



CHAPTER 6 – RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Overview

The ARSP consists of relatively flat to gently rolling terrain situated at an elevation of approximately 70 to 100 feet above mean sea level. Historic uses of the site included planting of winter wheat and oats, as well as cattle ranching.

As shown in the site photos below, annual grassland is the dominant vegetation community on the site and is comprised primarily of non-native, naturalized Mediterranean grasses. Aquatic features are interspersed within the annual grassland community and include two marshes, an intermittent drainage/University Creek, an ephemeral drainage, seasonal wetland swales, and scattered vernal pools and seasonal wetlands. University Creek flows from east to west. It enters the site from the southeast, leaves the site along the southern boundary, then re-enters the Plan Area in the southwest corner.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Existing Farm on the Amoruso Ranch Property.



Vernal pool within proposed Open Space Preserve.



University Creek in the southern portion of the site.

The Plan Area has several project components as illustrated in Figure 6.1. These include the Amoruso Ranch Project with approximately 480 acres of development areas, an open space preserve, general open space – avoided area, and the approximately 18-acre Westbrook Boulevard that serves the Plan Area. Also occurring within the Plan Area is the approximately 49-acre future Placer Parkway Regional Transportation Improvement project (see Figure 6.1). This project, although within the overall Amoruso Ranch property, is a separate project and will be reviewed and processed by the City and County. An additional parcel of land, the approximately 20-acre Wagner parcel, lies to the south of the Amoruso Ranch property and is designated an Urban Reserve.

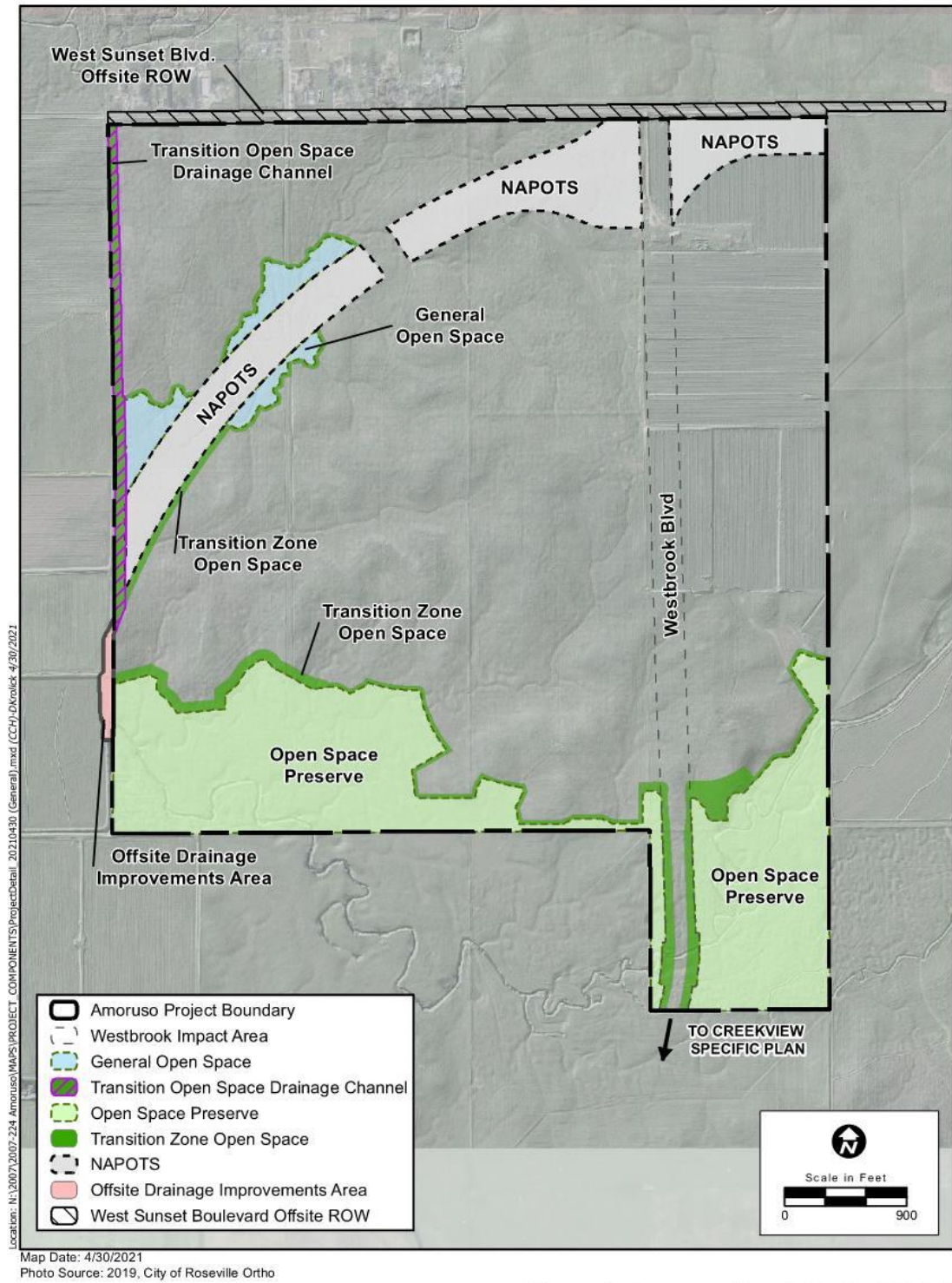


Figure 6.1: Project Components

The ARSP contains four types of open space totaling approximately 156 acres. These types include open space preserve (109 acres), general open space – avoided area (10 acres), transition zone open space (26 acres), and paseos (11 acres).

Each type of open space has been designed to accommodate specific functions and activities, from very limited use to active recreation and infrastructure. The on-site **open space Preserve** will be permanently preserved to protect Waters of the U.S. and habitat for federally listed species. This protection will be provided by either a declaration of covenants and restrictions and/or a conservation easement to restrict access and activities within the preserve. The area would be managed in accordance with the City’s OSPOMP. **General open space – avoided area** also contains Waters of the U.S. and species habitat. While these areas will be avoided by the Project development, they may be impacted by the future Placer Parkway and therefore are not currently proposed for protection by a deed restriction and/or conservation easement. The ultimate management strategy for the General Open Space – avoided areas will be determined during future Placer Parkway project federal permitting process. During the interim period the avoided area would be managed as General Open Space in accordance with the City’s OSPOMP. **Transition Zone open space** consists of the parcels that boarder the open space Preserve and General open space – avoided areas. These parcels provide a buffer to the Preserve open space and will be utilized for activities such as slope grading, outfall/stormwater structures, bike trails, weed abatement activities, open space maintenance, and health and safety vehicle access. The Transition zone open space area will not be protected by conservation easement and all wetlands within this area will be permitted for fill. Examples of typical infrastructure elements within Transition Zone open space areas can be found in Figure 6.3 to 6.11. **Paseos** are linear parcels of open space that provide pedestrian trails and green space within development areas. Paseos will not be protected by conservation easement and all wetlands within this area will be permitted for direct fill. A list of the parcels in each open space type is shown in Table 6.1 below. Paseos are not addressed further in this Resource Management Chapter because they are developed/landscaped areas that do not contain natural resources and would not be subject to special resource management actions outlined in the City’s OSPOMP.

Open Space Type	Parcels	Acreage
Open space Preserve	AR-92, AR-97, AR-105	108.57
General open space – avoided area	AR-90, AR-91, AR-94	10.27
Transition Zone open space	AR-93, AR-95, AR-96, AR-98, AR-99, AR-100, AR-101 , AR-106, AR-107, AR-108, AR-109, AR-111, AR-112, AR – 113, AR-114, AR-115, AR-116	25.74
Paseos	AR-70, AR-71, AR-72, AR-73, AR-74, AR-75, AR-76, AR-77, AR-78, AR-79, AR-80, AR-81, AR-102, AR-103, AR-104	10.95
Grand Total		155.54

The ARSP is consistent with the goals of the City of Roseville’s General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element. It establishes approximately 16 percent of the project as permanent open space preserve, designed to protect some of the most prominent natural resource areas within the Plan Area. The ARSP open space preserve is contiguous with other open space preserves and abuts portions of the Creekview Specific Plan’s open space preserve to the south, portions of West Roseville Specific Plan’s open space preserve to the southeast, and the City of Roseville’s Al Johnson Wildlife Area to the southwest (Figure 6.2). The resource management approach is designed to be consistent with resource agency input received during an early consultation process completed for the project as an outgrowth of the May 2000

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The City conducts early consultation with the resource agencies for annexation projects proposed on the City of Roseville's western boundary, such as the ARSP.

The ARSP open space preserve is intended to complement larger-scale regional conservation strategies, such as the proposed Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP), Placer County's proposed habitat conservation plan. Coordination with the conservation efforts of other agencies/projects is a fundamental principle and key objective of the Amoruso Ranch resource management approach. In addition to resource protection, the on-site open space preserve helps define the visual character of the site, provides stormwater drainage and treatment, includes storm water conveyance, and provides land use buffering.

Based on the characteristics of the Amoruso Ranch property, the resources management approach in the Specific Plan focuses on wetlands, annual grassland habitat, wildlife, and providing connecting open space corridors. Additional resources are further addressed in the ARSP Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The ARSP proposes to append to the City's Open Space Preserve Overarching Management Plan for purposes of monitoring, reporting, and management of on-site open space areas.

6.2 Wetland Resources

A. Pre-Development Conditions

In its pre-development condition, several types of wetland features exist within the Plan Area (see site photos below). The most prominent of these are wetland swales, which are found throughout the site and carry water briefly during winter rainfall. As mentioned previously, University Creek is present within the southern portion of the site. University Creek currently flows with winter rainfall and runs dry (or below the surface) during the summer months. It receives some irrigation run-off from an irrigated pasture located in the northeast portion of the Amoruso Ranch site.



Seasonal wetland swale within proposed Open Space Preserve.



University Creek within proposed Open Space Preserve.

Outside of the swales and University Creek, vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, marshes, a stock pond, and an ephemeral drainage are scattered throughout the annual grassland community. The vernal pools and seasonal wetlands fill with rainwater during the winter months and can remain inundated until spring or early summer. These wetland areas include habitat potentially suitable for certain federal and/or state special-status plant and wildlife species. A total of 38.577 acres of wetlands and other Waters of the U.S. occur within the Amoruso Ranch property, Al Johnson Wildlife Area Improvements Area, and the Sunset Boulevard West right-of-way in its pre-development condition, as listed in Table 6.2.

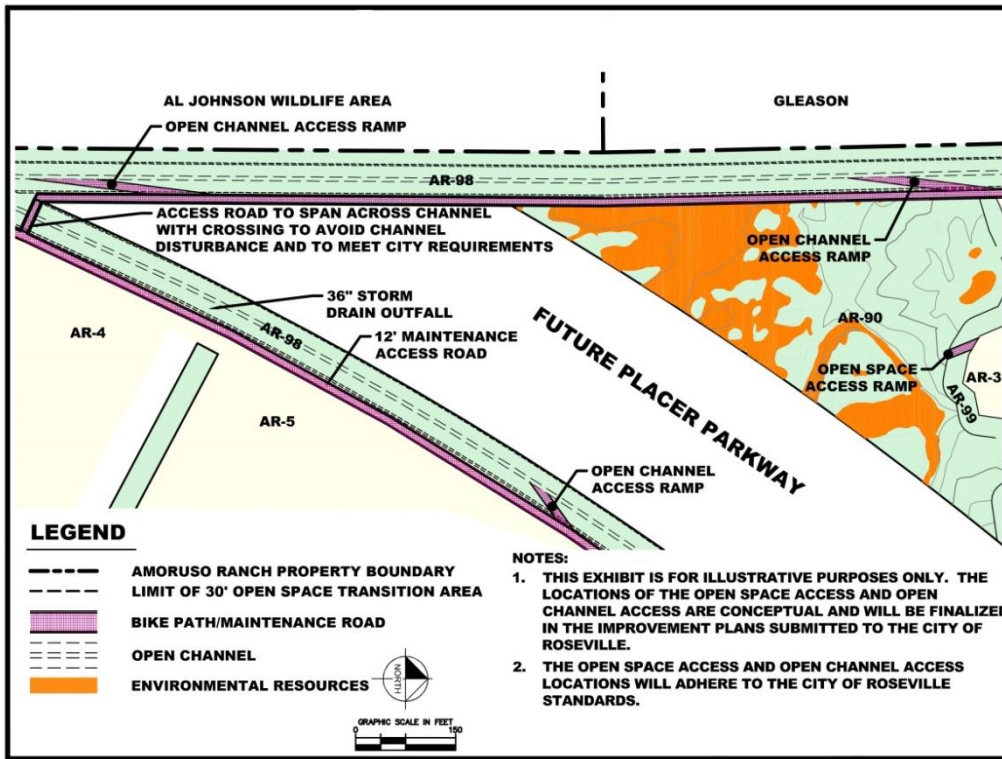


Figure 6.3: Open Space Transition Area Exhibit – Northern Complex (AR-90; AR-98; AR-99)

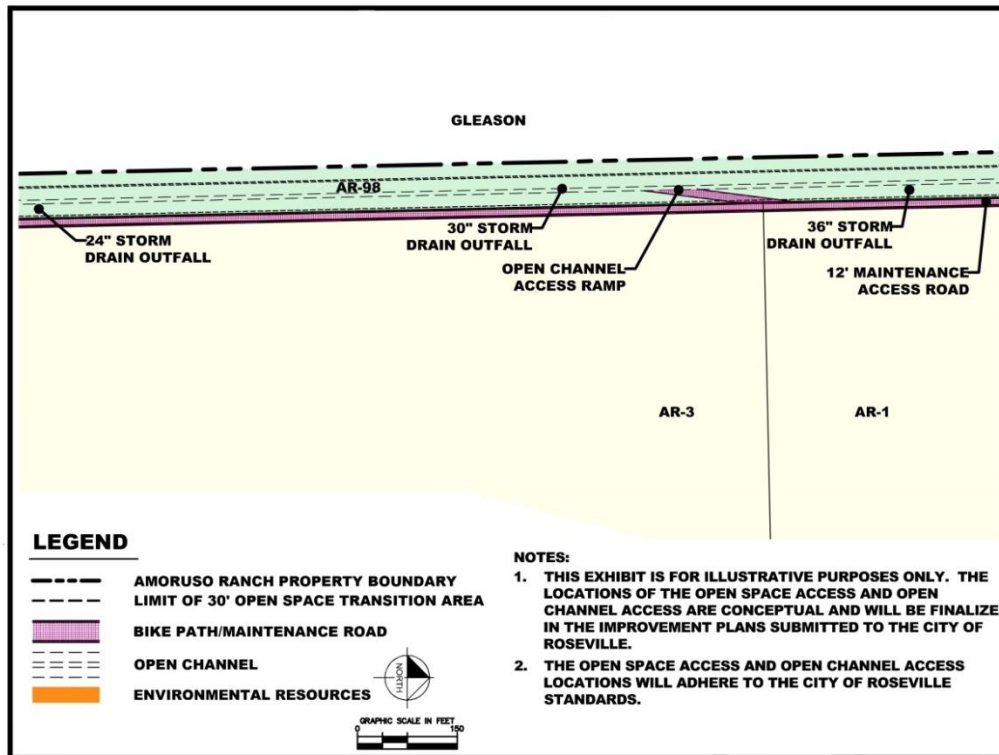


Figure 6.4: Open Space Transition Area Exhibit – Northern Complex (AR-98)

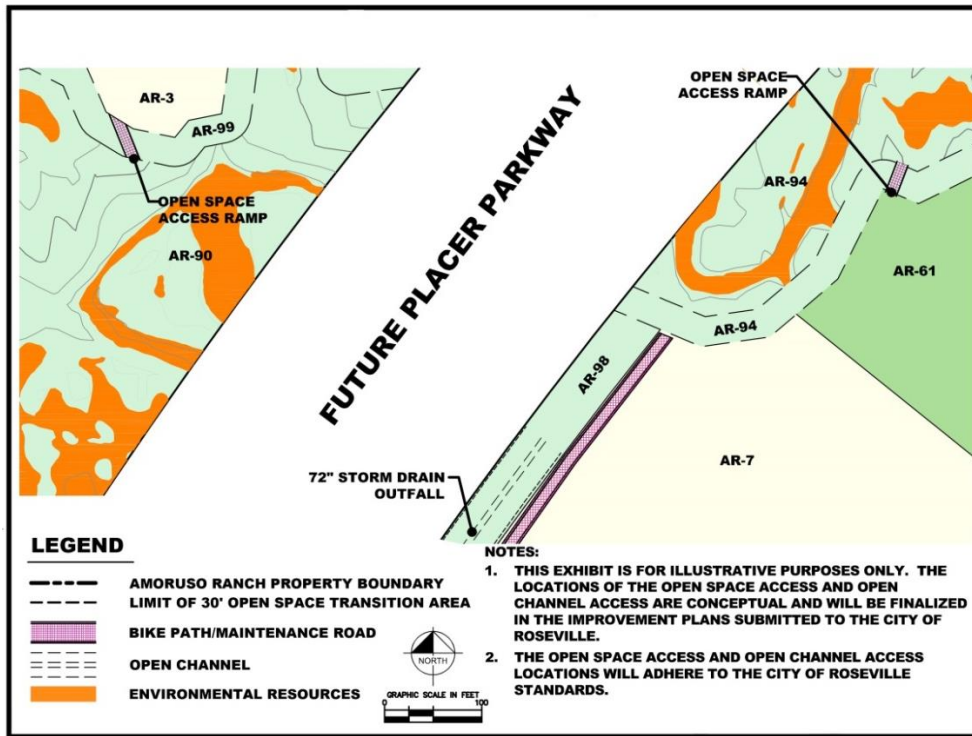


Figure 6.5: Open Space Transition Area Exhibit – Northern Complex (AR-90; AR-94; AR-98; AR-99)

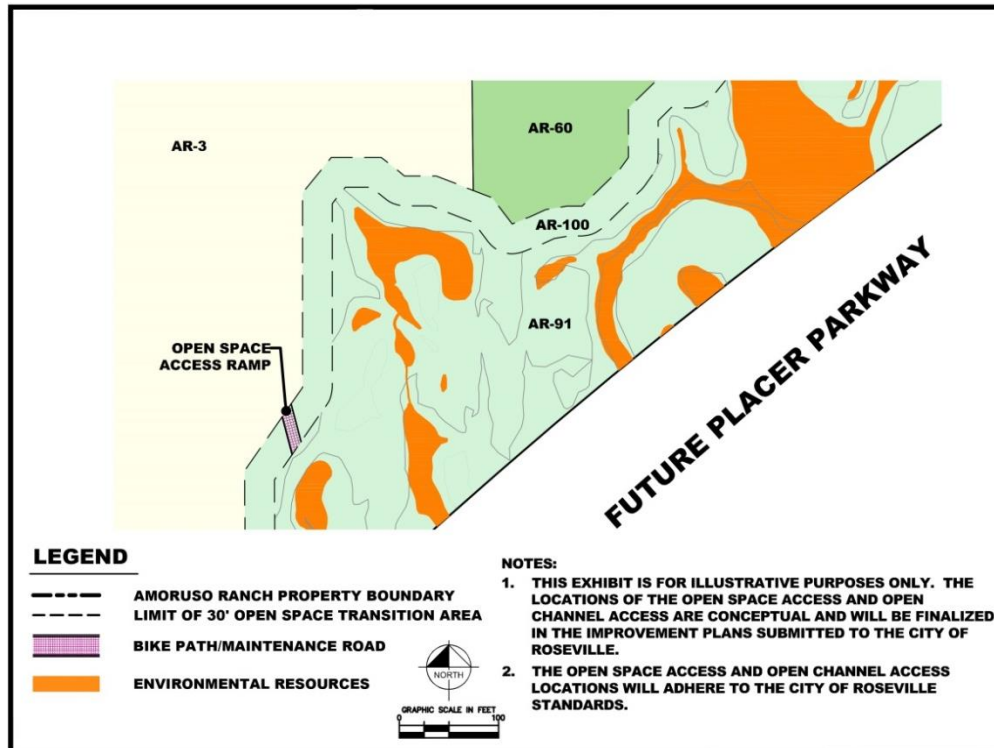


Figure 6.6: Open Space Transition Area Exhibit – Northern Complex (AR-91; AR-100)

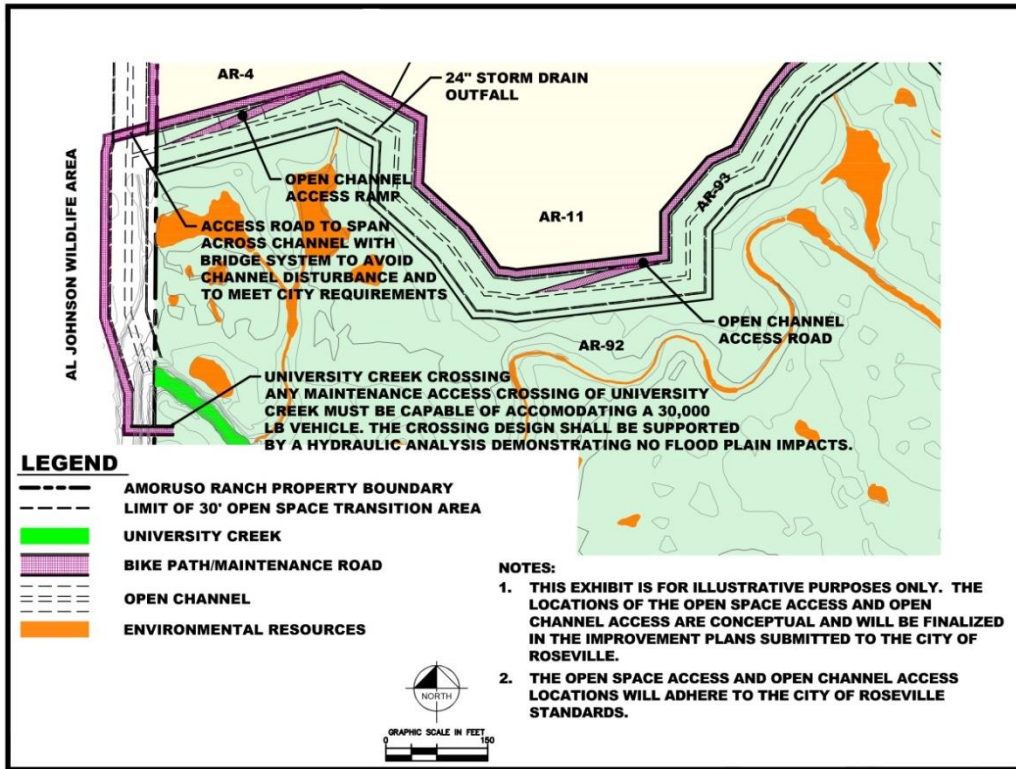


Figure 6.7: Open Space Transition Area Exhibit – Southern Complex (AR-92; AR-93)

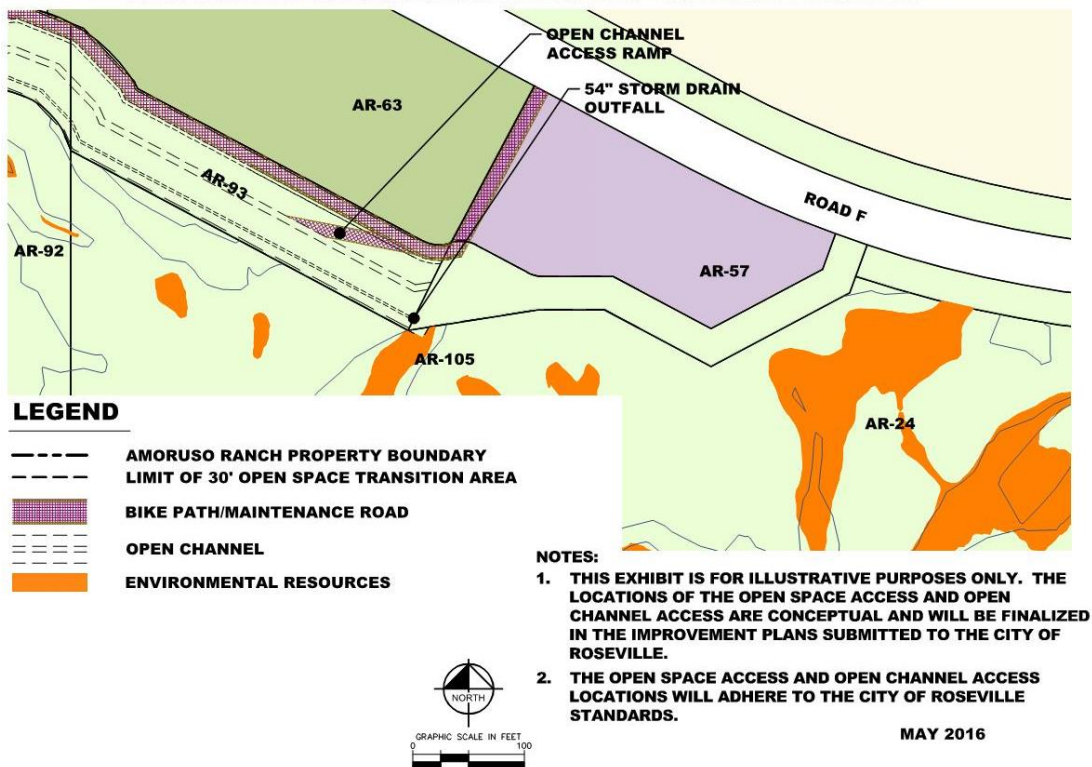


Figure 6.8: Open Space Transition Area Exhibit – Southern Complex (AR-92; AR-93; AR-105)

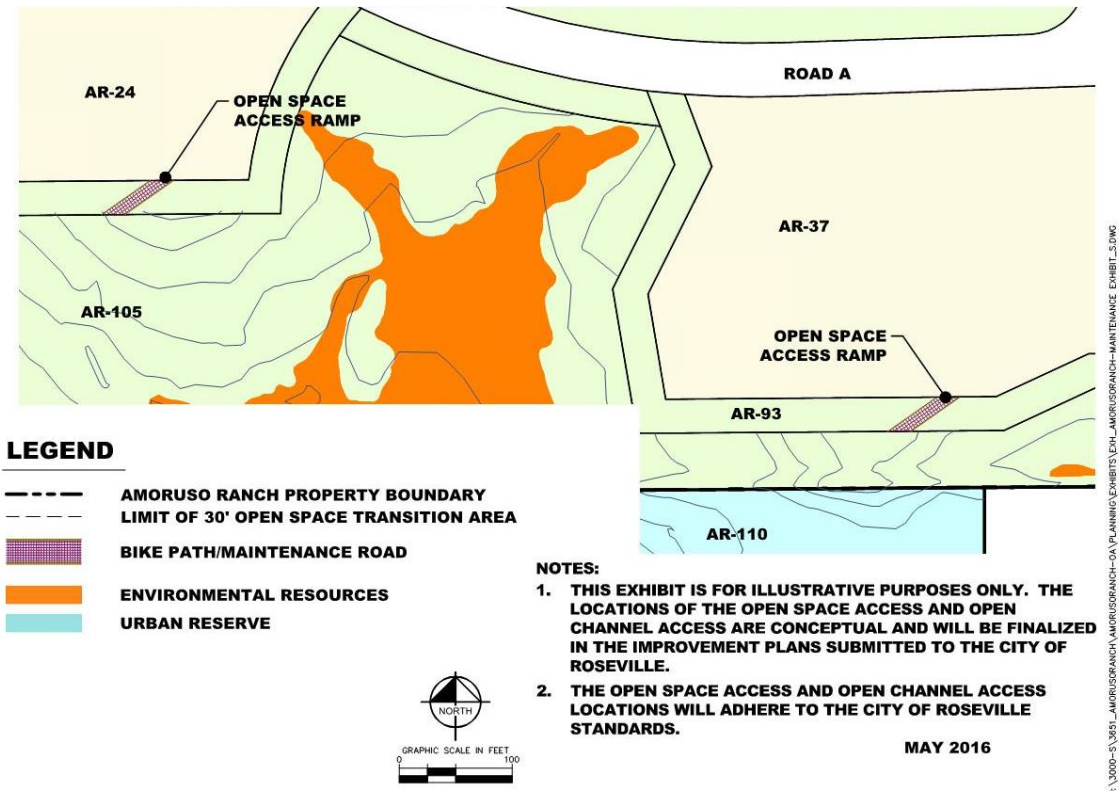


Figure 6.9: Open Space Transition Area Exhibit – Southern Complex (AR-93; AR-105)

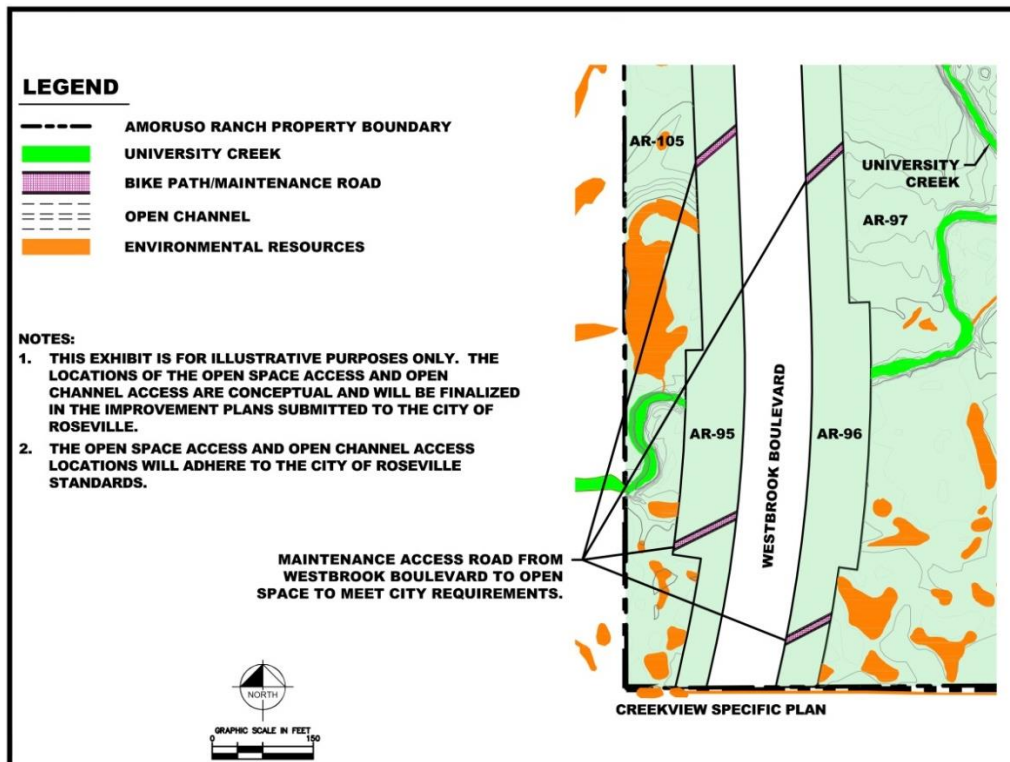


Figure 6.10: Open Space Transition Area Exhibit – Southern Complex (AR-95; AR-96; AR-97; AR-105)

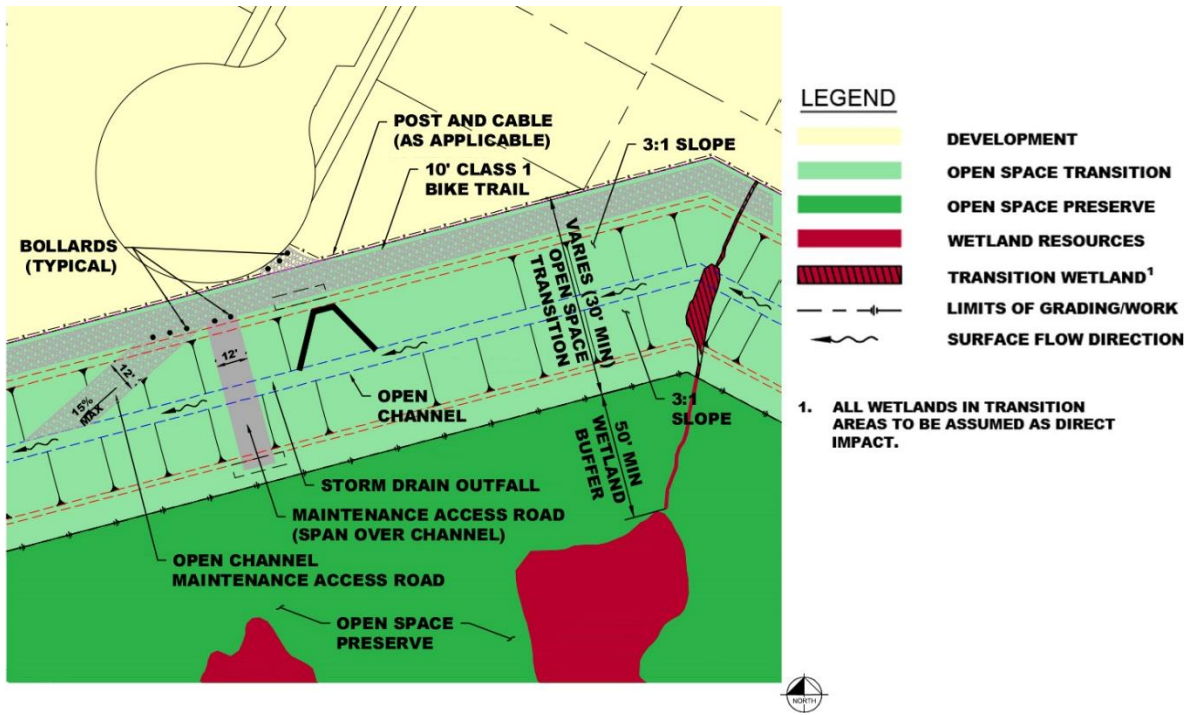


Figure 6.11: Typical Open Space Transition

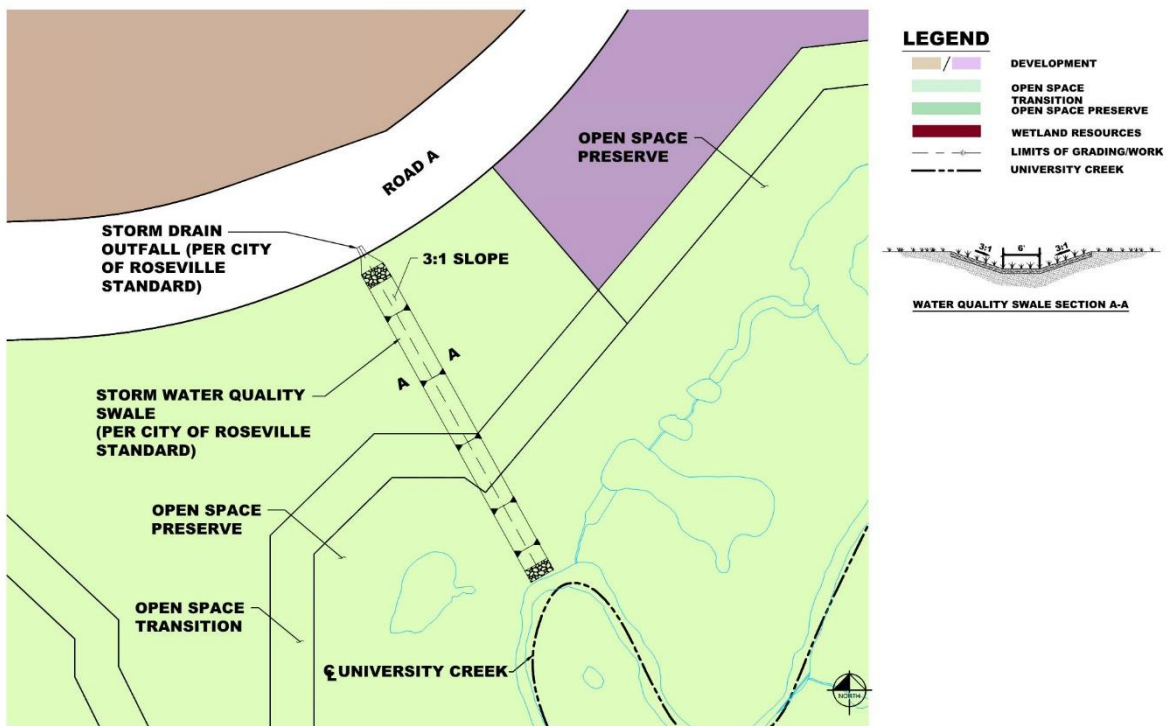


Figure 6.12: Typical Open Space Transition at Storm Drain Outfall

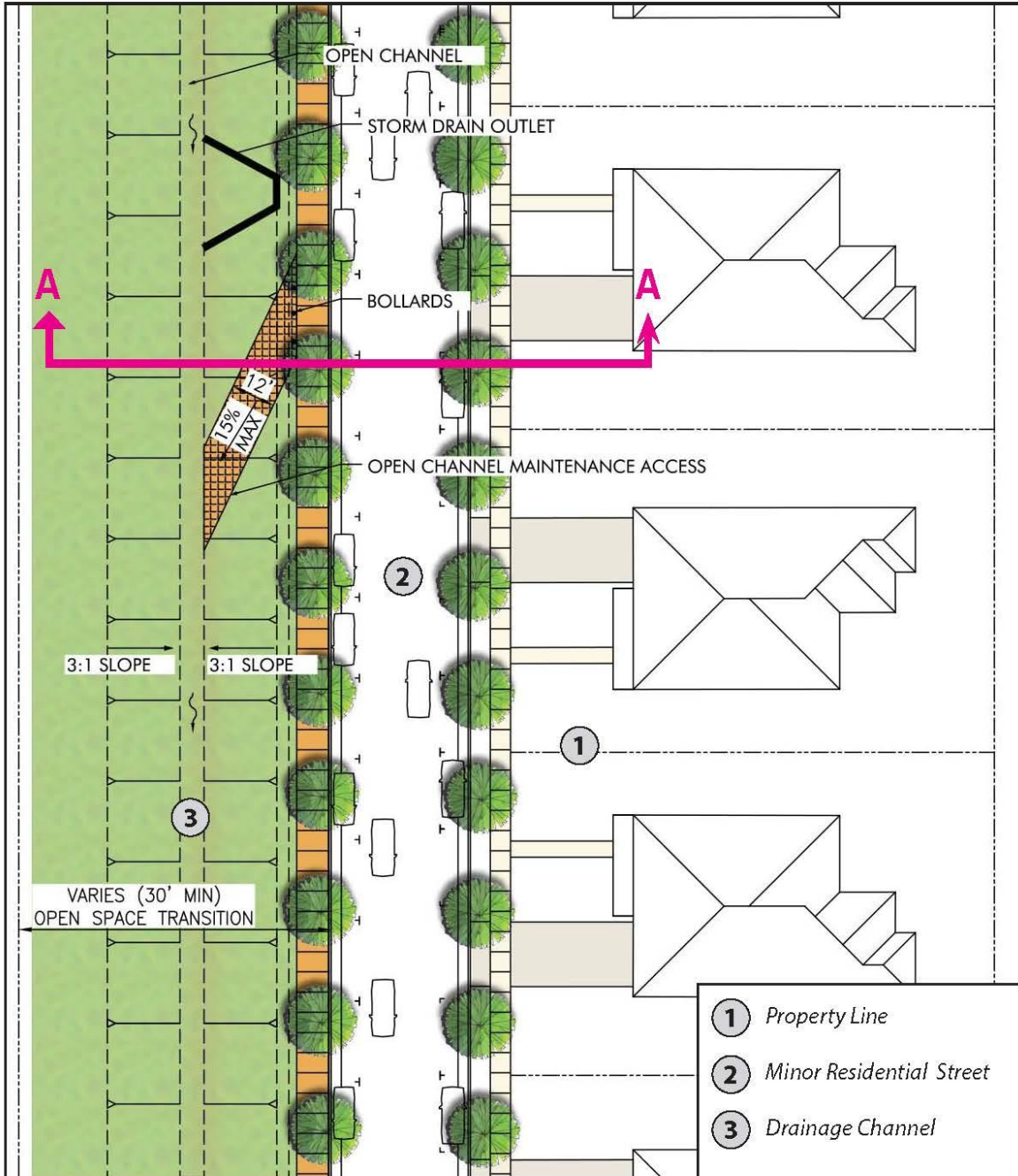


Figure 6.13: Typical Open Space Transition along Open Space Drainage Channel – Homes Fronting Condition

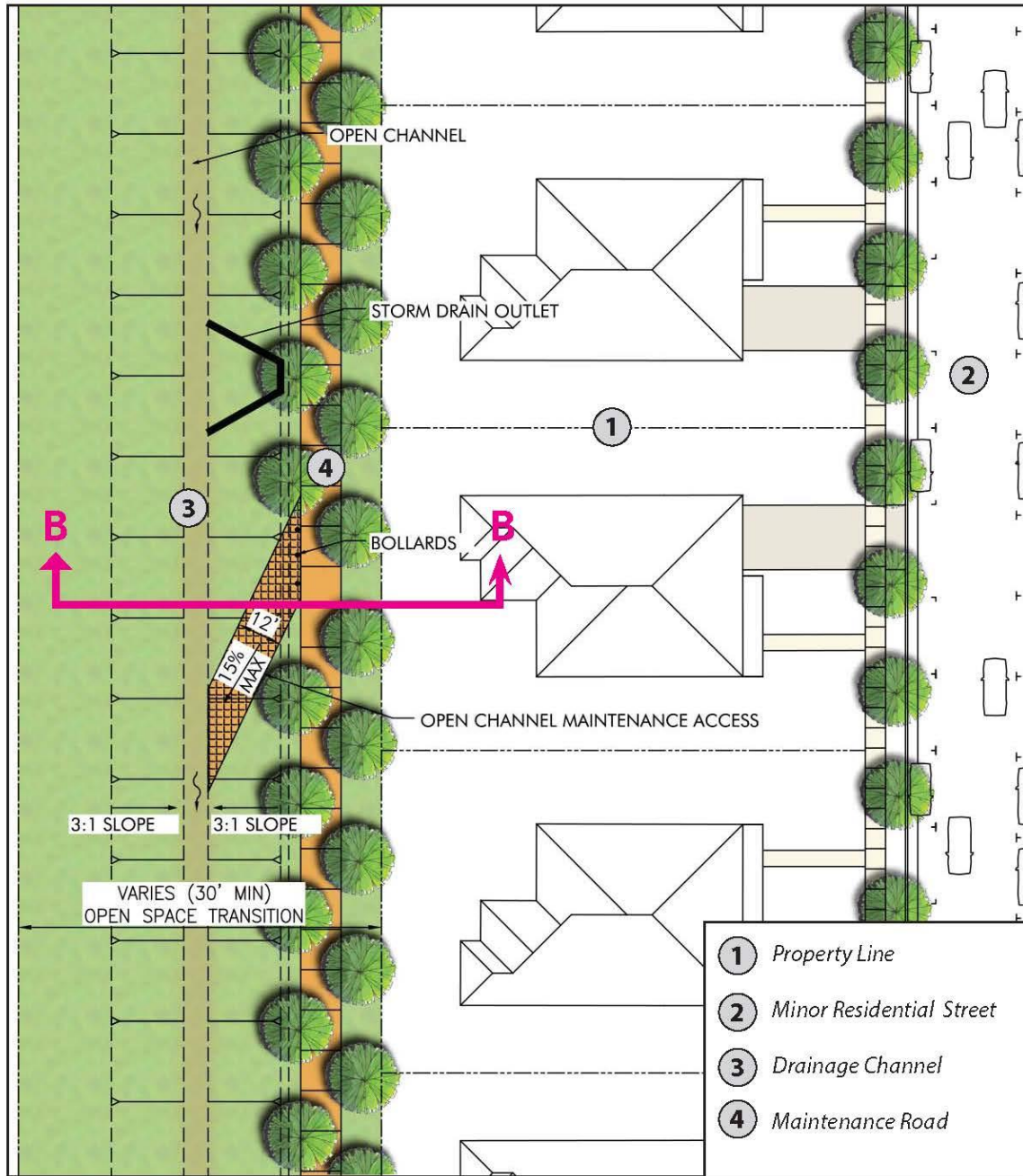


Figure 6.14: Typical Open Space Transition Along Open Space Drainage Channel – Homes Backing Condition

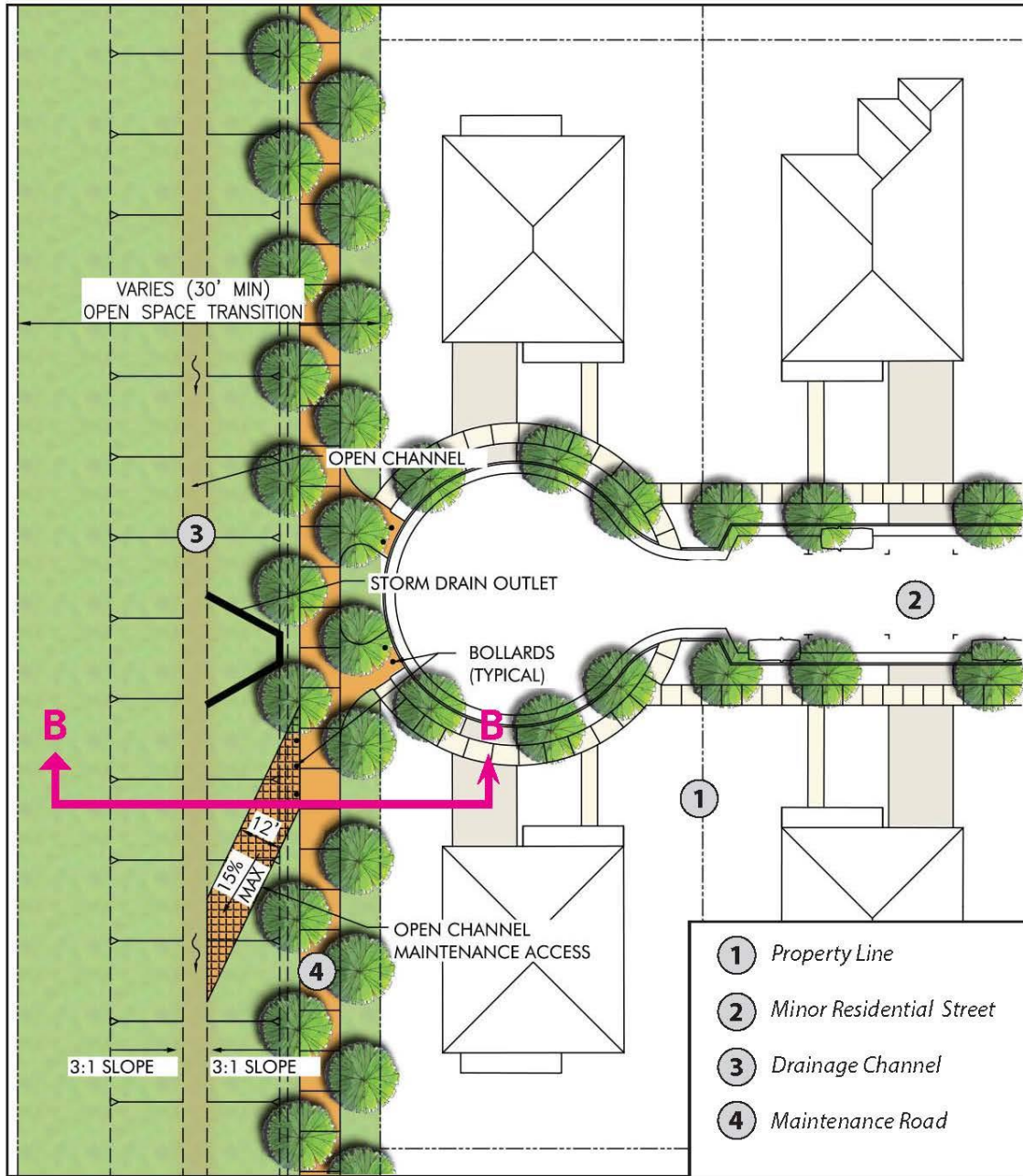


Figure 6.15: Typical Open Space Transition Along Open Space Drainage Channel – Homes Siding/ Cul-de-Sac Condition

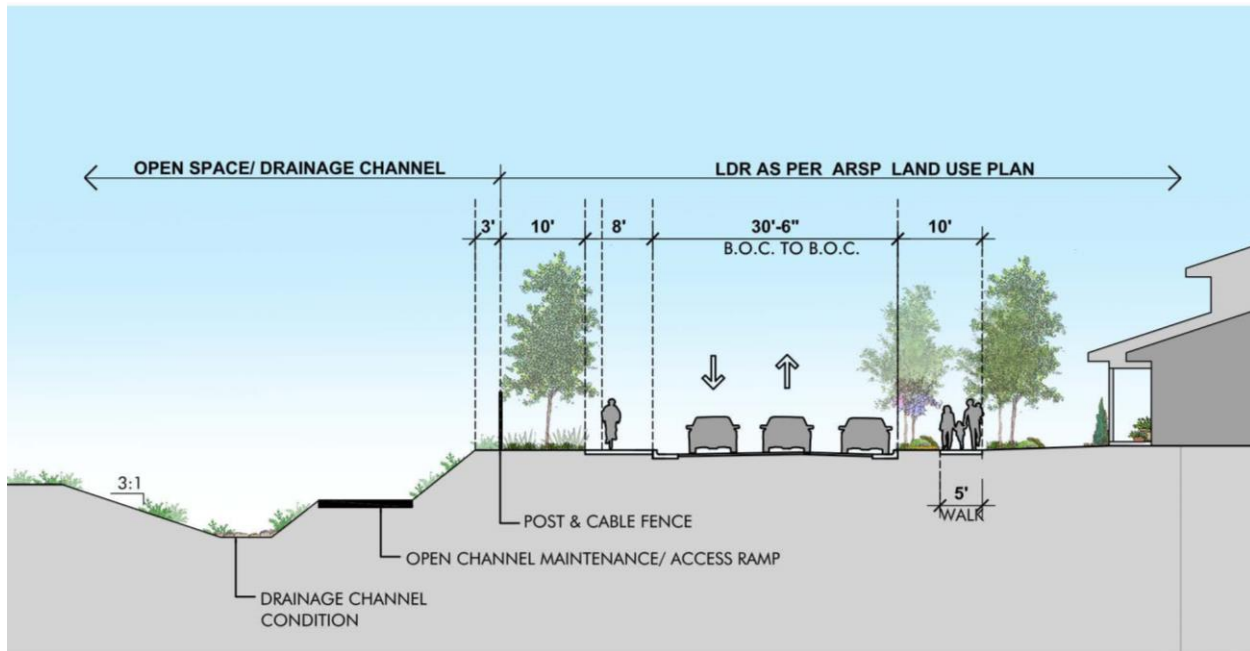


Figure 6.16: Typical Open Space Transition at Frontage Road (Section A-A)

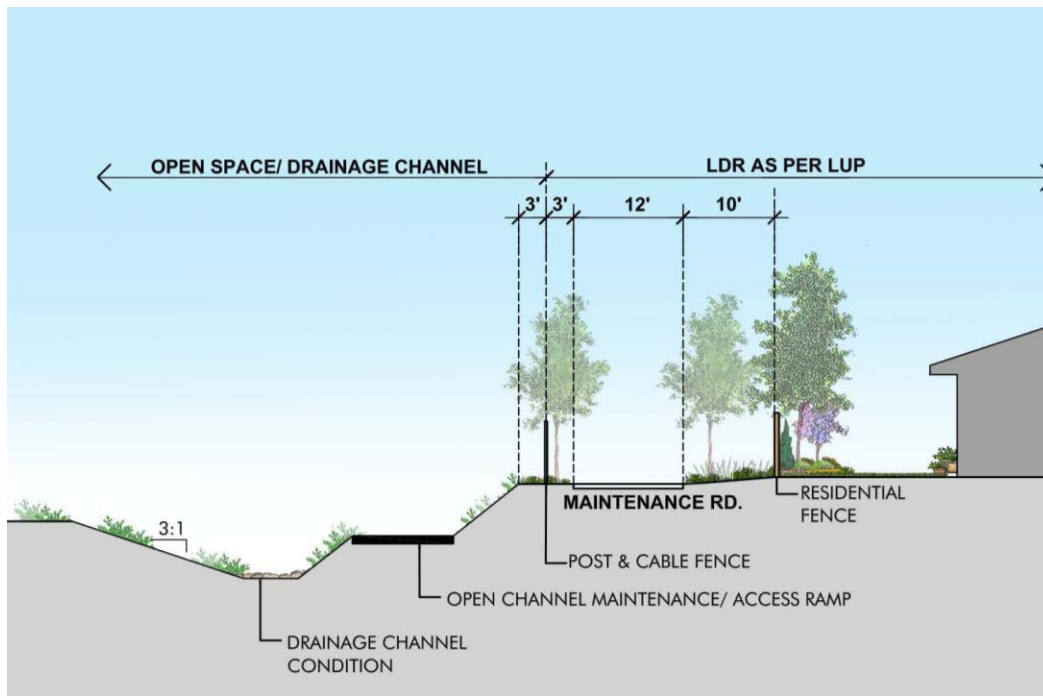


Figure 6.17: Typical Open Space Transition at Maintenance Road (Section B-B)

Table 6.2 Potential Jurisdictional Wetlands Summary			
Type	Amoruso Ranch Project [1]	Future Placer Parkway (Placer County Project) [2]	Total
Wetlands			
Vernal Pool	9.055	0.753	9.808
Seasonal Wetland	4.160	0.674	4.833
Seasonal Wetland Swale	16.807	2.960	19.767
Farmed Wetland	0.017	0.000	0.017
Marsh	1.741	0.081	1.822
Other Waters			
Ephemeral Drainage	0.002	0.000	0.002
Intermittent Drainage	1.919	0.000	1.919
Seasonal Creek	0.043	0.000	0.043
Pond	0.233	0.132	0.364
Total	33.978	4.599	38.577
<p><i>[1]Includes wetlands within the Westbrook Boulevard alignment, along the West Sunset Boulevard right-of-way, and within the Al Johnson Wildlife Area improvements area. Wetlands within the Al Johnson Wildlife Area are not yet verified and may be subject to change.</i></p> <p><i>[2]Includes an estimate of wetlands within the future Placer Parkway regional improvement project that will occur within the Amoruso Ranch property but will be reviewed and processed as a separate project.</i></p>			

Additional information regarding impacted and avoided wetlands is provided in the EIR.

B. Avoidance & Mitigation Strategies

B.1 Avoidance

The ARSP is the result of comprehensive planning and is influenced by the desire to minimize impacts on wetlands and habitat for endangered species to the fullest extent feasible. The proposed open space preserve is shown on Figure 6-1. It has been designed to avoid impacts to University Creek, preserve the highest quality vernal pools and seasonal wetlands at the site, create an open space preserve that is contiguous with other open space preserves, and to provide buffers for habitat protection. Additional information regarding impacted and avoided wetlands, including mitigation strategies, is provided in the EIR.

Development of the Amoruso Ranch Plan Area is subject to approvals from state and federal resources agencies including the USFWS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The City of Roseville and the project proponent worked extensively with representatives of various federal and state agencies during an early consultation process to refine the plan to minimize impacts to resources, create open space preserves of regional benefit, and to ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act and the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

B.2 On-Site Resource Preservation

Wetland features and habitat within the ARSP open space preserve will be protected in perpetuity. The ARSP open space preserve will total approximately 109 acres and will be established within the overall Plan Area (see Figure 6-1). To ensure the open space preserve and its habitats are maintained, grading and drainage plans for the ARSP are designed to minimize impacts on the open space preserve’s existing hydrology. The maintenance and management of the open space preserve will be conducted in perpetuity in accordance with the City of Roseville’s Open Space Preserve Overarching Management Plan, discussed further in Section 6.3 below. The onsite preserve will be protected in perpetuity with a conservation easement that will be held by the Placer County Authority (PCA) as a condition of the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit and Endanger Species Act Section 7 incidental take authorization.

B.3 Off-Site Resource Mitigation

Where biological resources cannot be avoided or preserved within the Amoruso Ranch Plan Area, off-site mitigation is required to off-set impacts to biological resources and endangered species habitat, including wetlands that fall within the USFWS Vernal Pool Recovery Plan designated Core Area within Western Placer County. Per the permit approved by USACE, USFWS, CVRWQCB and CDFW, off-site mitigation will occur via a payment of fees to the PCA. The PCA is responsible for utilizing collected funds to acquire lands within Placer County for the purpose of open space protection and management, and for the creation of wetland habitat for the purpose of mitigating impacts to wetlands and waters within the County. Land controlled by the PCA will be managed in accordance with an Operations and Management Plan developed by the Placer County Conservation Program. Off-site land will be managed in a manner to ensure that land will be strategically and effectively managed to support the survival and well-being of covered species, as well as hundreds of other species that are dependent on the same habitat.

C. Vegetation and Wildlife

Annual grassland is the dominant vegetation community present within the Amoruso Ranch Plan Area and is comprised primarily of non-native, naturalized Mediterranean grasses. The most common grassland plant species found within the site include soft brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*), ryegrass (*Festuca perennis*), wild oat (*Avena fatua*), barbed goatgrass (*Aegilops triuncialis*), little quaking grass (*Briza minor*), and medusahead grass (*Elymus caput-medusae*). Wetland features such as marshes, seasonal wetland swales, vernal pools, and seasonal wetlands and streams are embedded in the annual grassland habitat. Valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) trees are scattered along the intermittent drainage that runs through the southern portions of the site. The northeastern portion of the site consists of irrigated pasture and is dominated by the plant species Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), tall flatsedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*), and Kentucky fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*). Surveys have shown that one blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*) shrub occurs among old farming equipment within the rural residence located in the northeast corner of the Amoruso Property.

The Amoruso Ranch property's various wetland habitats support a variety of wildlife species. These include waterfowl, wading birds, and several amphibian species which use the wetland areas in the winter and spring. Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), a federally listed threatened species, has been documented within several on-site vernal pools and is protected pursuant to the Federal ESA. In addition, the annual grassland habitat provides foraging habitat for several raptor species, including Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). Swainson's hawk is a state-listed threatened species and is protected pursuant to the California ESA. Although Swainson's hawks have not been located at the site, two Swainson's hawk nests have been previously documented within the 501-acre Creekview Specific Plan directly south of the Amoruso Ranch Plan Area. Several prey species are expected to occur within the annual grassland habitat on the site, including California vole (*Microtus californicus*), black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), and pocket gopher (*Thomomys* spp.). Burrowing owl is a state species of concern and has been documented in the Amoruso Ranch Plan Area. The blue elderberry shrub is the exclusive host plant of the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), or VELB, a federally listed threatened species that is protected pursuant to the federal ESA. The one blue elderberry shrub located on the Amoruso Ranch site is highly unlikely to provide habitat for VELB because it is located amongst old farming equipment and debris and is more than nine miles from the closest documented occurrence of VELB.

Trees

A total of 28 Valley oak trees occur along the intermittent drainage located in the southern portion of the Amoruso Ranch property and would be subject to regulation under the City of Roseville Native Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance. Oaks are important to a variety of wildlife species because they produce acorns, an extremely important food source for insects and wildlife. All oak trees present on the site will be preserved as part of the Amoruso Ranch project's open space preserve.

6.3 Operations & Management Plan

The ARSP's on-site open space preserve is expected to append to and be managed in accordance to the City of Roseville's Open Space Preserve Overarching Management Plan (OSPOMP). The OSPOMP guides the management of other open space areas owned by the City of Roseville and provides mechanisms for consistent application of preserve management strategies across the City. The OSPOMP outlines preserve management responsibilities and strategies as well as allowed and prohibited activities.

A. Preserve Transition Zone

OSPOMP includes a requirement to establish a 50-foot "transition zone" to serve as a buffer for preserve resources where the preserve abuts development property. According to the OSPOMP, indirect impacts to habitat adjacent to the 50-foot transition zone assessed by the agencies must be mitigated by the project proponent along with all direct impacts to habitat within the 50-foot transition zone. The transition zone may contain (but is not limited to) such improvements as public utility easements, storm water outfalls, constructed swales and ditches, bike trails, water quality BMPs, maintenance access ramps, slopes, and fencing. The ARSP open space preserve has been designed to be consistent with the intent of OSPOMP transition zone requirements. In fact, in many locations the proposed transition zone far exceeds the OSPOMP recommended 50-foot width. For example, the transition zone proposed adjacent to the southwest preserve is over 80 feet wide, accommodating a drainage channel with water quality features, outfalls, a Class I bike trail, and maintenance access ramps. In other locations, where specific plan infrastructure needs are less, the proposed transition zone is reduced to 30 feet, but in no location is it less than 30 feet (the minimum width determined necessary to provide protection to preserve resources). Additionally, there is a minimum 50 foot buffer extending further into the open space that provides protection to resources, essentially providing a cumulative minimum 80 foot transition zone from the edge of preserved wetlands to edge of urban development. The project's 404 permit allows for this exception to the City's OSPOMP minimum transition zone width requirement, allowing for a minimum transition zone of 30 feet, as shown in Figure 6.3.

B. Dedication Timing and Management Responsibilities

The OSPOMP also outlines preserve maintenance, management, and reporting responsibilities that apply during the preserve establishment phase and in perpetuity. As outlined in the OSPOMP, during the preserve establishment phase, open space preserve parcels remain privately owned and managed while adjacent development is completed and all open space improvements are installed by the landowner/developer. This includes amenities located within the transition area like drainage channels, outfalls, water quality swales, maintenance access ramps, and post and cable fencing. Following buildout of adjacent areas and completion of transition area improvements, the on-site open space preserve is expected to be dedicated to and managed by the City of Roseville following the process outlined in the OSPOMP Chapter 5.

C. Preserve Funding

Funding for the management of the on-site open space preserve will be provided by an annual tax levy via creation of a Communities Facilities District (or other funding mechanism) as further discussed in Chapter 10.

6.4 Cultural & Historic Resources

Historic use of the land includes agricultural use to plant and harvest winter wheat and oats and cattle ranching. Surrounding land uses include rural residences, cattle grazing, and agricultural fields. Prehistorically, the property was likely used for resource procurement and subsistence activities. Based on the results of archival research, literature review, field studies and in consideration of the depositional environment of the Project Area, the area is identified as being moderately sensitive for prehistoric and historic cultural resources. One historic-era residence with associated outbuildings was documented within

the northeastern corner of the Amoruso Ranch project area. This complex was evaluated for significance by a qualified architectural historian and found to be not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources. Therefore, no known historic properties will be affected by the proposed project. The ARSP EIR will provides more detailed information and the measures for the appropriate management of unanticipated discoveries.

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