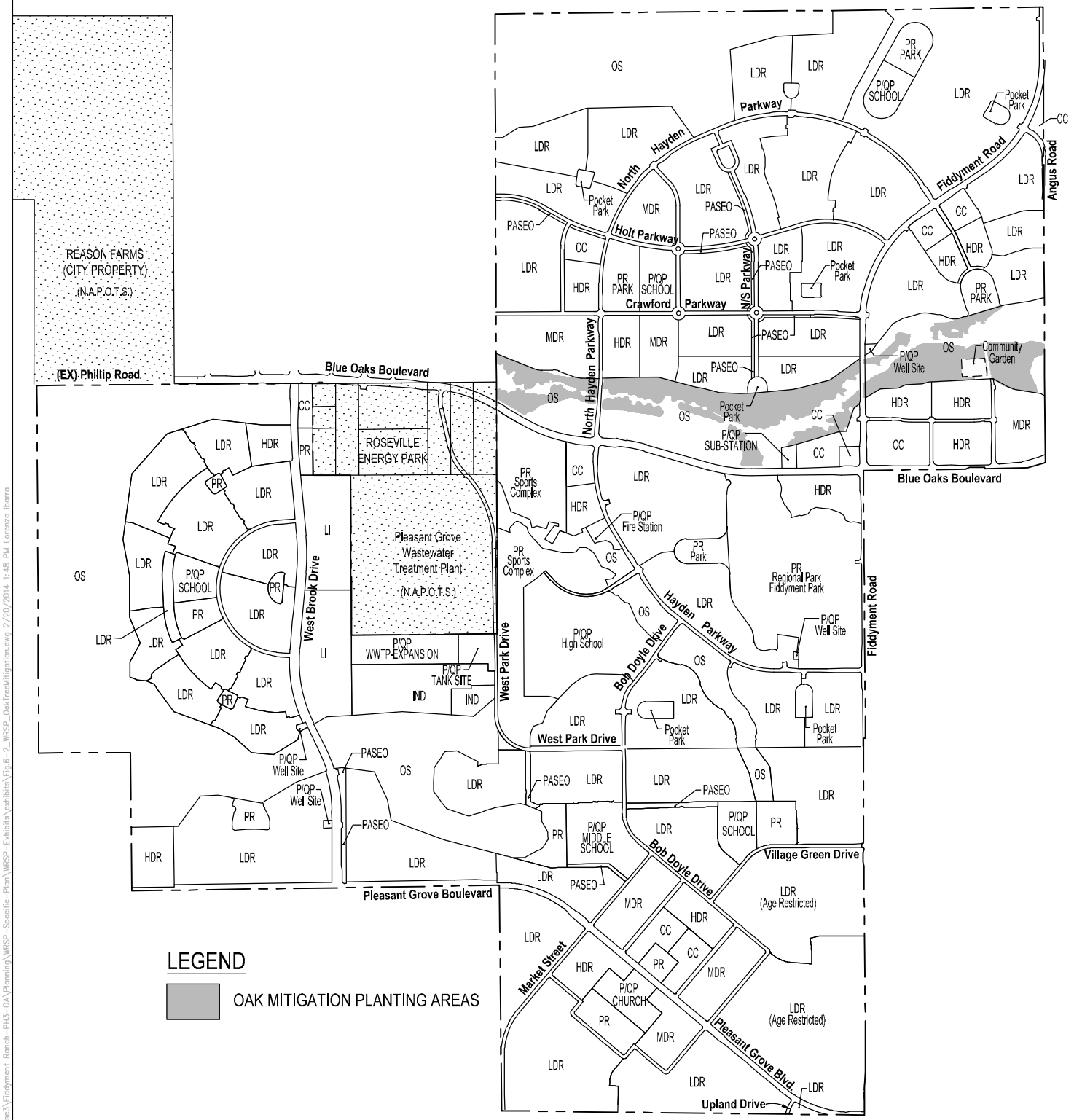
Beside natural resources, the WRSP contains historic resources associated with past ranching activities. The *Fiddyment Ranch Main Complex* is located in the central portion of the Plan Area (see Figure 6-1). The Ranch complex was the headquarters of the Fiddyment ranching and living operations dating to the 1870's. It is the oldest, continually operating family ranch in Roseville. The complex consists of a main house, barn, cooler, smokehouse and reservoir all from the 1880's. Numerous other outbuildings and subsequently constructed structures also exist within the complex.

Fiddyment Ranch Home

A cultural reconnaissance survey of the WRSP identified the ranch complex as meeting the California and National Registers criteria for the role it played in the social and economic development of Roseville. The Fiddyment Ranch Main Complex is located within the Regional Sports Park (Parcel F-56). It is anticipated that the Fiddyment Ranch Complex will be preserved within the Sports Park as a community facility available for future use by the City. The complex would be owned by the City and potentially operated by a private entity and could be used for meetings, weddings, receptions and other events. The precise use and disposition of the buildings and associated grounds will be determined as part of the facilities planning for the Regional Sports Park.

OAK MITIGATION PLANTING AREAS

Figure 6-2



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