

UAF North Campus Subcommittee Agenda February 17, 2004; 12 p.m. (noon) Facilities Services Conference Room, RM 122	No agenda available
---	---------------------

UAF North Campus Subcommittee Meeting

February 17, 2004

Notes

Attending:

Members ? Carol Adamczak, Rich Boone, Pat Holloway, Tim Stallard, Cynthia Steiner

Consultants ? Pete Fix, Mike Hay

Public ? Stan Justice, Don Lokken

Approved with amendments minutes of 2/10/04 meeting.

Public Comments this week were submitted by Don Lokken and Stan Justice in the form of trail project proposals. Because of their length they have been moved to the bottom of the meeting minutes.

Ken Larimore with Athletics and Recreation, and Dan Osborne with the Geophysical Institute have been invited to serve on the NCS.

The UAF Shooting Club would like to have scheduled hours to use the firing range. Because of questions about the safety of the range building, the NCS feels Risk

Management should approve use of the building, and the Rifle Coach should ensure that safety standards for the activity are followed.

The North Campus Management Plan should have a section addressing access to the range road .

General discussion of ramifications of disclosing to the public too much detail and jeopardizing the integrity and confidentiality of current research in the North Campus Area (NCA).

Discussion on trail conditions.

- Introduction to the recreation management concepts of indicators and standards.
- The trails section in the Plan is currently in the recreation section. It should be moved to its own section, because trails are a part of all uses.

There should be a section in the Plan that addresses ADA accessibility in the NCA.

Trails in the NCA should tie-in with trails in the built part of campus. An Action Statement will be added to the Plan stating that there should be coordination between the Parking and Circulation, Landscape and Outdoor Art, and North Campus Subcommittees regarding this topic.

In the Plan:

- the Venn diagram should be changed to a triangle to imply connectivity.
- Status quo is poor wording.

Public Comments submitted by Don Lokken

Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks,

Priorities for UAF 2004 Trail Maintenance Projects

The current winter ski trail grooming done jointly by UAF and NSCF has worked very well. The additional trail work done by UAF Facilities Services during summer and fall of 2003 has resulted in the best ski trails ever at UAF. We would like to thank the Grounds Supervisor, ?Bear? Edson, and his staff and encourage them

do a similar job in 2004. We are eager to help Facilities Services however we can, including some financial assistance where necessary to continue improvement of the system. The NSCF priorities are roughly as follows:

1. Mowing and Brushing

Again in 2004 all the trails need to be mowed before snowfall. No activity improves early season skiing like trail mowing. Use of the tracked Bobcat with heavy duty mower worked very well in 2003. Brush and small trees that lean towards the trails end up in the trail once they are loaded with snow. They need to be identified and trimmed again.

2. Trail Flattening With the exception of the Midnight Express and parts of the 6-Mile Trail, none of the trails have been flattened in many years. In their current rough condition, considerable snow is required before the trails can be groomed. Grooming removes snow from the high points and deposits it in the low areas. It is not uncommon for the groomer to expose bare ground at the high points. Rough trails are also hard on equipment and on the machine operator. The trail sections we'd like to see flattened in 2004 include: Potato Field - In 2003 the central trail was rerouted around the worst of the thermokarst features. There are still a few dips and bumps that need to be flattened or bypassed. Practice/Start Area - The wide power-line clearing from the back of the IARC parking lot to T-Field Road is used as a ski practice area and race start. There are many stumps that need to be removed to facilitate mowing and grooming. Eventually we want to develop a larger more functional stadium/practice area but with the potential for the ring road, and the warming hut being forced to move, we only plan to remove the stumps at this time. T-Field-Smith Lake Connector - This connector trail is rough because the original construction left low cut stumps. We support a project to remove the old stumps. Ballaine Lake Ramps - The trails leading down to Ballaine Lake from the North and South need be smoothed out.

3. T-Field Road - The northernmost section of road (immediately south of the T-field) is frequently muddy, resulting in deep frozen ruts. It would be great to get some sort of stabilizer and/or surface on this (or at least keep wheeled vehicles off when it's muddy). The construction of the huge dish antenna at the picnic area has eliminated much natural humus and vegetation and evidently resulted in run-off and bad erosion at the start

(south end) of the T-field road. Both re-seeding and other erosion control are needed.

Public Comments submitted by Stan Justice.

Trail Projects for 2004
University of Alaska Fairbanks
February 25, 2004

What is being submitted?

Below is a list of trail projects that are planned for construction by the University Trails Club and the Nordic Ski Club during the 2004 construction season. The projects are broken into maintenance projects and capital projects.

Who is submitting the request?

Stan Justice, President of University Trails Club
Rob Cremak, Secretary of University Trails Club
Jim Mery, President of the Nordic Ski Club
Phone - 479-5017
Email - ffsrj@uaf.edu

What is needed?

Approval to complete the projects.

Maintenance Requirements?

The projects will decrease maintenance requirements.

Who benefits from the Projects?

UAF students make considerable use of the trail systems and the improvements are focused on areas accessible to students. Staff, faculty and the Fairbanks community also use the trail system.

What review process have the projects gone through?

All of these projects with the exception of the Big Whizzy - Smith Lake Connector Trail were included in the document "Trail Projects for 2002 and 2003" submitted to the Chancellor on November 26, 2001. Before submitting the 2001 document the plan was circulated for comment via the trails listserve, discussed at Trails

Club meetings, and posted in the warming hut. The below list of projects was again circulated via the listserv and further discussed at Trails Club meetings. The list was also circulated to all members of the North Campus Planning Subcommittee of the Master Planning Committee and briefly discussed at their meetings on 1/14/2003 and 1/28/2003. The Big Whizzy-Smith Lake Connector Trail project was submitted on January 30, 2003.

Maintenance Projects

The below projects are routine trail maintenance. All work is within the existing clearing limits of the established trails.

1. Trail Flattening

With the exception of the Midnight Express and parts of the 6-Mile Trail, none of the trails have been flattened in many years. In their current rough condition, considerable snow is required before the trails can be groomed. Grooming removes snow from the high points and deposits it in the low areas. It is common for the groomer to expose bare ground at the high points. The rough trails are also hard on equipment and on the machine operator. The trail sections to be flattened in 2003 include:

- **Potato Field** - In 2003 the central trail was rerouted around the worst of the thermokarst features. There are still a few dips and bumps that need to be flattened.
- **Practice Area** - The wide powerline clearing from the back of the IARC parking lot to T-Field Road is used as a ski practice area and race start. There are many stumps that need to be removed to facilitate mowing and grooming. Eventually we want to develop a larger more functional stadium/practice area but with the potential for the warming hut being forced to move we only plan to remove the stumps at this time.
- **T-Field-Smith Lake Connector** - This connector trail is rough because the original construction left flush cut stumps. The project would remove the old stumps.
- **Ballaine Lake Ramps** - The trails leading down to Ballaine Lake from the North and South would be smoothed out.
- **Winter Walk to Smith Lake** - There are a few thermokarst bumps and dips that prevent this trail from being maintained by the snowmachine. If the walk to Smith Lake is not maintained people walk down the ski trail causing damage. The bumps would be pushed into the dips.

The soils in the proposed work areas are generally well drained. The work will be within the existing trail clearing limits. The stumps will be removed with a Secon Head on a Franklin carrier. This equipment chips the stumps much like a stump grinder. A small cat with a six-way blade will then be used to level the trails. The work will be done without making berms. Any grubbed materials will either be buried in low areas or back bladed to separate the roots from the soils. The roots will be removed by hand and the soil used in trail leveling. The trails will be built higher in the center or sloped to one side to facilitate drainage. If available, fill material will be used to build up the trails. If grass seed and fertilizer is provided by UAF, volunteers will spread it.

Estimated Cost - \$6000

Funding Source - Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks

Lead - Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks

2. **T-Field Road**

The 1999 TRAAK grant funded a project to install typar and gravel over the 300-foot wettest section of the T-Field Road. The next 300-foot section of road immediately N of the graveled section is always treacherous with slimy mud.

Estimated Cost - \$11,000

Funding Source - Unknown

Lead – UAF

3. **Additional Trail Name/Warning Signs -**

In the summer of 2001 name and warning signs were installed on many of the trails. A need for the following additional name/warning signs has been identified.

- **Skarland 6-Mile Trail (2)**
- **Caution (2)**
- **One way - Do Not Enter (2)**

- **Lights on at dusk - off at 9pm (3)**

Additional name and warning signs may be identified with a comprehensive survey of the existing signs. The signs would be the same style, color and size as the existing signs. They would be placed on eight foot long 4x4 pressure treated post buried 4 feet in the ground.

Estimated Cost - \$450

Funding Source - Remaining Jim Whisenant Lighting Grant

Lead - University Trails Club

4. 6-Mile Trail Chip Projects

Past work has installed typar and wood chips on the worst sections of the 6-Mile Trail. There are three sections that need additional work.

1. North of Museum - 200 feet of new chip trail
2. E of Dalton Trail - 200 feet of new chip trail
3. W of Dalton Trail - This is the first section of chip trail that was built 3 years ago. The chips are shavings from a log turning operation in Fox. The shavings have proven to be less durable than the Northland Wood unscreened chips that were used on subsequent trails. This project would add a layer of wood chips to this popular trail

5. Mowing and Brushing

As in 2003 all the trails need to be mowed before snowfall. No activity improves early season skiing like trail mowing. Use of the tracked Bobcat with heavy duty mower worked very well in 2003. Brush and small trees that lean towards the trails end up in the trail once they are loaded with snow. They need to be identified and removed.

Estimated Cost - \$3000

Funding Source - \$1500 University Trails Club as per 2002 agreement

\$1500 Facility Services

Lead - Facility Services

Capital Projects

1. Arboretum Classic Trails Safety Correction

The Arboretum portion of the Six-Mile Trail is the most rustic portion of the trail system. The trail is listed on the trail map as "ungroomed - use at your own risk" because the trail has one dangerous turn. This proposal would correct the safety problem while retaining the pristine nature of the area.

The problem is a sharp turn at the base of the hill where the connector trail to LARS leaves the Six-Mile Trail. The dangerous turn could also be fixed by removing 4 or 5 spruce trees at the sharp turn.

On the South side the trail branches into an E trail (the uphill trail) that cuts over to the T-field and a W trail that continues down the hill in a fun and popular descent. "Do Not Enter" Signs would be posted to keep people going the correct direction and Caution signs placed before the downhill.

Estimated Cost - \$200 (signs and posts)

Funding - University Trails Club

Lead Signs - University Trails Club

Lead Tree Removal - UAF Grounds Crew

2. Informational Signs

Name signs were installed in the summer of 2001. The original sign plan submitted in January 2001 included signs addressing common trail conflicts. Facility Services only implemented the name signs. This project would install the following signs.

1. Skiing Only - during ski season No walking, running, dogs, bicycles (30 signs)
2. Dog Must be on a Leash (10 signs)

The signs would be placed on eight foot long 4x4 pressure treated post buried 4 feet in the ground.

Cost estimate - \$2000 (signs and posts)

Funding - University Trails Club or Facility Services

Lead - University Trails Club

3. **Big Whizzy - Smith Lake Connector**

For safety concerns DOT posted Sheep Creek Road "NO PARKING", eliminating easy access to Smith Lake. There is parking further S near the Sheep Creek/Gold Hill intersection but the connecting trails from the parking to the lake are either steep or gravel strewn. This project would construct a 0.3 kilometer connector trail from the bottom of the Big Whizzy Trail over to Smith Lake. Much of the trail would follow old cleared lines from historic UAF activity. There is an existing trail but it is too narrow for skate skiing.

The terrain to be crossed is low and boggy. To minimize disturbance the trail would be cleared with a Secon Head on a Franklin carrier when the ground is frozen. The blade of the equipment would be set low to leave a smooth surface. Hand work would be employed to fill dips with material cut by the Secon Head.

Estimated Cost - \$2,500 (plus volunteer labor)

Funding - Nordic Ski Club

Lead - Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks

4. **Pooch Loop Additions**

The project list submitted in 2001 included a number of Pooch Loop additions. Next summer we want to bush out the old trail that runs from the west leg of the Pooch Loop and goes towards Dalton Trail. The trail is important because it provides a connection between the existing Pooch Loop and the existing multi-use trail along the North border of campus. This

trail would also provide a commuter trail for people coming to campus from the Dalton Trail area.

Estimated Cost – None

Funding – NA

Lead - University Trails Club