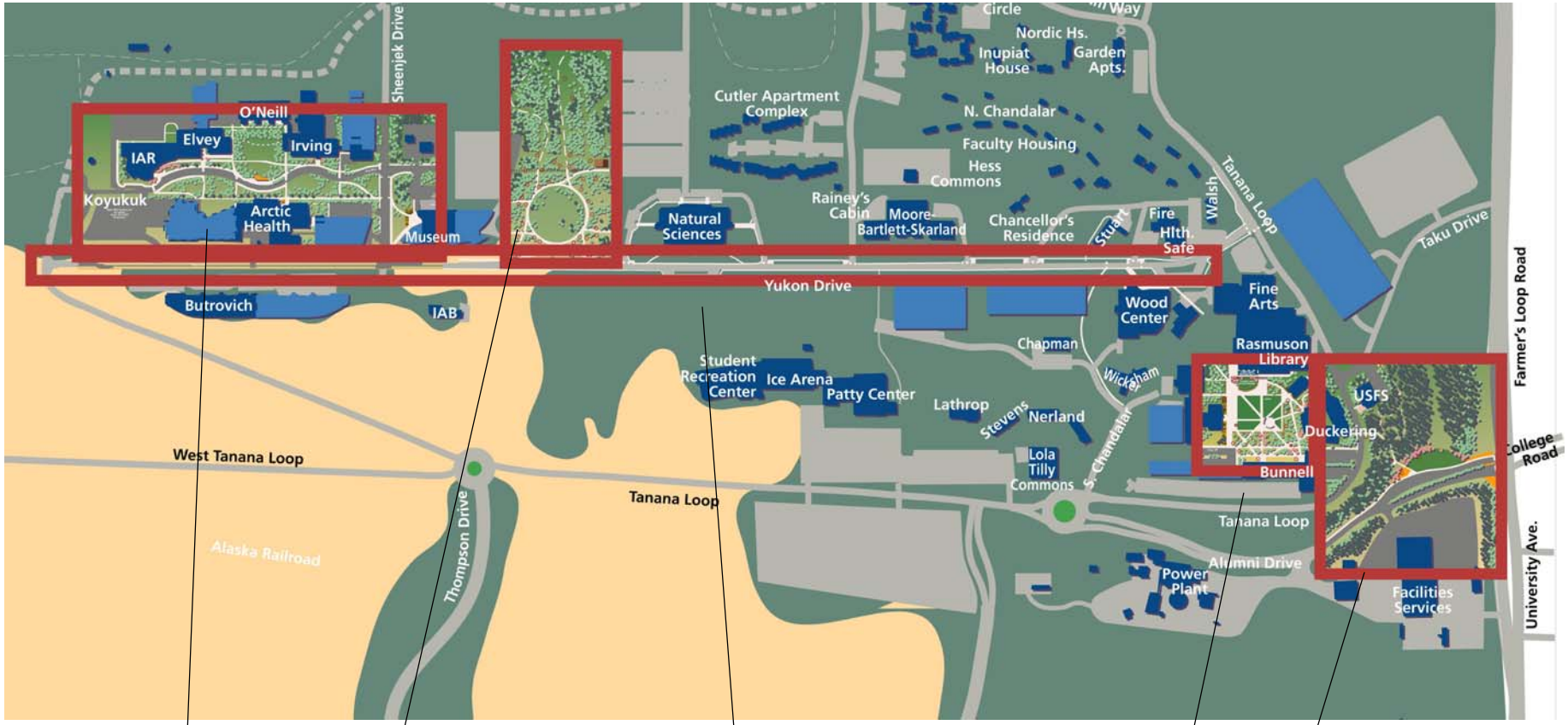
4. Special Area Schematic Plans

Five areas of the UAF campus have been studied to a greater level of detail. The following schematic plans are intended to define the design intent for each location. Typically, a team of landscape architects and engineers will develop construction documents from the schematic plans. Further consideration of landscape design for new special areas and all entrances will continue.



West Ridge Plaza | Museum/NSF Open Space | Yukon Drive | Cornerstone Plaza | Alumni Drive Entrance

A proposed concept for the library - greenhouse cafe includes a small informal seating area with walls and boulders stepping up to new planting south of the library terrace.

The plaza as viewed from the path to the Brooks Building. The lawn slopes down to the plaza, which can serve as a large stage. The walls and the lawn provide seating.

CORNERSTONE PLAZA

Located at the original site of the college, the quad remains an important place for both the university and greater Fairbanks communities. Cornerstone Plaza seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. Define an outdoor space that feels comfortable and inviting.
2. Provide a large open lawn for multiple uses. The rectangular form serves to unite the varied angles of the surrounding buildings.
3. Plant trees around the outer perimeter of the lawn to reduce the scale of the open space.
4. Locate picnic tables in both sunny and shady areas.
5. Provide a variety of locations for permanent and temporary artwork, including ice sculpture.
6. Relocate the Emily Ivanoff Brown Memorial Flame to an appropriate setting between the Brooks Building and the library.
7. Site lighting around the perimeter of the lawn.
8. Provide small spaces for seating. The sloped lawn south of the library will include seatwalls and boulders, special events on the lawn , and passing pedestrian traffic.
9. Identify a location for a greenhouse/coffee bar/reading area. The site south of the library is identified for a future structure since it maximizes afternoon and evening sun and provides the opportunity for enhancing the façade of the library.
10. Direct pedestrian paths to building entrances.
11. Frame the facades of historic Signers' Hall and the Brooks Building with trees, and enhance the newer buildings with a canopy of trees.
12. Locate flowering plants at building entrances.

13. Locate the cornerstone of the original Main Building as close as possible to its original site.

14. Relocate the statue of Bunnell with respect to its historic placement.

15. Remove the parking from the quad. Restrict vehicles of vendors. Provide a functional drop-off turnaround.

16. Make ADA parking available.

17. Maintain views to the Alaska Range.

18. Ensure access and egress for emergency vehicles.

Reconstruction of the Circle of Flags, 2003. UAF photo by Todd Paris.

Draft schematic plan for Cornerstone Plaza

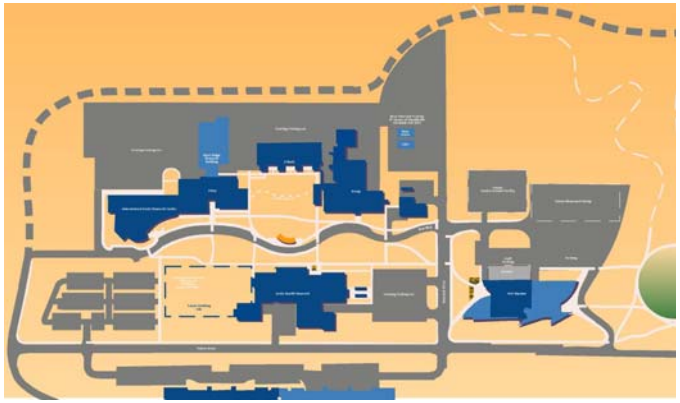


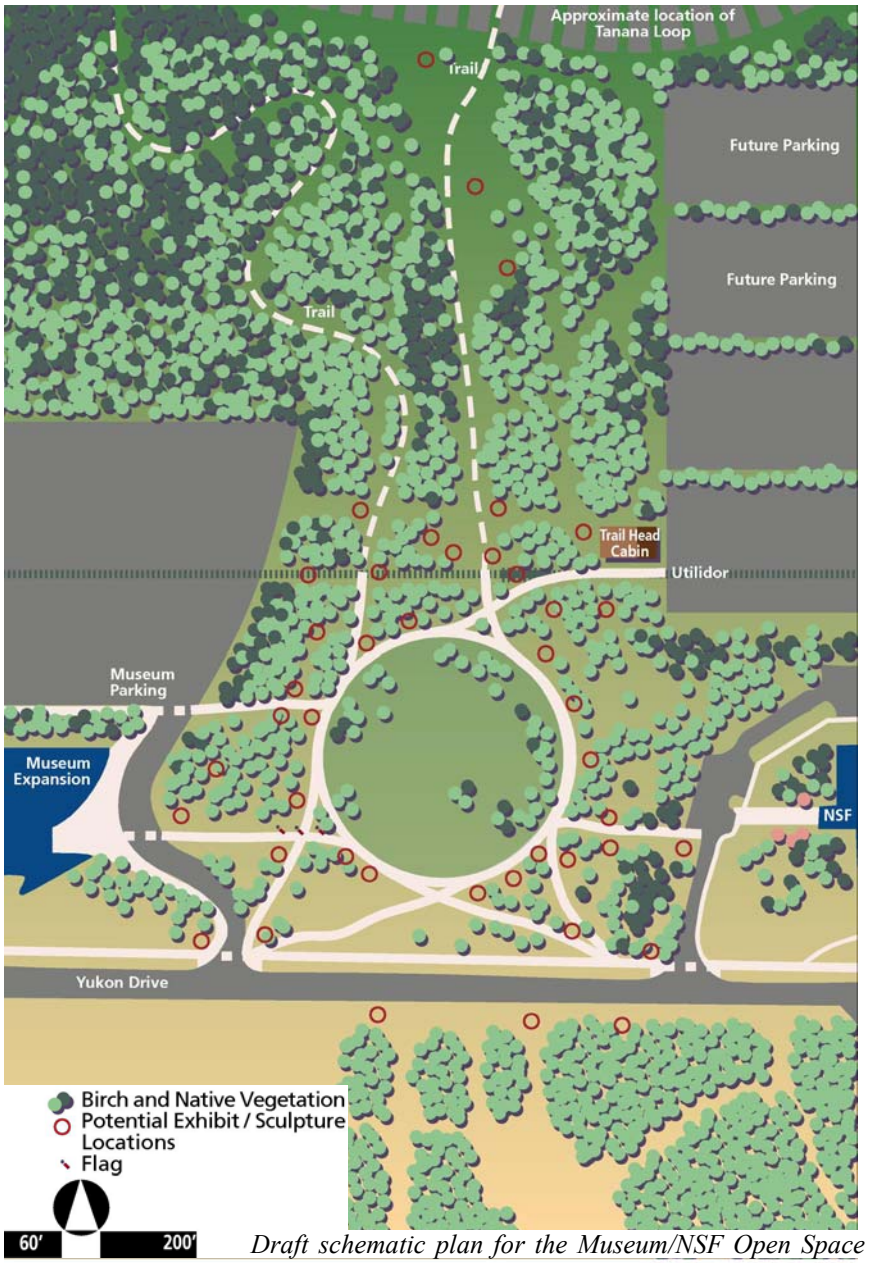
Diagram of the potential future alignment of the Tanana Loop and relocation of parking lots for the construction of Biological & Computational Science Facility.

WEST RIDGE PLAZA

The open space in the center of the buildings on the West Ridge has served as a parking lot for many years. With development of new buildings and expansion of various programs, the space becomes more important as a gathering place for people. Transit to and through the site remain critical. The schematic plan includes the following elements:

1. One-way roadway provides for service, private, and emergency vehicles and for the campus shuttle.
2. The roadway informally meanders through the narrow mall to get close to building entrances and to shape a variety of smaller spaces.
3. Drop-off areas are located along the roadway.
4. Pedestrian walks parallel the roadway and are directed to building entrances.
5. Coniferous trees are maintained.
6. A series of lawn areas are defined by trees.
7. A central structure serves as shelter for those waiting for the shuttle in the winter and as a pavilion in summer.
8. Picnic tables are sited under the trees and in the sun throughout West Ridge Plaza. Recreation areas (including a volleyball court) are located for active use outside the central gathering area.
9. A variety of locations for public art work are provided.
10. An amphitheater/gathering area in front of O'Neill Building makes use of the change in grade.

Draft schematic plan for West Ridge Plaza



Draft schematic plan for the Museum/NSF Open Space

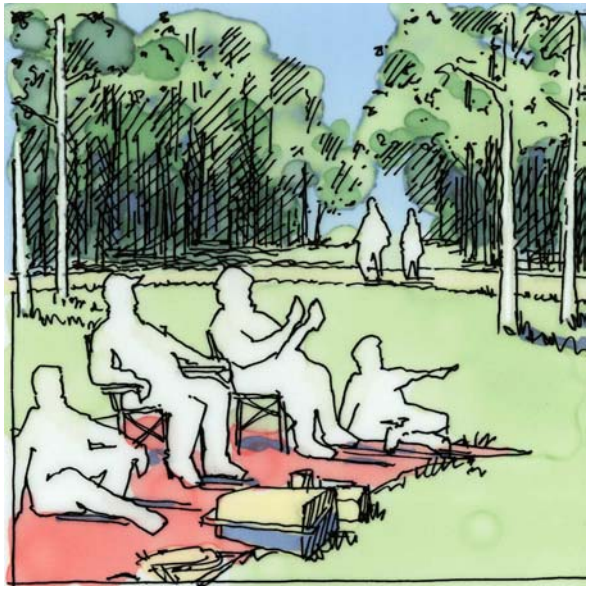
MUSEUM/NSF OPEN SPACE

This site is located between the UA Museum and the Natural Science Facility. Most recently, it was the site of the USGS buildings and observatory. It contains a number of mature birch and spruce trees in an open setting. Located at a high point on the campus, it provides spectacular views across Tanana Valley to the Alaska Range. Trails for skiing and walking lead through the trees north to connect to the campus trail network. The Utilidor crosses the site underground between the two parking lots.

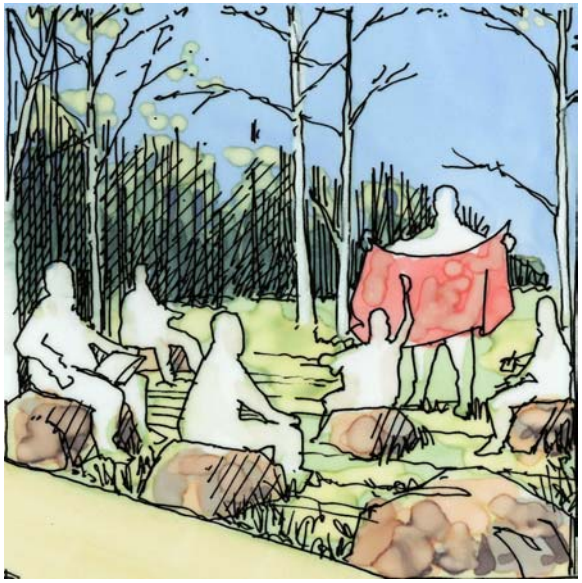
The Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Native Education (CACNE) recommended that this area, which was set aside as a protected space in the 2002 Campus Master Plan be maintained as open space dedicated to culturally relevant symbols representing Alaska's First nations: the Athabascans, Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian, Eyak, Inupiaq, Yupiaq/Cupiaq, Yupiget, Alutiiq, Sugpiaq, and Unangan/Unagus. The UAF Faculty Senate passed a resolution in March 2002 supporting this recommendation. The CACNE recommended that the name of this open space be Troth Yeddha' Park. This is the name that the Tanana Athabascans called the land now occupied by the University of Alaska Fairbanks. It refers to the wild potatoes (Hedysarum alpinum) that were collected on the site. It was an important meeting place above the Tanana valley.

The large circle illustrated in the schematic plan, described by a paved path, is intended to mark the common meeting place for Alaska's First Nations. Outside the circular path are locations for cultural symbols, artwork, interpretive displays, and exhibits of each Alaska Native group. Like a traditional basket, the center is to be filled with a host of activities open to the sky, while the perimeter is marked with cultural expression for the shared appreciation by all. Native trees and groundcover are the only elements within the circle. Paved paths lead to the circle from all corners, but do not cut through it. The circle is located south of the Utilidor. A path is sited above the Utilidor linking the parking areas. A ski hut is located near the parking lot for access by trail users of all abilities. The parking lots will be screened from view with native trees and shrubs. Lighting should be provided for safety but with the ability to turn it off for special events. Water and electrical outlets should be located throughout the site.

The care and superintendence of the artwork, interpretive displays, and exhibits should be coordinated to meet the UAF strategic plan goals, that include proactive pursuit of opportunities to incorporate indigenous cultures into higher education, to celebrate Alaska native cultural activities at UAF and to encourage and promote cross cultural understanding and learning opportunities.



The grass open space defined by the circle path can be used for large gatherings and performances.



Small gathering areas sited outside the circle would be available to campus classes and community groups.

Artwork and exhibits located outside the circle are provided a variety of settings for year round viewing.

ALUMNI DRIVE ENTRANCE

The campus entry at Alumni Drive should be designed with the following considerations:

1. Plant a mix of white spruce, aspen and Alaska birch to screen views of the Physical Plant. Avoid solid plantings of evergreens that will create a dark tunnel effect, block sunshine and inhibit snow melting on streets.

2. Maintain the understory planting of flowers in a geometric pattern that contrasts with the informal forest edge and large form of flowering trees.

3. Integrate the objectives of the Cooperative Extension Service plan for an interpretive trail and display including the following:

- ▼ *Pedestrian information area with recycled wood composite kiosk to define the educational nature trail*
- ▼ *Information area with kiosk to define common tree diseases and tree and forest habitat*
- ▼ *Gathering area to explain how the recycled wood composite is created and how it is used in the applications of engineering and construction*
- ▼ *Educational nature trail*

4. Define the open field with a form of flowering trees

5. Provide for the siting of public artwork.

6. Provide picnic tables and waste receptacles.

Birch and Native Vegetation
Exotic Species
Summer Color
Potential Exhibit/Sculpture Locations

60' 200'

Draft schematic plan for the Alumni Drive entrance

YUKON DRIVE

Yukon Drive is the major east-west connection across campus, linking Lower Campus and West Ridge. With the completion of Tanana Loop, it is anticipated that Yukon Drive will become a pedestrian way, with access limited to shuttle buses and emergency and maintenance vehicles only. As such, it is envisioned as a straight line moving through a sequence of irregular spaces formed by the topography, trees, and groundcover, with views to surrounding buildings, gathering areas, and the distant Alaska Range, and marked by a consistent rhythm of elements along its length. The schematic design includes the following:

1. Until Tanana Loop is fully operational and Yukon Drive is approved as a pedestrian way, crosswalks should be marked on the pavement at vehicular crossings.

2. The sidewalk on the north side of Yukon is 10 feet wide and 12 feet from the curb to align with the segment at Stuart.

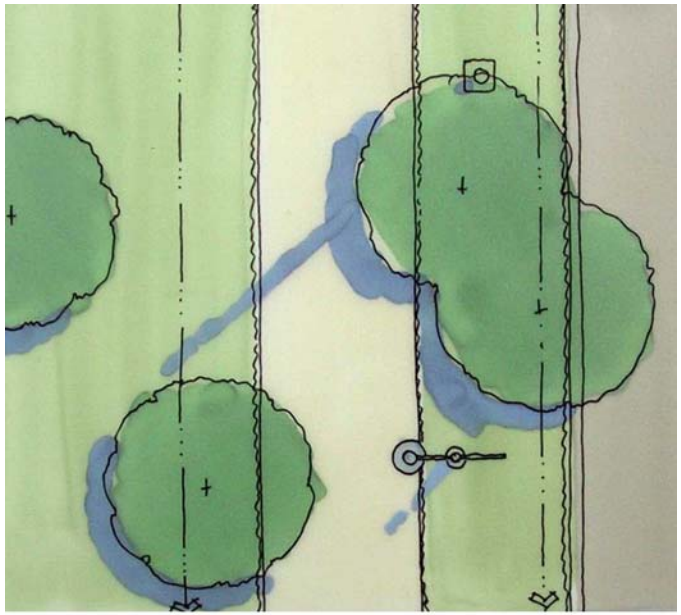
3. Larger paved areas are designed at the intersections of streets, sidewalks, and shuttle stops to assist access to the street. These nodes should include seating and a trash receptacle.

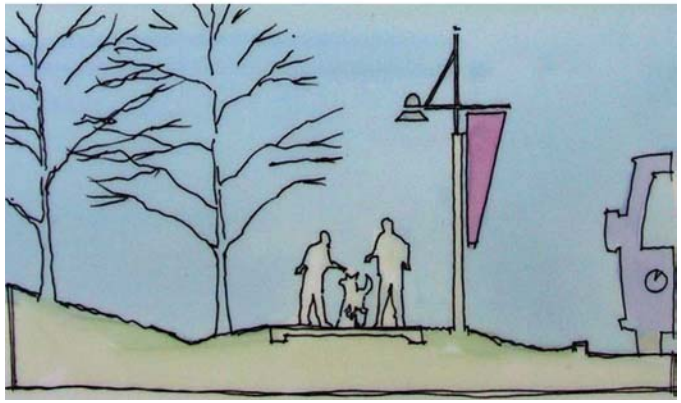
4. Planting on the south side of Yukon Drive should be native materials. Planting on the north side of Yukon may include exotic species. Roadside trees must be deciduous to not conflict with lighting and snow melting from sunshine. Trees should be planted in clusters. Each tree planting requires a 10 foot minimum diameter of rooting space and a minimum of 2 foot depth of good topsoil.

5. The whole alignment should be designed with full knowledge of topography, storm water drainage, utilities, and vehicular access requirements. For example the parking lots associated with Fire and Health Safety facilities may be refined to enhance pedestrian passage and vehicular access.

6. Areas associated with the drainage at street intersections and sidewalks should be regraded to redirect stormwater runoff into planting areas away from pedestrian areas.

7. Street lights may remain in their current locations. All lighting on Yukon Drive should be of a consistent color.





8. Pedestrian scale light poles serve as the constant thread linking the span of Yukon Drive from the future parking structure at the east terminus to the western link of the future Tanana Loop. Light poles must match, be carefully aligned and equally spaced between the new sidewalk and curb.