



# Open Space Committee Charter

Hidden Springs is a planned community on 1,844 acres in the Dry Creek Valley. Under the terms of the Hidden Springs Planned Community Ordinance (Section 8-21A-5E), no less than 810 acres of Hidden Springs property, designated as the “Open Space Area” are to remain open and free from development other than wildlife habitat improvement, trails and other recreational improvements, agriculture and agricultural operations and outbuildings. As of 2008, approximately 988 acres in Hidden Springs are designated as natural open space subject to the terms of a Conservation Easement (CE) held by Ada County. Fifty-nine (59) acres of natural open space off Cartwright Road are not held in the CE. The plan divides the CE lands into five areas:

- Wetlands
- Dry Creek Corridor
- Currant Creek Corridor
- Uplands
- Farm and Orchard

**PURPOSE:** The Open Space Committee is a volunteer committee of Hidden Springs residents reporting to the Town Council. The committee is responsible for advising HSTA and the Town Council on matters pertaining to open space management in the community.

**ORGANIZATION:** The committee shall consist of a minimum of 7 maximum of 15 members (including chairperson). The committee chairperson and members are appointed by the Town Council at the Annual Town Meeting. Interested applicants may complete and submit a Committee Application form to the Town Office by December 1<sup>st</sup> each year. If possible, the Town Council will appoint members representative of each Phase of the community. Monthly meetings are open and all interested residents are invited and encouraged to attend.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Committed to preserving and protecting the scenic, historic, scientific, educational, natural, agricultural, wild life habitat, open space and water resource values of the open space area, the Committee meets to review proposals, Firewise initiatives, staff reports and other information affecting the natural open spaces and conservation lands of Hidden Springs. The Committee deliberates on proposals or projects to insure consistency with existing CCR's, Conservation Easements, environmental laws and community interest. Appointed members identify and vote on recommendations that are in the best interest of the Hidden Springs Community as a whole.

Minutes shall be kept of committee meetings with a copy provided to the Town Council and posted on the Hidden Springs Website once approved by the Committee.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Committee recommendations for open space management, programs or projects to the Town Council are specific proposals for adoption and implementation and address all appropriate and relevant issues as they pertain to residents, the community, cost and needs. Recommendations to the Town Council shall be adopted at an Open Space Committee meeting based on the majority vote (either in person or via proxy) of

50% (1/2) of appointed members, which shall constitute a quorum. Appointed Members shall be entitled to one (1) vote for each Lot in which the Class A Member holds the interest required for membership in the Town Association (Bylaw Section 2.1). The Committee Chairperson presents the Open Space Committee's recommendation/s to Town Council at a scheduled Town Council Meeting (working or town meeting).

**TERM:** The Open Space Committee is a permanent committee subject to dissolution at the discretion of the Town Council. Members are appointed each year at the Annual Town Meeting and meet the first Tuesday of every month or as frequently as necessary. Meetings are open and all residents are invited to attend.

**RELATIONSHIP TO TOWN COUNCIL:** The Open Space Committees recommendations are advisory. Final decisions on policy, management and expenditures shall be the responsibility of the Town Council.

**TOWN MANAGER:** The Hidden Springs Town Manager attends the monthly meeting and serves as a liaison between the Open Space Committee, Open Space/Conservation Easement Management Consultant and the Town Council. Town Manager assists with the preparation of the agenda, record the minutes and votes, and post information to the Hidden Springs Community website.

**CONSERVATION EASEMENT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT:** The Conservation Easement Management Consultant attends the monthly meeting, special meetings, workshops, etc. as needed and provides consultant support as specified in the Conservation Easement Management Professional Consultant Agreement with the HSTA. The Consultant is an ex officio member of the Open Space Committee.