

## 2.0 OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

The guidelines outlined in this section are intended to ensure the planning and design of Open Space Systems are consistent with the City's overall civic design objectives.

In addition to their role as a key structural element of the community, the Open Space System performs several principle functions. These are:

- *Establishing the character of neighbourhoods,*
- *Enhancing the built environment, and*
- *Providing both passive and active recreational opportunities within the various types of open space and the different categories of parks.*

The design of the Open Space System and its component parts, namely Parks, Open Space Links, the Multi-Use Trail System, Natural Features and Stormwater Management Facilities, must be thoughtful, deliberate and support a balanced vision for recreation, urban design, natural systems and community identity. In particular they must be designed with consideration of 'Green Design' principals outlined in the City's Asset Management Proposed Greening Policy.



Parks



Stormwater Management Facilities



Open Space Links



Woodlots



Valleylands



Multi-Use Trails

## 2.1 Parks

The City of Brampton has established a hierarchy of parks, to meet the varying social and recreational needs of residents. Their location and programming shall be determined by the City based on the assessed need and population. Parks shall be designed to accommodate an approved municipal recreation program while supporting and enhancing the public realm.

City of Brampton Parks include:

Parkettes (Village Squares)

- Size should be a minimum of 2.0 acres

Neighbourhood Parks

- Size ranges from 2 - 3 acres

Community Parks

- Size should be 25 - 30 acres

City Wide Parks

- Varies - Size is generally 100 acres

Environmental Parks

- Size varies

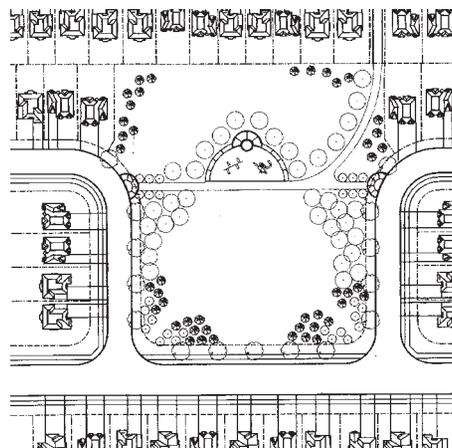
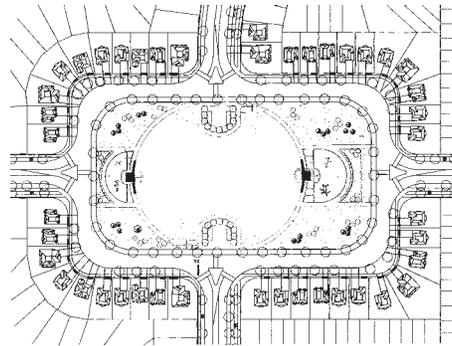


### 2.1.1 Parkettes (Village Squares)

Parkettes provide central common green space within neighbourhoods and key social gathering places for residents. They should be designed as Village Squares.

Design Guidelines:

- Parkettes shall be planned as focal points for the neighbourhoods.
- The street pattern shall ensure that Parkettes have a minimum of two street frontages.
- Streetscapes along Parkettes should be designed as Primary Streets within the community.
- Streetscapes along the R.O.W. should be designed to reinforce an urban (formalized) relationship between the open space and its adjacent land use.
- Houses should front onto Parkettes to create visually attractive 'edges' to these spaces.
- The landscape along the street frontage, including canopy street trees, should be complementary on both sides of the street.
- Entry/Access points should be located conveniently and incorporate civic design theming such as the use of heritage roses to reinforce Brampton's image as a Floral City.
- Hard and soft landscape elements and features shall be integrally designed and define and articulate activity areas, circulation, entry points, seating and gathering areas.
- Parkette features should be located as focal points within and to terminate view corridors into the space.



Village Squares - Typical Plans



Housing Fronting onto Parkette



Parkette Feature



Edges of the Parkette

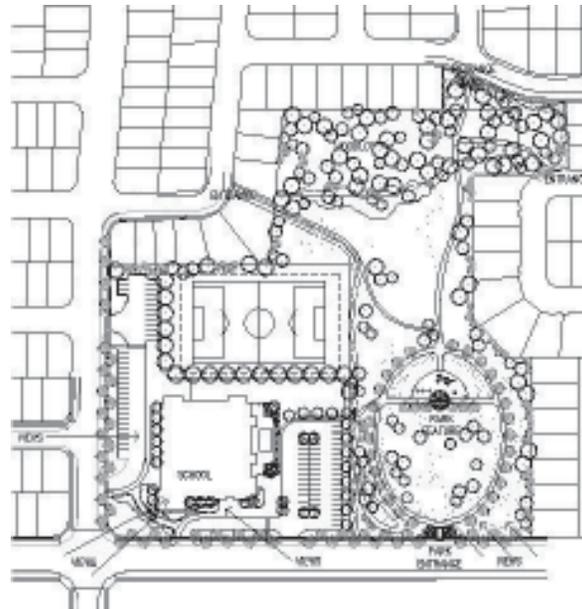
**2.1.2 Neighbourhood Parks**

Neighbourhood Parks provide a central common green space within neighbourhoods and key recreational and social gathering space for residents.

Design Guidelines:

- Neighbourhood Parks shall be planned as focal points for neighbourhoods; preferably located at the corner of two streets.
- When a Neighbourhood Park is associated with a school, the school block and school building should dominate the intersection of the two streets.
- The street pattern shall ensure significant frontage of the park on adjacent streets to promote views and reinforce their focal nature.
- Streetscapes should be designed to reinforce the adjacent streets as Primary Streets within the community and an urban relationship between open space and built form.
- When bordering a school or residential area Neighbourhood Park frontage is required to be 50-80m; however frontage on streets is preferred on at least two sides.
- Co-ordinate facilities, design and layout with adjacent school(s).
- Playgrounds should be designed as major focal elements within parks.
- No on-site parking shall be encouraged.
- Entry/Access points should be located conveniently and incorporate civic design theming such as the use of heritage roses to promote Brampton's image as a 'Floral City'.

- Hard and soft landscape elements and features shall be integrally designed and define and articulate activity areas, circulation, entry points, seating and gathering areas



Neighbourhood Park / School - Typical Plan



Active Outdoor Amenity



Park Edges



Park Features



Park Entrance

### 2.1.3 Community Parks

Community Parks provide active indoor and outdoor recreational and social opportunities for residents.

Design Guidelines:

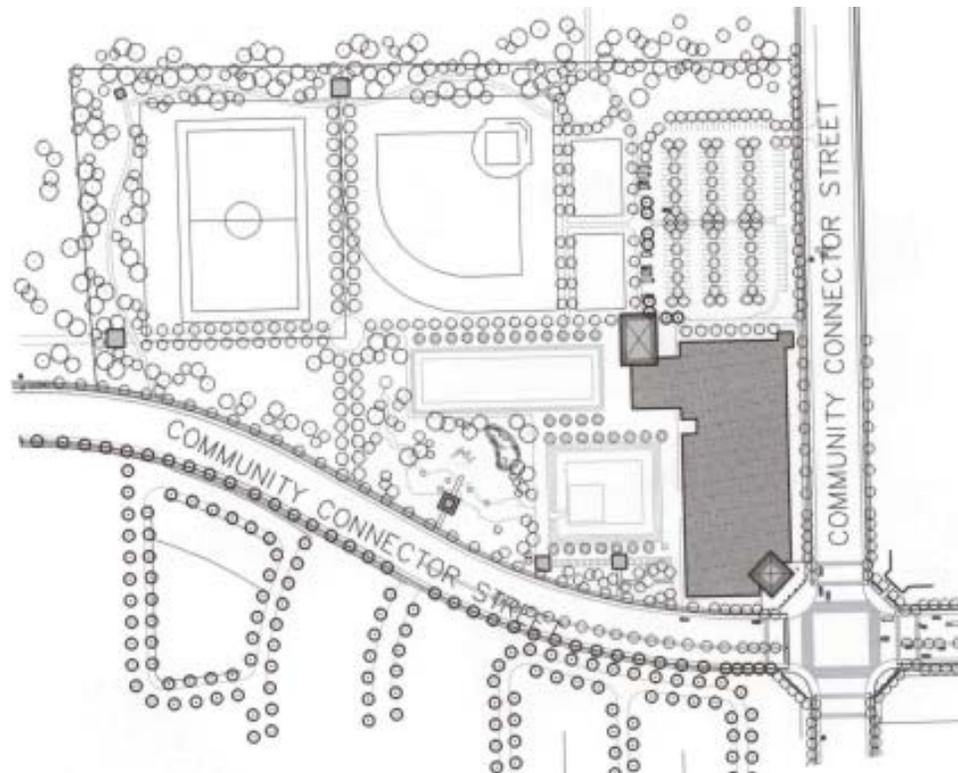
- Community Parks shall be planned as focal points for the community, generally located at the intersection of arterial roads or major thoroughfares.
- The street pattern shall ensure significant frontage of the park on adjacent streets to promote views and reinforce their focal nature.
- Streetscapes should be designed to reinforce the adjacent streets as Primary Streets within the community and an urban relationship between open space and built form.
- Community buildings shall be located close to the major intersection to reinforce Community Structure and civic identity.
- Entry/Access points should be located conveniently and incorporate civic design theming.
- Parking shall be accommodated on-site with minimum exposure to the street.
- Hard and soft landscape elements and features shall be integrally designed and define and articulate activity areas, circulation, entry points, seating and gathering areas.
- The design vocabulary of the hard and soft landscape components shall be consistent and co-ordinated with the character of the community, the surrounding houses and other open space components.



Park Facilities



Park Amenity



Community Park - Typical Plan

## 2.5 Stormwater Management Facilities

Stormwater Management Facilities shall be designed as major landscape features and integral components of the Open Space System. They should be designed with reference to the design criteria set out in the City of Brampton Green Gateways Design Guidelines for Stormwater Management Ponds.

Stormwater Management Facilities provide other benefits to the community by:

- *promoting sustainability and providing habitat, enhancing ecosystem structure and resilience (different eco-regions, native plant species, etc), and conveying and detaining stormwater on site,*
- *providing passive recreational opportunities,*
- *providing interpretive / educational opportunities, and*
- *augmenting the extent of the community's green areas and their associated microclimatic benefits.*

Design Guidelines:

- The location of Stormwater Management Facilities shall be determined by stormwater engineers in consultation with Urban Design professionals and City staff.
- Existing wetlands should be incorporated into the planning and design of SWMs; however, provincially significant wetlands shall not be permitted to be used as part of SWM facilities; any water from SWMs entering non-significant wetlands must receive at least primary treatment beforehand.
- The street pattern shall ensure significant frontage of the SWM on adjacent streets to promote views and reinforce their focal nature within the community.
- Provide opportunities for passive recreation with particular attention to safety and access issues.
- Co-ordinate the landscape components, such as look-outs, seating areas, fountains and gazebos, with the overall character of the community.
- The palette of colours, forms and materials of these components shall also be co-ordinated to be consistent with the character of the community.



Residential Edge



Pedestrian Look-out / Point of Interest



Engineered Structure

**2.1.4 City Wide Parks**

City Wide Parks provide green space at the City scale.

Design Guidelines:

- City Wide Parks shall be planned as focal points for the City of Brampton.
- City Wide Parks should be designed as major destinations for residents of and visitors to the City.
- The planning and design of City Wide Parks shall provide passive and active recreation opportunities for residents and visitors.
- City Wide Parks will be located along arterial roads, preferably located at the intersection of major streets to act as gateway features to communities and the City.
- City Wide Parks may be designed as stand alone facilities or as part of the Open Space System.



Community Park Typical Plan



Park Feature - Arboretum



Area of Interest - Fishing Pier

**2.1.5 Open Space 'Environmental Parks'**

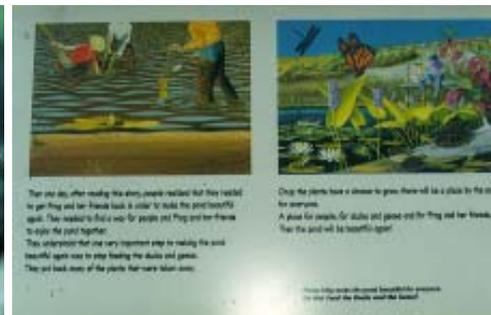
Open Space 'Environmental Parks' are a unique environmental legacy reflecting the sustainability of the community and offering opportunities for nature interpretation.

Design Guidelines:

- Open Space 'Environmental Parks' shall be planned as Open Space Links.
- Open Space 'Environmental Parks' shall provide passive recreation opportunities for residents.
- Open Space 'Environmental Parks' should connect to the Open Space System and be located within or adjacent to valleylands whenever possible.
- Open Space 'Environmental Parks' will include interpretive elements such as signage and educational elements.



Fauna



Interpretive Signage



Naturalized Areas

## 2.2 Open Space Links

Open Space Links should be planned and designed to facilitate continuous, uninterrupted movement through and enhance the use of Open Space Systems within communities. These Open Space Links should also link communities and the larger City.

Open Space Links may include:

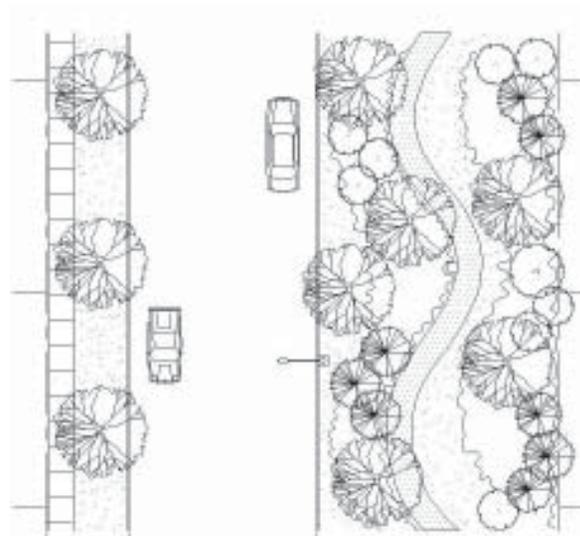
- Utility easements
- Hydro corridors
- Trans Canada pipeline easements
- Expanded boulevards within the R.O.W. (along Primary Streets, adjacent to Open Space, and Valleylands)
- Green Connectors / Trails

Policies and design standards for easements should be obtained from relevant jurisdictional authorities - including the City of Brampton, Hydro-One Brampton, cable, gas and telecommunications companies.

Design Guidelines:

- The planning and design of Open Space Links shall link communities and the larger city.
- The planning and design of Open Space Links shall promote accessibility and visibility of the Open Space System.
- Locate and design Open Space Links to mitigate undesirable views, and the noise and pollution associated with Arterial Roads.
- Provide opportunities for both passive and active recreation such as walking, hiking and cycling.

- Provide frequent openings and access points along Open Space Links.
- Design the landscape to create visual interest, provide shade and define entrances, seating opportunities and reinforce views.



Open Space Link / Expanded Boulevard - Typical Plan



Utility Corridor



Trans Canada Pipeline - Pedestrian Link



Woodlot Entrance

### 2.3 Multit-Use Trail System

Pedestrian and Bicycle Trails are the primary means of access to and through the Open Space System. Trails shall be provided within the plan to enhance accessibility and ease of circulation. Most of these trails are to be provided along Primary Roads which form the basic structure for access to the Open Space System. Along Primary Roads, pedestrians shall be accommodated within an allowance for sidewalks and cyclists within designated bicycle lanes. A City Trails Master Plan is currently under development and identifies the opportunity for developing multi-use trails.

#### 2.3.1 Pedestrian Trails

The following guidelines shall apply to Pedestrian Trails at the Block Plan stage:

- When not accommodated along Primary Streets trails shall be incorporated into the design of Valleylands and Open Space Links.
- Combined pedestrian / bicycle trails shall be paved with a suitable hard surface material.
- Primary trails shall be 3.0m wide and secondary trails shall be 2.4m wide.
- In general Trails should not be sited in low-lying areas. Where they do occur in low-lying areas, bridges, culverts and swales should be implemented as support systems.
- The intersections of trails with the street R.O.W's shall be designed as trail entrances and may include site furniture and features consistent with the streetscape design.

- Pedestrian connections should be provided through and to residential areas to facilitate accessibility and promote visibility and safety.
- Trails should be linked to key destinations and accessible parking areas.



Valleyland Trails



Trail Entrance

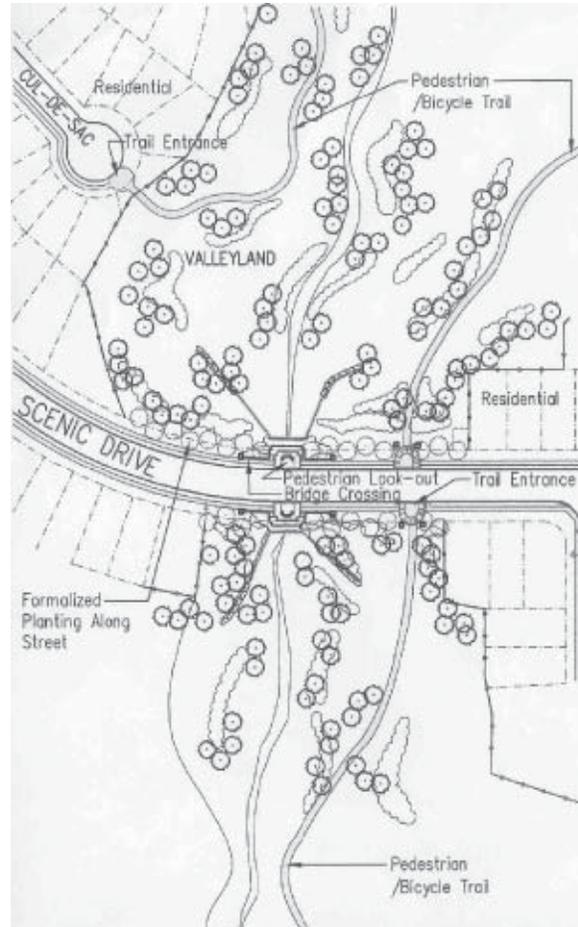
### 2.3.2 Bicycle Trail System

The City's objective for the planning and design of the Bicycle Trail System is:

To promote the development of a safe and efficient road and path system that accommodates bicycles for recreational and utilitarian trips as referred to in the City's Pedestrian and Pathway Master Plan.

Design Guidelines:

- Link the Bicycle Trail System with sidewalks.
- Parking areas should be provided at convenient locations along the Bicycle Trail System.
- Incorporate the Bicycle Trail System with components of the Open Space System such as Open Space Links and Valleylands.
- Site and link the Bicycle Trail System with the Street Network.
- Provide opportunities for dismounting and rest along the Bicycle Trail System.
- Incorporate signage which identifies the designated Bicycle Route, enables wayfinding and promotes and enhances the community image.



Bicycle Trail within a valleyland system - Typical Plan



On-Street Bicycle trail



Signage

## 2.4 Natural Features

Natural Features should be preserved and enhanced within the Block Plan as part of the Open Space System. These include valleylands, naturalized channels and woodlots.

### 2.4.1 Valleylands

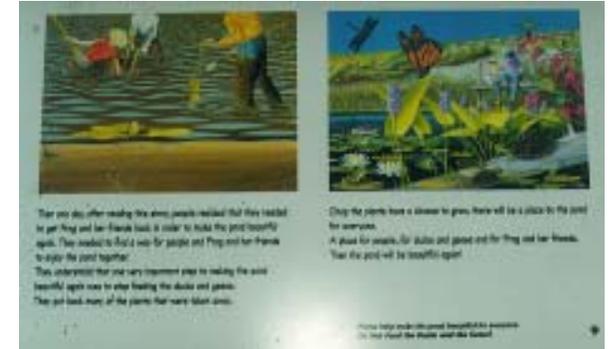
Valleylands occur as part of the natural landscape of the site and should be preserved and enhanced where they occur. These areas should form one of the ordering elements of the Community Structure.

The benefits of these natural features are that they:

- *Enhance the visual appeal of the community - by providing significant variation in landforms, and*
- *Provide special recreational opportunities such as bird-watching, hiking, biking, etc.*

Design Guidelines:

- Integrate Valleylands as part of the Open Space System.
- Existing wetlands should be incorporated into the planning and design of the valleylands.
- Provide opportunities for passive recreation.
- Provide a safe continuous Multi-Use Trail within the Valleylands.
- Provide frequent access points and significant street frontage to promote views and accessibility.
- Streetscapes along Valleylands should be formalized and designed to provide an appropriate transition between the open space and its urban surroundings.



Signage



Bridge Connection



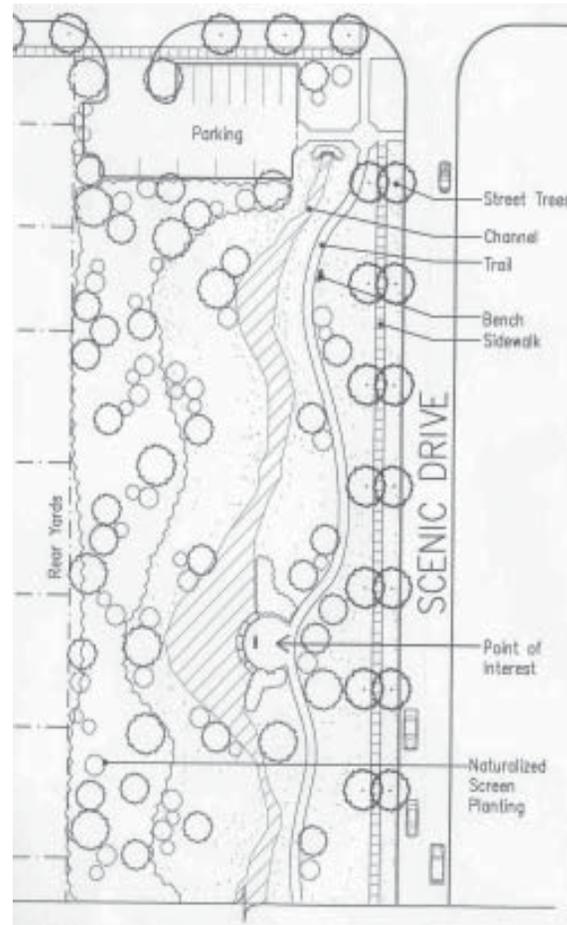
Pedestrian Entrance

## 2.4.1.1 Naturalized Channels

Naturalized Channels form part of the Valleylands System.

## Design Guidelines:

- Naturalized Channels should be located abutting Scenic Drives (refer to V - 3.1.3).
- Naturalized Channels with housing abutting both sides should incorporate a trail/maintenance trail.
- The layout and alignment of Naturalized Channels should be curvilinear whenever possible.
- The design of Naturalized Channels should be coordinated with Stormwater Management Facilities.
- Focal points should be created within/along Naturalized Channels and may include landscape features, entrance nodes and vista blocks.
- Frequent and intermittent access points are encouraged along the length of the Naturalized Channels.
- Planting and landscape features should be utilized to mitigate the engineered appearance of these spaces.
- A variety of visual and spatial experiences should be created through the arrangement and composition of soft and hard landscape elements.



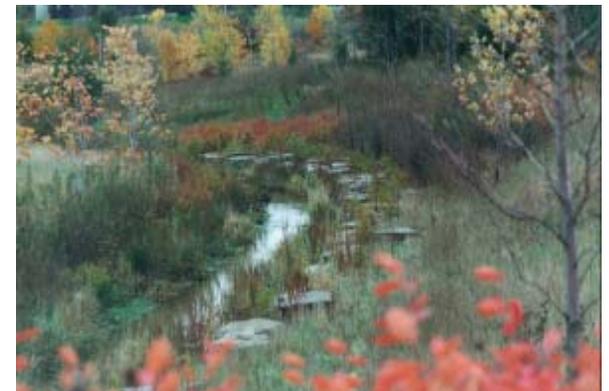
Naturalized Channel - Typical Plan



Street Edge



Point of Interest



Naturalized Channels

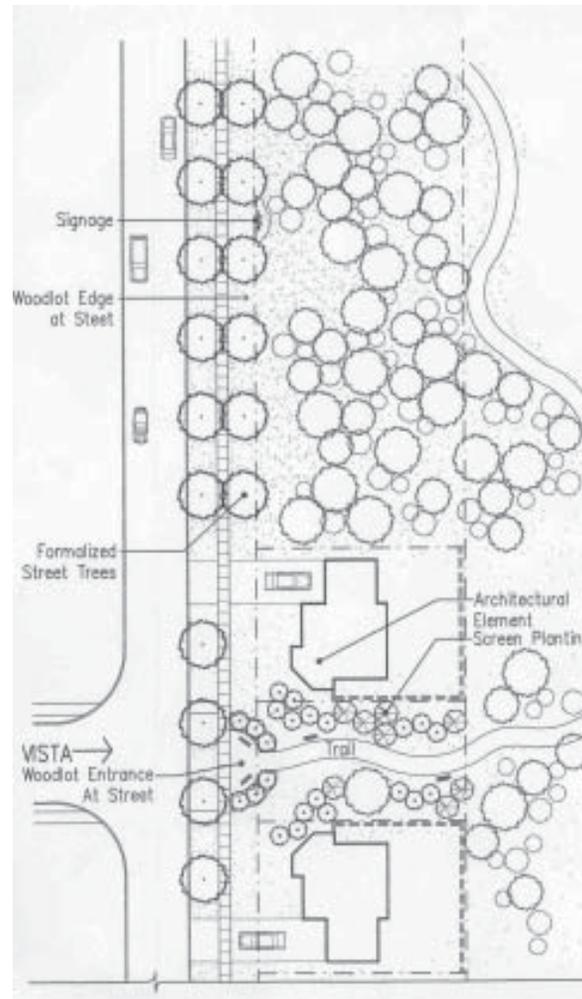
### 2.4.2 Woodlots

Existing Woodlots should be preserved and enhanced as integral components of the Open Space System. Woodlots have several important benefits for planned communities; they:

- *provide an immediate natural backdrop or setting,*
- *enhance the visual character and appeal of the community,*
- *contribute to the community's green areas and their associated microclimatic benefits, and*
- *promote sustainability by preserving habitat, and plantings of variable age and species type.*

Design Guidelines:

- For detailed guidelines refer to the City's Woodlot Development Guidelines.
- In general woodlots shall be acquired and preserved by the City as part of their policy to identify, define, protect and preserve environmentally sensitive areas.
- Lots backing onto Woodlots will not be permitted to have direct access.
- Woodlots should be designed as part of the Open Space System.
- Woodlots should be incorporated as the terminus for views and vistas.
- Trails through Woodlots should be considered at the Block Plan stage; in principle, pedestrian access should be limited and provided only where there is no long term impact to the existing vegetation.
- Streetscapes adjacent to Woodlots shall be designed to reflect an urban character and incorporate such items as formal street tree planting, interpretive signage and other site features consistent with the Streetscape design vocabulary.



Wood Lot Edge - Typical Plan



Wood Lot Edge at Street



Woodlot Entrance at Street



Woodlot Terminus