

**EL DORADO HILLS COMMUNITY PARK**

**WILDLAND FIRE SAFE PLAN**

Prepared for:

**El Dorado Hills Community Services District**

**Mark Riemer, Interim Parks Director**

Prepared by:

**CDS Fire Prevention Planning**

**William F. Draper**

**Registered Professional Forester**

**#898**

**4645 Meadowlark Way**

**Placerville, CA 95667**

**July, 2012**

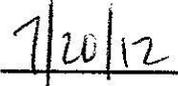
**Plan Approved by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Brad Ballenger**

**Division Chief-Fire Marshal**

**El Dorado Hills Fire Department**

  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**

**Plan Prepared by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_

**William F. Draper**

**RPF #898**

  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**



## **Table of Content**

**I. Purpose and Scope**

**II. Fire Safe Standard Requirements**

**III. Fuel Hazard reduction Zone Requirements**

**IV. Fire Safe Maintenance Requirements**

**Project Map**

**Appendix A Emergency Vehicle**

**Open Space Access Specification**

**Appendix B PRC 4427**

## **I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The purpose of the El Dorado Hills Community Park Wildland Fire Safe Plan is to identify the sensitive nature of the park and its open space component adjacent to the houses in the surrounding area. The park is owned and operated by El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD).

The scope of the El Dorado Hills Community Park Wildland Fire Safe Plan recognizes the extraordinary natural features of the area and designs wildfire safety measures which are meant to compliment and become part of the community design. The plan contains measures for providing and maintaining defensible space along open space areas and adjacent homes. It has an element with fire safety practices to be followed during construction of additional park facilities. Plan implementation measures must be maintained in order to assure better wildfire protection.

Landowners who develop in and adjacent to the open space/wildland environment must take primary responsibility along with the fire services for ensuring their development has sufficient low ignitibility and surrounding fuel reduction treatment. The fire service has become a community partner providing technical assistance as well as emergency fire response. For this to succeed it must be shared and implemented equally by landowners and the fire service.

El Dorado Hills Community Park is in a Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone. It is in the unincorporated Local Responsibility Area (LRA) of El Dorado Hills. It is on the northeast corner of El Dorado Hills Boulevard at Harvard Way. Saint Andrews Drive is on the northern border of the park. There is currently only one access point to the open space for fire equipment which needs improvement. An additional access points have been identified and will be improved.

The 39.5 acre park is generally flat. There is a pocket of heritage oaks in the southeast corner across from Oak Ridge High School. These trees are in the open space area. There are liveoaks and blue oaks scattered through the park. Those areas already developed have mostly planted trees of a variety of species and are mostly within landscaped areas.

El Dorado Hills Fire Department Vacant Lot Weed Abatement Resolution requires the removal of grass and brush along the open space adjacent to the combustible fence and within 30' of any structure. Attention needs to be paid to existing structures and additions that will be built in the future.

## **II. FIRE SAFE STANDARD REQUIREMENTS**

This Plan does not guarantee that a wildfire will not threaten, damage or destroy natural resources, homes or endanger residents. However, the full implementation of the fire safe requirements will greatly reduce the exposure of the homes to potential loss from wildfire and provide defensible space for firefighters and residents as well as protect the native vegetation.

Clarification is needed for the treatment of “fuels” along roads, trails, open space and construction sites. “Fuels” in this Plan refers to the non-landscaped grasses, brush and trees growing in and around the property within the Community Park. Fuel hazard reduction zone applies to all roadways, parking lots, open space, maintained trails, and construction sites. The zone will vary in width and fuel treatment depending on the location of the zone.

## **III. FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION ZONE REQUIREMENTS**

- Fuel hazard reduction zone along the roads shall be 10’ from the face of the curb. This includes the normal 6’ sidewalk where applicable. In this zone, if not a maintained landscape, the grass shall be cut to a 2” stubble by June 1 annually. If late rains occur, a second treatment may be necessary. Trees shall be limbed up 10’. All ladder fuels (brush) shall be removed from this zone.
- Fuel hazard reduction zone in the open space shall be at least 10’ from noncombustible fences. The zone increases to 30’ if adjacent to combustible fencing or within 30’ of a residence. Trees adjacent to the perimeter fencing shall be limbed to 5’ to reduce the laddering affect. All grass shall be cut to a 2” stubble by June 1 annually.
- Fuel hazard reduction zone along maintained trails shall be 5’ on either side of the trail. Grass shall be cut to a 2” stubble by June 1 each year. Trees shall be limbed to 10’. All brush shall be removed.
- All construction sites shall have a 10’ clearance around the perimeter of the site of all flammable grasses and brush. Smoking areas shall be designated for workers.

- Welding or “on site” metal fabrication is subject to Public Resources Code (PRC) 4427 (See Appendix B) during the time of the year when burning permits are required. The operation shall be within a 10’ cleared area, have a serviceable round point shovel with an overall length of not less than 46” and a serviceable backpack pump water type fire extinguisher.

#### **IV. FIRE SAFE MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**

- Two Fire access points shall be maintained by the CSD. Improvements to the access from St. Andrews Drive to allow for fire equipment shall be made. A new access off of Harvard Way onto the open space shall be installed allowing for fire equipment. All access points shall meet Fire Department specifications for width, gates and locks. These sites shall be posted “No Parking – Fire Access”. (See Appendix A)
- The CSD is required to maintain the fuel hazard reduction zones.
- The contractor shall maintain their specific construction site in a fire safe condition. Trash shall be kept in acceptable containers. Flammable construction material shall have 10’ clearances around the perimeter. Employee smoking areas shall be posted and an appropriate container provided for smoked residue.
- Every 5 years the Fire Department shall review the Open Space areas within the CSD to determine the adequacy of the fuel hazard reduction.
- All maintained access points to the open space shall be posted “No Smoking”.
- The designated “Heritage Oaks” within the open space areas are exempt from limbing requirements. Additional clearance around the dripline of these trees should be undertaken to reduce the potential of fire getting into the crown of the tree.
- All fuel hazard reduction zones shall be maintained annually by June 1. A second treatment may be necessary if there is more than 6” of regrowth during the summer months (June- October).

**APPENDIX A**

**EL DORADO HILL COMMUNITY PARK**

**EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPEN SPACE ACCESS**

**SPECIFICATIONS**

The purpose of the Emergency Vehicle Access into Open Space areas is to provide rapid access to wildfires. This access is needed for suppression resources, fire engines and firefighters.

Specifications are:

1. 15' in width
2. A "break" in the curb or a rolled curb
3. Signed "Emergency Access"
4. Gates equipped with approve Fire Department lock

**APPENDIX B**

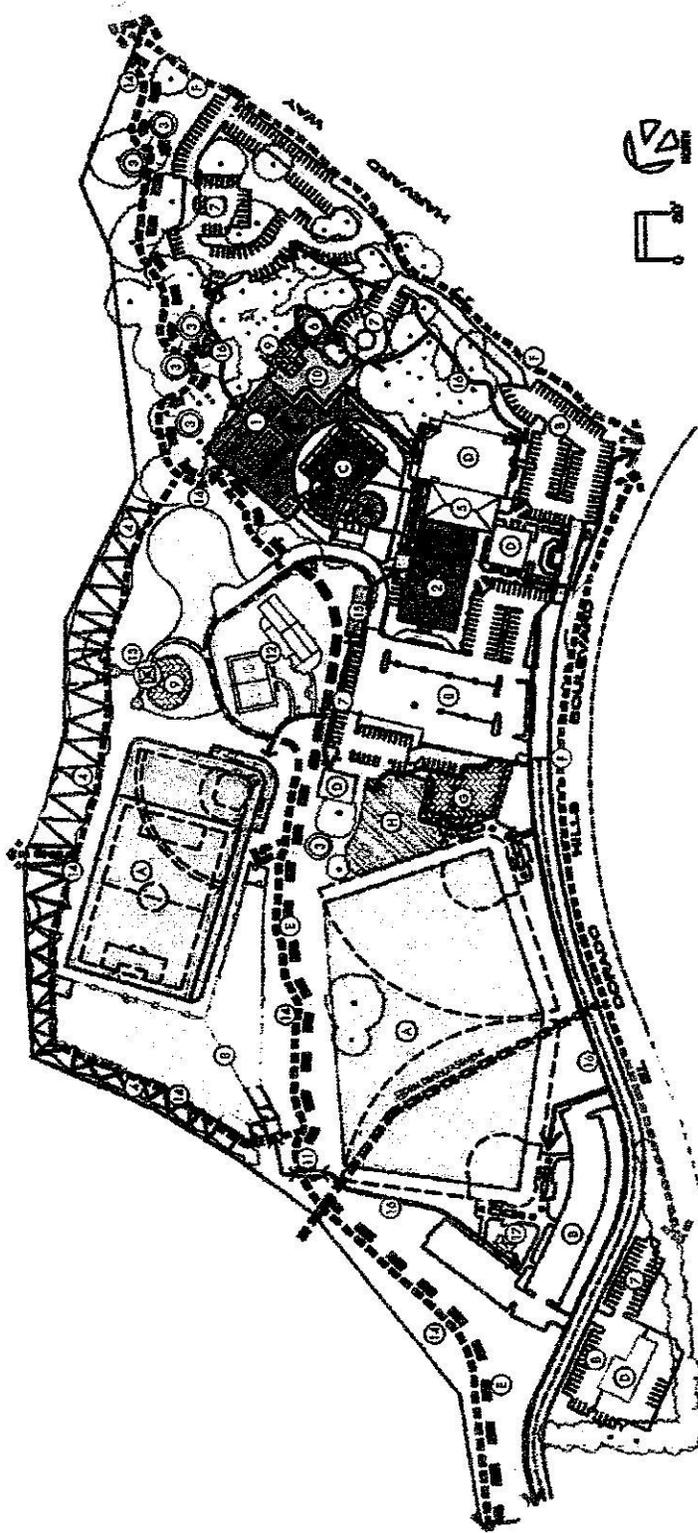
**PRC 4427**

4427. During any time of the year when burning permits are required in an area pursuant to this article, no person shall use or operate any motor, engine, boiler, stationary equipment, welding equipment, cutting torches, tarpots, or grinding devices from which a spark, fire, or flame may originate, which is located on or near any forest-covered land, brush-covered land, or grass-covered land, without doing both of the following:

(a) First clearing away all flammable material, including snags, from the area around such operation for a distance of 10 feet.

(b) Maintain one serviceable round point shovel with an overall length of not less than forty-six (46) inches and one backpack pump water-type fire extinguisher fully equipped and ready for use at the immediate area during the operation.

This section does not apply to portable powersaws and other portable tools powered by a gasoline-fueled internal combustion engine.



**LEGEND**

**EXISTING FACILITIES**

- (A) - SPORTS FIELD/TURF
- (B) - PARKING/DRIVEWAY/ROADWAY
- (C) - POOLS
- (D) - BUILDINGS
- (E) - CREEK
- (F) - CLASS LIBRARY
- (G) - PLAYGROUND
- (H) - SKATE PARK

**NEW (PROPOSED) FACILITIES**

- (1) - AQUATIC CENTER
- (2) - LOCKERS/RESTROOM BLDG.
- (3) - ADMIN/TICKET/STORAGE
- (4) - CONCESSIONS AREA
- (5) - ACTIVITY POOL, SLIDE, TRAINING POOL
- (6) - COMMUNITY MULTIPURPOSE BLDG
- (7) - 12,000 SF MULTIPURPOSE ROOM (RETAILER)
- (8) - 12,000 SF MULTIPURPOSE ROOM (OFFICE)
- (9) - ADMINSTRATIVE OFFICES, KITCHEN, ETC.
- (10) - SMALL PICNIC AREA
- (11) - PLANTED BUFFER (UP MAINWAY)

**CONCERNED FACILITIES**

- (12) - COVERED OUTDOOR GATHERING
- (13) - TEACHING RENTABLE SPACE
- (14) - OUTDOOR TEACHING
- (15) - PERFORMANCE AREA
- (16) - NEW PARKING
- (17) - SMALL DOGS/LARGE DOG BASKS
- (18) - HIGH CHAIN LINK FENCING & DOUBLE GATES
- (19) - NO LIGHTS, OPEN DAWN TO DUSK
- (20) - SHADE CANOPIES AND SHADE TREES
- (21) - DOG WASH, DRINKING FOUNTAIN
- (22) - POSSIBLE RECIRCULATING CREEK FEATURE
- (23) - TRASH RECEPTACLES AND BENCHES

**EXISTING FACILITIES**

- (24) - PLAYGROUND
- (25) - DAY CAMP BLDG. (14,000 SF) W/ CONNECTED
- (26) - CLASS LIBRARY (14,000 SF) W/ CONNECTED
- (27) - TEACHING/ACTIVITY AREA (14,000 SF)
- (28) - PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER CREEK
- (29) - GROUP PICNIC AREA WITH TURF, BASKETBALL COURT & BATTING CAGES
- (30) - GROUP PICNIC SHELTER
- (31) - 7'x10' WIDE MULTIPURPOSE TRAIL
- (32) - BOCCIE BALL/SUPPERBOARD PARKWAY
- (33) - PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY
- (34) - 6 SMALL RESTROOM

CONSENSUS PLAN  
 PROPOSED UPDATE (By Staff)

EL DORADO HILLS COMMUNITY PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE  
 EL DORADO HILLS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

JANUARY 6, 2011



El Dorado Hills