

## Appendix N—Proposed Trail Connections from Main Campus to North Campus

### UAF North Campus Planning – Connecting the trails to campus, recognizing trails within the main campus, and facilitating human powered commuting to campus

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Three types of trails are proposed in this document: trails that connect the campus with the North Campus Trail system, natural trails that connect areas of the developed campus, and trails that facilitate bicycle and pedestrian commuting to campus. Due to time constraints, only the Central Campus Trailhead was endorsed by the North Campus Subcommittee. There was not time to adequately consider the remaining trails, but they are put forth as proposals for consideration by future campus planning efforts. This document accompanies a GIS map titled “Proposed on-campus trails” created by SNRAS Graduate Student Michael Hay.

#### 1. Campus Connector Trails

- a. **Central Campus Trailhead:** Trailhead on North Chandalar Drive near the University Fire Station (access to lower campus and Wood Center – where skis can be rented and stored)
  - i. Trail travels behind faculty housing on N. Chandalar crossing Kuskokwim Way to connect with Six-mile Loop
  - ii. Use designation: ski only in winter (route is paralleled by sidewalks)
  - iii. Current status: not designated trail, but used informally. Corridor threatened by future N. Chandalar housing improvements?
  - iv. Improvements –
    1. New trailhead sign at corner of Colville and North Chandalar.
    2. New fencing to protect trail from N. Chandalar turnaround and Hess Village access and/or new trail cut through the trees/brush along Kuskokwim way
    3. Sign east of Kusko way “Central UAF campus this way”
    4. Trail improvements and sign west of Kuskokwim way to connect with Skarland Six-mile trail
    5. Maintenance: no-grooming needed – maintained by ski use
- b. **Gym access trail** – west of SRC, traveling below sledding hill, through the trees up the hill – above Tanana Loop ending across from the Lookout
  - i. Trail connects trails with parking, locker, and shower facilities at the SRC and Patty Gym
  - ii. Use: Ski only in winter (route is paralleled by road with marginal shoulder for bikes/pedestrians)
  - iii. Current status: Trail has been groomed in previous years, but not heavily used. Parking crunch on West Ridge makes alternative parking for trails imperative. Bottom portion of trail corridor cut out of hillside for roundabout construction.
  - iv. Management: Trail will be groomed for skate and classic skiing

#### 2. Inter campus Trails

- a. **West Ridge – Main Campus trail.** This trail will parallel Yukon Drive and connect lower campus, Natural Sciences building, gym facilities, and West Ridge area.
- i. Management: trails would be multi-use, but primarily for walkers. Dogs would be okay on leash, bikes may need to be prohibited if these trails remain narrow. This trail could be open to skiers, but would probably not interest skiers due to the number of road crossings. This would be a primitive trail: gravel could be added if needed, but the trail would not be paved.
    1. Risk management and accessibility issues would need to be considered. Perhaps a management sign that designated the trail as a 'rustic natural trail' that warned users to 'travel at their own risk' would suffice.
  - ii. These trails would facilitate folks traveling by foot between upper and lower campus and will also expand opportunities for recreational walkers.
    1. Spur trails: existing trail west of SRC up to Museum that crosses Yukon drive and extends to North Tanana corridor
  - iii. Current status and improvements: expand existing (heavily used) social trails through the woods with several new sections.
    1. New trail beginning west of Wood Center between Copper Lane and Chapman building. Crossing the 'walkway', continuing above the Haida parking lot connecting to an existing social trail up to Natural Sciences building. The new trail would continue west below Yukon Drive to connect with existing informal trails that connect to the Museum (and then Six-mile trail), IAB Greenhouse, and gym facilities. (The parking plan called for an upgrade of this trail
  - iv. Maintenance: current social trails are 'maintained' by foot traffic. This works, but does keep the trails narrow. If the trail was wider, it could be packed by a snow machine. Alternatively, the trail could be packed/widened by snowshoes.
- b. Patty Parking to Lower Campus/Wood Center – there are currently two short social trails through the woods that could be protected and enhanced to increase the woodsy feel of the UAF campus. The third trail below is a new proposal and could be an alternative or an additional trail in this area.
- i. **Denali Lane to Chapman building**
  - ii. **Denali Lane to the Wood Center driveway**
    1. These first two social trails are heavily used and connect the lower parking lots/lower dorms and central campus
    2. The second, eastern most trail has been degraded by the new dumpster pads behind Nerland and Mackintosh. In the winter it is no longer usable because of the large snow dump south of Chapman.
  - iii. **East Patty to Chapman Building:** this path could connect the large parking areas south of the Patty Center with lower campus and Wood Center. This path would also connect the upper dorms with gym facilities
    1. A similar trail in this area was proposed in the Parking Plan – noting an existing social trail/sled run. The trail proposed here would be less steep and cut across the hill at a lower angle. This trail would intersect

- the 'walkway' and then lead through the woods to the Chapman building and lower campus.
  2. See West Ridge – Main Campus trail for discussion of Risk Management and accessibility issues.
  3. Improvements: Signage, cut 3-4 foot trail into hillside. Planted trees could help define the trail on the currently open slope
  4. Maintenance – this could be a rustic, natural trail maintained by pedestrian traffic
3. **Commuter Trails** (improved bike and pedestrian access will reduce parking pressure)
  - a. **Sheep Creek Commuter trail**
    - i. Multiuse (widen to facilitate bicycle use)
    - ii. Current status: this trail connects old trails, power lines and the drainage ditch; trail receives regular use. Trail begins at Sheep Creek Trailhead and turns to the right. Trail is very narrow then takes a left before the farm and climbs steeply up to the drainage ditch. Trail follows the ditch behind/above the farm and ends at the scenic overlook.
    - iii. Improvements
      1. widen narrow parts of trail and improve signage
      2. Consider moving trailhead to new entrance area (to reduce impact to ski trails)
      3. Smooth grade
    - iv. Maintenance –
      1. Winter: periodic packing with snow machine?
      2. Plow in winter?
      3. Integrity of drainage ditch needs to be maintained
  - b. **Extension of bike path from Farmers Loop**
    - i. New multi use path along east section of Tanana Loop until intersection with Yukon Drive
    - ii. Current status: many students use the bike trail to commute from Farmers Loop; but at the intersection with North Tanana, the trail drops off the ridge and bypasses campus.
    - iii. Path could be on east or west side of road. There is a large (new) shelf of land on the east side of the road for most of this distance that would be perfect for a multiuse path or sidewalk.
    - iv. Improvements
      1. harden trail (gravel or pave)
  - c. **Yankovitch to West Ridge commuter trail** through North Campus
    - i. Multiuse path for walkers and bikers (winter only? In summer bikers can use drier ski designated trails).
    - ii. Problematic for previous planning effort due to agreement with CIGO site (no new trails near CIGO site)
    - iii. Alternate route: Dalton Trail to Pooch Loop to North Tanana (very wet in summer)
    - iv. Improvements: signage

- v. Maintenance
  - I. Periodic packing with snow machine
- d. **Parks Highway/Geist Intersection to Experimental Farm Commuter trail.** This trail is a short cut for pedestrians and bicyclists from Chena Pump road and Chena Ridge.
  - i. Multiuse
  - ii. Current status: used regularly, occasional pedestrian traffic above West Tanana on east side of Botanical Gardens
  - iii. Improvements: signage
  - iv. Maintenance: pack with snow machine in winter?
- e. **General (not on map) – Bike lanes/wider shoulders need to be added to**
  - i. Yukon Drive west of Museum
  - ii. Southwest section of Tanana Loop
  - iii. West Tanana Drive