



**Girdwood Trails Plan
Report Workshop #2
September 17th, 2020 – 5:00 – 8:00pm**

Attendance

Holly Spoth-Torres (GTP Contractor), Taylor Smith (Huddle AK), Carolyn Brodin, Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian, Deb Essex, Eileen Halverson, Kyle Kelley (MOA), Nick Georgelos, Paul Crews

Subcommittee members not present when the meeting was called to order: Ron Tenny, Jonathan Lee, Brian Burnett, Craig Schubert

Guests: Mike Edgington, David Hamre

R. Tenny (Chair) is missing
HST asked if K. Kelley had anything to add before beginning
HST asked for a motion to approve this meeting's agenda
N. Georgelos made a motion to approve this meeting's agenda
D. Essex seconded
The motion passed

K. Kelley noted that C. Brodin is a co-chair and can stand in for R. Tenny
C. Brodin asked if there were any questions or comments on the agenda as presented
E. Halverson asked for the agenda to be displayed
The group worked through E. Halverson's tech challenges

C. Brodin asked if there were any objections to the agenda
Hearing none the group moved forward

D. Hamre asked to make a Public Comment before the groups moves onto the Values Exercise.
He shared a comment regarding Stumpy Faulkner and new signage at the park. He requested that this piece of Girdwood's history not be forgotten during this trail planning process.

Values Exercise

HST reviewed the exercise and the technology being used this evening

S. Rowton joined the meeting.

HST reviewed a shared definition of values to guide the conversation. The goal of the exercise is to articulate what the subcommittee values about Girdwood Trails and if that is reflected and resonant with the community.

The discussion of the subcommittee is captured in the following minutes and the graphic that the subcommittee developed using this exercise is included in the appendix.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian shared the following values to the chat:

I value...

- 1: living in a community where there is something for everyone near our doorsteps in terms of trails and natural spaces. (AKA: I value our community's various values and needs being equitably respected and met.)
- 2: there being, and spending time in, wild/natural spaces and primitive trails in and around Girdwood.
- 3: having opportunities to de-stress and re-charge in the Girdwood outdoors by finding peace, quiet, and undisturbed natural beauty.
- 4: the Girdwood valley's unique, diverse, beautiful natural character and intact functioning ecosystem existing for current and future generations.
- 5: having opportunities for adventure, discovery, inspiration, and subsistence in the outdoors in and around Girdwood.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian summarized his comment to the chat verbally with 'Trails and Natural Spaces out your doorstep' and 'Existence of trails and natural spaces'.

J. Raymond-Yakoubian shared the following to the chat:

I think it is important for the subcommittee to have a common understanding of what 'values' are. For me, values are fundamental, non-negotiable beliefs or principals about things that are important and that guide actions. Values are things we identify that we want to achieve and want to maintain. Values determine our community's character and guide our vision for action.

P. Crews shared that he values a trail system which blends in and becomes part of the environment and is built for the long-term future. He further clarified that this means doing it right the first time.

N. Georgelos shared connectivity and progressive trails. The trails plan should be looking towards the future regarding trail users and planning for accommodating them now.

P. Crews shared intimacy with nature

D. Essex shared proximity as well as inclusivity—trails and experiences for all users. She reiterated connectivity and added well-designed so as not to create excess maintenance.

E. Halverson added that she values access without a car. She appreciates and values solitude, quiet, wildlife and minimal signs of humans (bridges, signs, etc.). Girdwood trails create a feeling of wilderness and truly being in a natural space that she values.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian shared that he values the opportunity to destress in the quiet and natural beauty. He noted that his previous comments were about natural spaces as well as trails and added that he values the legacy of Girdwood, a sense of discovery and inspiration.

J. Raymond-Yakoubian shared the following in the chat: I value the ability to find solitude, quiet, and contemplative spaces in Girdwood's natural environment. I value being able to encounter wildlife and diverse plant life in our forests. I value the existing forested-nature and feel of our community. I value the challenge of primitive trails and discovery associated with exploring trail-free (or few trail) spaces

E. Halverson shared that she values the ability to get outside, move her body, and climb up in the mountains. She differentiated between recharge and the values that she had previously shared. Her

shared values were more focused on the quiet and an opportunity to notice small details. She clarified that what she is adding has a more contemplative quality, reconnecting more so than recharging.

K. Kelley shared that he values the ability to learn in nature as a classroom and the opportunity to exercise outdoors.

N. Georgelos noted that he values the ability to go uphill and into the mountains as E. Halverson shared, but he also loves the adrenaline of coming downhill.

P. Crews added variety of trails.

J. Raymond-Yakoubian asked if members of the public were permitted to comment at this time.

HST shared that the discussion will open to the public after subcommittee members share a few more values.

D. Essex added adventure and the ability to share Girdwood with others (in and out of Alaska) via the trail system. She also included the economic impact of trails in Girdwood.

E. Halverson asked a clarifying question about variety vs. diversity and if someone who shared that would be willing to explain the difference. She requested additional conversation on connectivity. Trails may be connected, but if the use is not consistent among connections, that seems like a problem.

HST inquired if it is the diversity of experiences or the diversity of trail type and noted that we'll come back to this conversation.

J. Raymond-Yakoubian shared the following to the chat: I value the challenge of wayfinding in trail-free spaces. I value being able to do all the above things/find all the above things in the natural environment, in close physical and time proximity to my home, without using a car. I value a gender, race, and ability inclusive natural environment.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian added that he values that there is something for everyone. He also values that Girdwood has a functioning ecosystem.

C. Brodin wanted to note the value of diversity. She feels all trail users should have a place in the valley to recreate. Diversity allows people the opportunity to recreate in the ways that they choose. Something for everyone can exist in Girdwood.

D. Essex values preservation and appreciates green corridors throughout the valley. She adds that preservation means trails are not created everywhere.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian added that Girdwood feels like wilderness and he appreciates that.

E. Halverson appreciates the feeling that you are exploring and opportunity for discovery. There is a mystery that you can discover for yourself.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian values subsistence and being able to forage in and around Girdwood.

HST opened the exercise and conversation up to comments from community members.

M. Edgington likes all the ideas that have been shared and wants to reiterate mystery and the sense of discovery. He added that trails provide access to other areas, like the alpine environment, in Girdwood and that is a characteristic he appreciates.

J. Raymond-Yakoubian talked through the ideas that she shared in the chat so HST could add them to the visual.

D. Essex added social connection, especially during a year such as this with the resort shut down. The trails are often how Girdwood's residents see each other. The trail system is important to physical and mental health.

E. Halverson seconded access to the alpine environment as M. Edgington shared. She values having access to mountains as well.

P. Crews agrees that going uphill and into the mountains is wonderful, but he also appreciates easy trails with less elevation gain and easier hikes. These experiences allow you to enjoy nature and the scenery.

J. Raymond-Yakoubian added that she values younger people and future generations being able to access what exists now in the future.

HST asked if the word stewardship resonated with the group.

C. Brodin feels that stewardship is very important to her. Preservation also came to mind. Certain places in the valley have not changed since she was 4 years old. She values many generations having the same experience as well as easy access to wilderness for younger trail users who cannot travel far.

D. Essex feels that safety and safe access, for both trails and natural spaces, should be added. Many youth in the community are exploring natural spaces.

J. Raymond-Yakoubian shared the following to the chat: maintaining proximity/walkability to 'wildness' is important to me, too

B. Raymond-Yakoubian added identity. There are not many communities that have wilderness this close, but it is a big piece of Girdwood's identity.

HST asked the group to begin organizing the values that have been shared into categories.

E. Halverson sees diversity and variety as two different things. She elaborated by sharing that whether you want to go for a walk or ride a bike is diversity. Biking on a paved path or single track is variety. Diversity is among uses and variety is within a specific use.

Jessica Szelag joined the meeting.

The group continued to work together to organize the values shared into groups.

J. Raymond-Yakoubian added practical transportation.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian added trails and natural spaces are our economy.

HST asked the group to begin developing titles for the topics.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian suggested the following categories into the chat: Access, Sustainability, Well-Being, Experiential, Identity, Diversity and Inclusiveness, Education, Environmental

See attached graphic for additional details.

HST asked if there were any further comments and how the group feels before moving forward.

E. Halverson wants to dive into cultural history and future vision to see if we can find alternative words or a category where they might fit better.

J. Raymond-Yakoubian shared the following to the chat: trails and natural spaces - a vision for what we want our community to look like. it does not necessitate 'development', it does not prevent it either.

The group continued to discuss the nuances between future vision, stewardship, and sustainability.

HST opened it up for final comments and feedback.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian shared that he was pleased the activity was a prequel to putting things on the map.

J. Raymond-Yakoubian feels this was an important discussion to have early in this process. She notes that being able to articulate values is one thing, but what do values look like and how do we achieve or implement them on maps or in narrative forms.

K. Kelley thinks this went well and he appreciates the group participating.

J. Szelag was very pleased to see the values listed. She feels that the group did a great job and appreciates seeing her values reflected.

M. Edgington appreciated this exercise as well as the process utilized.

The subcommittee took a 5-minute break and resumed at 6:45pm

HST did roll call before moving onto the Mapping Exercise portion of the Report Workshop.

Mapping Exercise

The following responses were shared orally or in the chat. Additional information is captured within the appendix in the maps, graphics, and notes that subcommittee members submitted prior to the work session.

HST gave an overview of the exercise and reiterated that this is not final by any means. The values, vision, and goals developed will be shared with the community during public meetings. Today's conversation is about trails as they are now, existing conditions, trails for the future, and everyone's ideas. This is the beginning of a conversation.

P. Crews began by sharing his tracks and thoughts on the exercise. His focus is on two tracks along Glacier Creek Canyon Rim. He feels the group should define wild and natural spaces soon within this process. What does that mean to everyone? How do they want to use those spaces and where should they be? P. Crews sees an opportunity for a natural space beginning in the 4-corners area and extending up the valley. He wonders if there is another area in the valley that people are interested in designating a natural space? Paul annotated the Last Meadow, Secret Meadow, and Perpetual Meadow. His purple

track is a trail he has been skiing for many years. There are many trees and the terrain is not level. Paul feels it could be a good ski trail with little development.

E. Halverson highly disagrees.

P. Crews would like to have a discussion on how trails are built for winter vs. summer. There is a lot of access possible on skis during the winter without disturbing vegetation. An intermediate skier could get into a bad situation if they get off the purple track in this terrain, so establishing a route is necessary.

HST asked if this route is winter or summer?

P. Crews shared that he has found both winter and summer alignments (*see appendix*). The northern end aligns with an existing trail that somebody brushed (Old Stumpy's Winter Trail).

HST asks how the group would like this plan to address the difference between summer and winter trails? Girdwood's trail system is completely different from one season to the next. Using winter trails during the summer can devastate the environment.

D. Essex feels they are absolutely two different maps, predominantly for safety.

C. Brodin shared that the GTC made two different maps because it was the only way to make it clear to people. She believes a winter route through Paul's Canyon Rim would be used in the summer. You can walk the meadows in the summer but not well and not without damage to the environment.

J. Raymond-Yakoubian shared the following to the chat: I value access to ungroomed trails in the winter. Particularly (but not only) in the area being discussed and unmarked, in winter - because of the challenge of wayfinding.

HST asked P. Crews to share why this track is needed in the context of the values the group just discussed.

P. Crews feels it is an outdoor experience that more people should have. There would be minimal development required to allow people access to this space during the winter. A summer trail through there would be parallel but is not quite the same track. The summer trail follows the bluff and allows view overlooking Glacier Creek. (*See red and purple tracks in the appendix*)

B. Raymond-Yakoubian chatted that Stumpy's Summer Trail follows the ridge.

P. Crews outlined what he feels would be a nice natural/wild space in the meadows area.

M. Edgington shared that as an intermediate skier he agrees that the potential for adventure exists in that area. Winter and summer routes need to be very clearly differentiated for safety.

C. Brodin responds to Paul's comment about access. Stumpy's Summer and Winter Trail exist as well as the meadow trails. Paul's alignment would allow you to ski between the meadows and the river. There's already great skiing in the meadows for beginners. She feels preserving the space means no trail development.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian thinks the trail along the ridge is a continuation of Stumpy's Summer Trail. There is a trail between the meadows and the bluff edge.

E. Halverson feels that having a trail right alongside a natural space creates a significant impact. Being able to see people from one trail detracts from a wilderness experience, especially if the trail is groomed. Different people have different ideas of what constitutes natural spaces and wilderness. It will need to be discussed among the subcommittee.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian thinks this the subcommittee is going to have a lot of ideas regarding this geographic area. It is going to be something the community argues about in a positive way.

N. Georgelos begins reviewing the ideas he submitted in his wish list for the MTB Alliance. He outlines the Girdwood Bike Park, Cat Area Bike Park, Iditarod Trails Extension to Crow Pass, and the Airport Connection. He feels a connection from Iditarod Trail across Glacier Creek that ties into Stumpy's would connect the community together and bridge the upper and lower valley. The Iditarod to Crow Pass extension may be outside the scope of this plan, but it is in the valley, so he wanted to mention it. The Hand Tram should be addressed as well as it is not able to meet current demand. Narrow Gauge Trail Grooming is also on his wish list.

HST asked N. Georgelos to justify his ideas in relation to the values.

The Airport is a connectivity/access issue that everyone has dealt with. It would allow people in the lower valley to connect to the trail system from their front door and have access the upper valley. The bike specific ideas fall under the 'future vision' value. He is representing a large part of the community that does not attend these meetings and desires these trails in the valley. Bike-specific trails would create an experience that many desire and draws them off overcrowded trails to yield a better user experience for hikers on those trails.

N. Georgelos notes that if you were hiking the Iditarod Trail from Seward, there's not really an alignment that gets you out of the valley. The trail is under Forest Service management and not part of this plan's scope, but it should be noted.

E. Halverson asked where the Iditarod Trail enters Girdwood?

N. Georgelos clarified that the entrance has been built in Berry Pass. The portion of the Iditarod Trail that runs along the valley floor are spurs off the main trail alignment.

C. Brodin noted that the Iditarod Trail is brushed out for the first mile and then follows Crow Creek Rd.. As of now that's the best alignment that GTC could develop. There are many branches/spurs off the Iditarod Trail.

HST asked if there were any ideas or comments on N. Georgelos' ideas before moving on.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian begins to summarize the ideas he submitted and wants to speak to P. Crews question about defining natural spaces – he uses the following definition “used to describe lands for which it is desired that they remain entirely or predominantly in their ‘natural’ state. This term encompasses other terms such as ‘open spaces’ and ‘wild spaces’”

Concepts A and B are part of a system of natural spaces that are in and around Girdwood. Virgin Creek has been a wild primitive area with a lot of wetlands and primitive trails through the forest. He proposes a Virgin Creek Natural Area similar to the Eagle River Nature Center but Girdwood style –

more primitive and wild; also suggesting yurts for things like education, boardwalks could be included in the future if necessary.

Concept C is scattered throughout the valley to denote that as Girdwood develops outwards, development would be accompanied by designation of protected natural spaces.

E is outside the scope of this plan, but he believes a tidal flats boardwalk would be really neat to have.

Concept D will probably surprise a lot of people, but he would like to have a trail around the perimeter of Girdwood (halfway up the mountain) that would create access around the entire valley.

HST asked B. Raymond-Yakoubian how the ideas he has just presented relate to the values shared tonight, specifically the large loop and the cemetery trail.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian shares that the long trail proposal could serve as a backbone to allow for further trail and natural spaces development off of it in the future.

J. Raymond-Yakoubian added to the chat: cemetery trail - nice for solitude, contemplation, meditation, cloud watching.

P. Crews asked how concept A that B. Raymond-Yakoubian shared would tie into the road proposed as part of GAP. He believes a road through that area would significantly alter the trail system. If a second access road is needed, could it be a bike path or multi-use trail that with gates that could be open to motorized access if the bridge fell or another emergency occurred?

B. Raymond-Yakoubian feels that a road through that area is unlikely given the existence of wetlands.

HST shared the draft transportation goal from the current GAP and how the GAP is planning to address this transportation/emergency gap.

K. Kelley shared that he has been through many of these discussions. Crossing through wetlands and railroad property is an enormous feat. There are a lot of communities that have one road in and one road out (i.e. Homer, Talkeetna). K. Kelley asked B. Raymond-Yakoubian for his thoughts on maintenance for the trails within concept A, Wagon Trail for example.

B. Raymond-Yakoubian responded that Paul is correct, a road through that area would seriously change (and to my mind degrade) the qualities of that area. As far as maintenance for trails within A he envisions sticking to primitive or 'primitive plus' (class 1-2) and minimal signage to strike a balance between identity and wayfinding. Minimalistic maintenance is part of the ideal goal.

N. Georgelos shared that the airport connection he mentioned earlier with a bridge across the creek could serve the same purpose as the road that is being discussed. A road does not necessarily need to go all the way to the highway. This bridge could have a non-motorized and motorized component in case of emergency.

S. Rowton shared that she must approach anything in the wetlands very different. The state has taken a 6:1 ratio and anything that goes through the wetland will require USDOT funding to accomplish.

C. Brodin discusses the ideas that she has developed. Stumpy's Summer and Winter Trail is the area she is focusing on. This area has always been very special to her. She would like to see the area she shaded on her map preserved the way that it is now. She is not opposed to P. Crews proposal of a very primitive

trail in that area but fears it may become heavily trafficked over time. She deeply values the experience of being out on the meadows on a winter day with no tracks. She would like to see a connection between Wagon Trail and Lower Joe Danich Trail to create a loop. A loop that does not involve the railroad would be ideal.

HST asked C. Brodin to relate the concepts back to the values we talked about today.

C. Brodin captured the experiential component of being out on the meadows and cites that as reason to preserve the shaded area she shared. She touches on summer use regarding Stumpy's and where a new alignment might go. She fears what may happen many years down the road. A small primitive trail is one thing, but trails grow, and the primitive experience can disappear.

E. Halverson begins to share the ideas she has submitted. She used yellow lines for course corrections and missing pieces. She also feels that the meadow area should be protected as a natural space. The existing primitive trails should stay, but she would not like to see maintenance. When trees fall, the trail can go around them. This will preserve the wilderness experience. She values an area where you can challenge yourself. Through time and experience you learn to handle different challenges and that is what she values about that area. She disagrees with P. Crews trail suggestion and feels there are enough easy trails in Moose Meadows and other groomed areas. This zone should be preserved for experiencing wayfinding and exploration.

E. Halverson feels the group should be proactive when it comes to multi-use trails and the new motorized uses that are happening like one wheels and electric bikes, there will likely be some conflict soon. Trails will need to be designated for different users. She asks the subcommittee how they should address social trails? Would neighbors want other community members parking in front of their homes? She asks about putting unauthorized trails on the map and if it encourages people to continue illegal trail building?

E. Halverson inquires why certain trails are shown and why some are not? Is it based on ownership?

HST responded that this plan will not have authority over non-MUNI trails. If the group can reach consensus then we can communicate that to neighboring landowners and establish connections where possible.

The group discusses social trails and how they fit into this plan and the larger context of the Girdwood trail system.

S. Rowton would like to see data that shows all the social trails, but it is difficult to find.

N. Georgelos noted that most of the trails in the valley began as social trails and people taking routes that made sense and fit in the valley.

D. Essex began to share her ideas from the mapping exercise. She notes that there is a lot of concern about impacting Stumpy's, especially with an unauthorized trailhead. Once you put something on a map, people will use it. To keep the zone north of the airport from being convoluted with trails, she suggests a hard surface winter trail through the meadows up to the Cat Track and then back to the Nordic lot. This alignment would give people with dogs a chance to recreate and would keep a big buffer away from Stumpy's. It would offer the connectivity of a loop with two safe trailheads in Arlberg and the church parking lot. This alignment also creates an opportunity to connect with the Nordic loop and the

Cat Track. She agrees with N. Georgelos about a connection across Glacier Creek north of the airport and that this is a 'missing link' of the trail system.

There are two areas at the end of residential streets that people use as trailheads—Virgin Creek and Danich. She suggests creating a loop between the two to avoid the wetland areas while bringing people away from the houses with access from another trail. Could be a class 2 or so. (See appendix annotated route)

B. Raymond-Yakoubian notes there are already some great primitive trails in the Virgin Creek area near the end of Virgin Creek Road.

E. Halverson shared to the chat: also some very used "strava hot" social trails, on Virgin Creek, for instance, that we are now having to spend money to remediate

HST asked for final comments before closing the meeting and shared next steps. HST and K. Kelley will be in touch with next steps after they are able to discuss.

C. Brodin made a motion to adjourn.

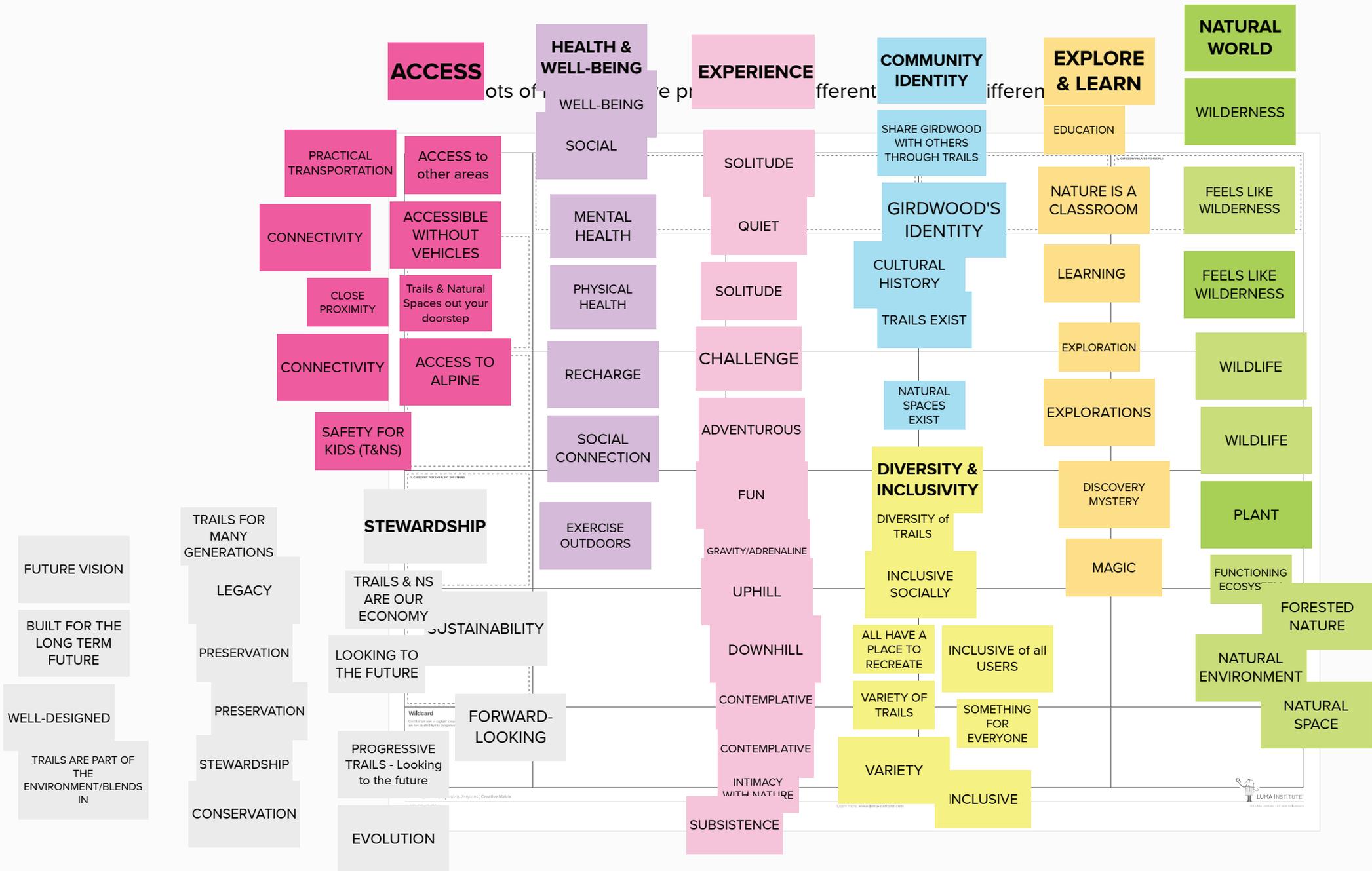
The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11pm

DRAFT

GTP Values (draft)

Completed as an exercise during the 9/17 2020 workshop



BR-Y Map Packet for 17-Sept-2020 GTP Worksession

Narrative Addendum (two maps also attached below the text)

- See attached “Map 1”; NOTE: letters indicated on map are discussed in text below
- **IMPORTANT:** I’m not sure that it was clear in the instructions to Subcommittee members to think about values and spatial ideas regarding natural spaces. E.g. drawing lines on the map regarding natural spaces to designate. If Subcommittee members didn’t realize this, they should definitely do it for upcoming meetings before we synthesize our information to present to the public.
- Some trails and natural spaces spatial ideas:
 1. I would like to see a system of natural spaces in, near, and around Girdwood
 - “In and near Girdwood”:
 - **Item A:** Virgin Creek Natural Area idea
 - Propose this become a primitive trail, ungroomed, non-mechanized, designated natural area
 - Perhaps this could be conceived of as a Nature Center, like Eagle River (Center and surrounding lands) but in our own ‘Girdwood way’ - specifically, more wild and primitive
 - Spatial outline: All the areas around upper Timberline and its small side-roads from there as far to the ocean as possible
 - From Timberline to Glacier Creek
 - From Cabana-land to Turnagain Arm and to up (at least in part) Max’s & Orca (So, could also include the series of Falls and all of Virgin Creek itself)
 - Could incorporate one or two small structures e.g. yurts for nature center events, education, etc.
 - Trails
 - Class 1 and 2 only (i.e. primitive, and primitive-plus)
 - No new trails, at least for now (in future could perhaps be boardwalk trails over meadows if determined to be necessary and good for protecting the environment)
 - Minimalistic trail marking
 - Non-mechanized use
 - **Item B:** Forest, Ridge, and Meadows around Stumpy’s Trails
 - Propose this remain a primitive trail, ungroomed, non-mechanized experience
 - **Item C:** “Around Girdwood”:
 - Would like to see as much of the backcountry preserved as possible as natural space
 - With every expansion into the backcountry (e.g. for trails), would like to see it accompanied by designating some natural space as well (even, e.g., with a trail running up to it)
 - 2. **Item D:** New trail development idea: A perimeter circum-valley long trail (including and predominantly up in the mountains, e.g. halfway up). This would be an interesting idea that could also serve as a backbone for other trail and natural spaces work in the valley.
 - 3. **Item E:** Tidal Flats boardwalk trail
 - 4. **Item F:** Very much like the ideas I’ve seen re the future-cemetery trail
 - 5. **Applicable Throughout:** I would like to see ‘System’-defining activities
 - Would like to see Girdwood’s residents and different groups come together to create and ‘market’ our trails and natural spaces system

- Would be good to have a nice signage and map system where everything is laid out. This can also include within it areas that are minimally-signed as well.
 - Has there ever been a 'Girdwood app'? Perhaps this could also be developed with the Area/Comprehensive Plan team to tie in trails and natural spaces system/signage/maps along with other stuff around Girdwood.
6. **Various places:** I would like to see the community work together on various trail remediation projects. For example:
- Virgin Creek Falls area issue 1: The Falls trail itself needs work to curtail and remediate the sprawl of impacts in the wet areas, while ensuring the trail experience itself remains as close to a 'wild' experience as possible.
 - Virgin Creek Falls area issue 2: There is a bunch of trail sprawl going up the mountain as well. These are small primitive trails but they often go 'nowhere' and appear to be a result of people just fanning out all over the place. Would be nice to cut back on the impacts of that.
 - Abe's Trail: Would be nice to see remediation of the impacts of illegal trail building on this Trail.
 - 5K Nordic Loop: Would like to see community work together with HLB and GNSC on 5K remediation (revegetation with trees, fixing viewshed issue, etc.)
7. **Applicable Throughout:** Trail and Natural Space Principles
- Girdwood creates a diverse, beautiful, interconnected system of trails and natural spaces
 - All user groups have their needs served in, near, and around the community
 - Important: natural space users should not be shunted to far outside the community or just the wetlands. There should be natural space areas in/near the community i.e. in walkable distance.
 - A diverse system includes natural spaces which have no, ephemeral, or primitive only trails
 - A diverse trail system runs the gamut from areas with no trails, ephemeral trails, primitive trails, all the way up through various kinds of built trails e.g. mountain bike trails, ski trails, multi-use trails, etc.
 - All our trails should be beautiful
 - We should avoid trail density problems, e.g. adopt a principle of not seeing one trail from another
 - We must consider cumulative impacts from trail building (which includes, among other things, density, impacts to viewsheds and soundscapes, impacts on wildlife and habitat, etc.)
 - We must be mindful of protecting the ecosystem and ecosystem services (incl. habitat)
 - Trail development should be climate-responsible and climate-resilient
 - We should promote community walkability through trails e.g. trails as part of the transportation network
 - Conservation and preservation are forms of development
 - We should avoid trail build problems, e.g. by adopting principles such as these:
 - Ensure trails do not negatively impact the character of the areas they go through nor the experiences on nearby trails
 - All trails should be properly built and overseen
 - All trails should be built as environmentally-friendly and low-impact as possible (e.g. using natural materials, minimal width, minimizing tree cutting, etc.)

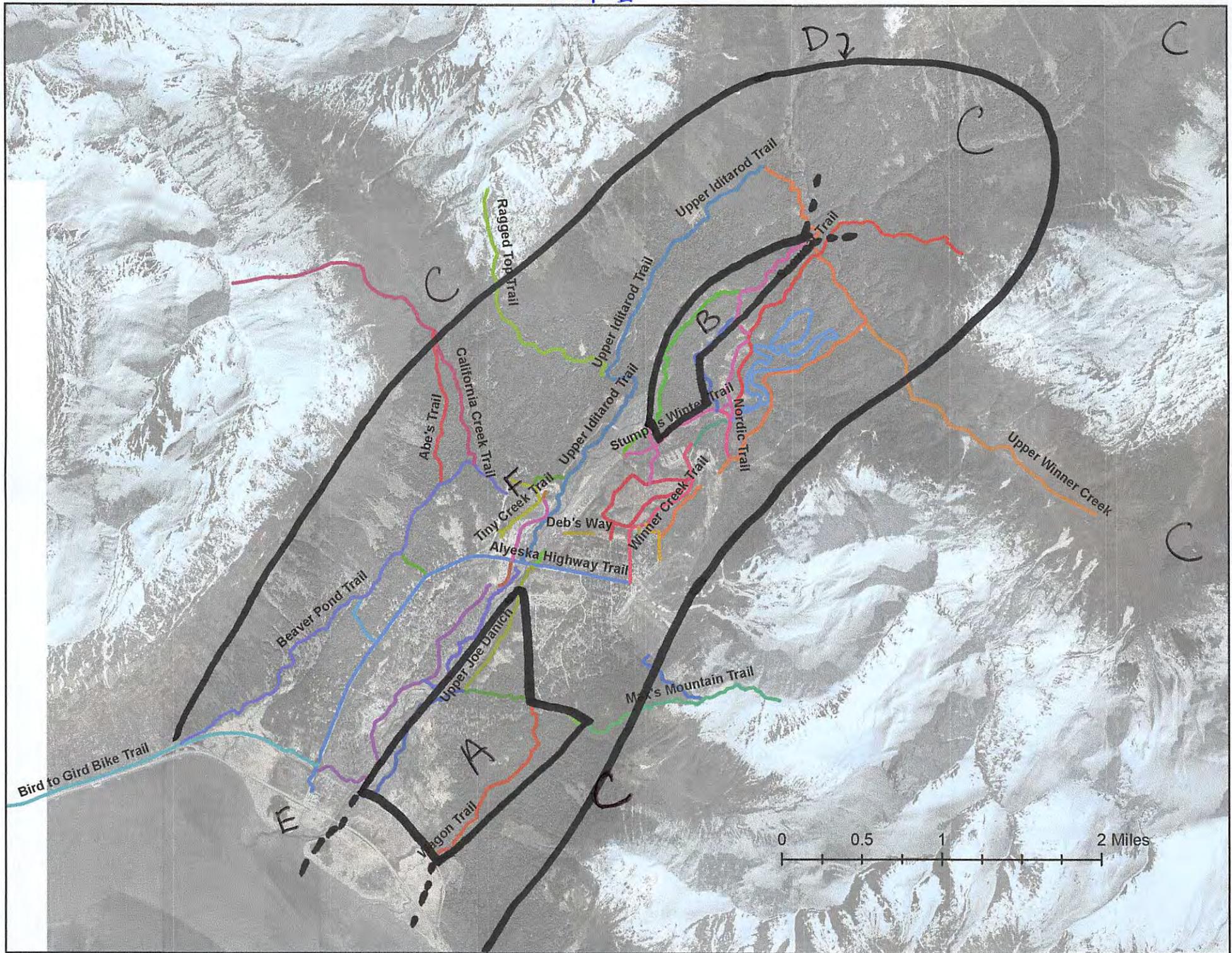
Miscellaneous Notes

- Definition of 'natural spaces'
 - This is the definition I've proposed and I think we are using for the Area/Comprehensive Plan: The term 'natural spaces' is used to describe lands for which it is desired that they remain entirely or predominantly in their 'natural' state. This term encompasses other terms such as 'open spaces' and 'wild spaces'. Such spaces are currently found in a variety of the Girdwood valley's lands,

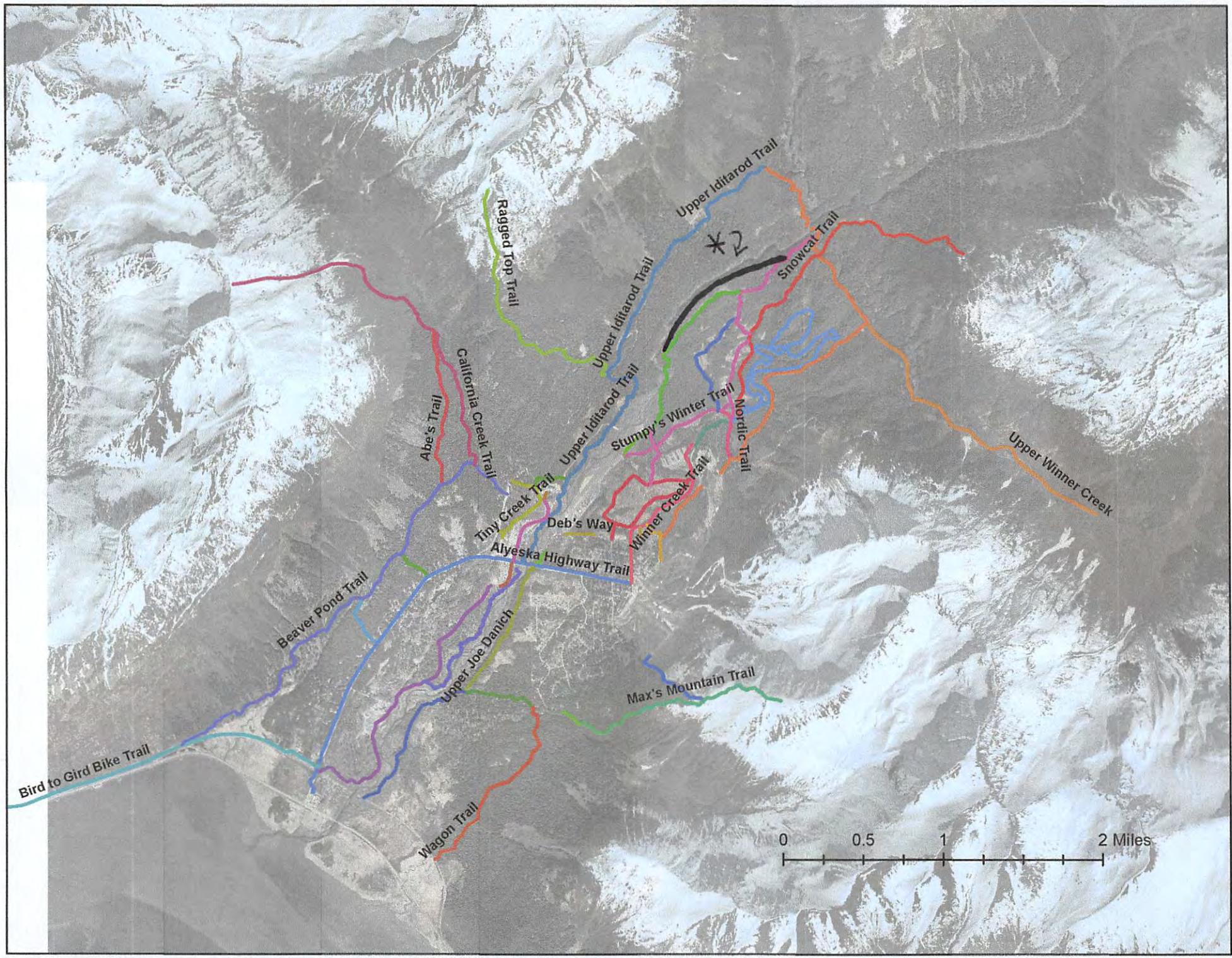
including - but by no means exclusively - those zoned by the Muni as GOS (Girdwood Open Spaces).

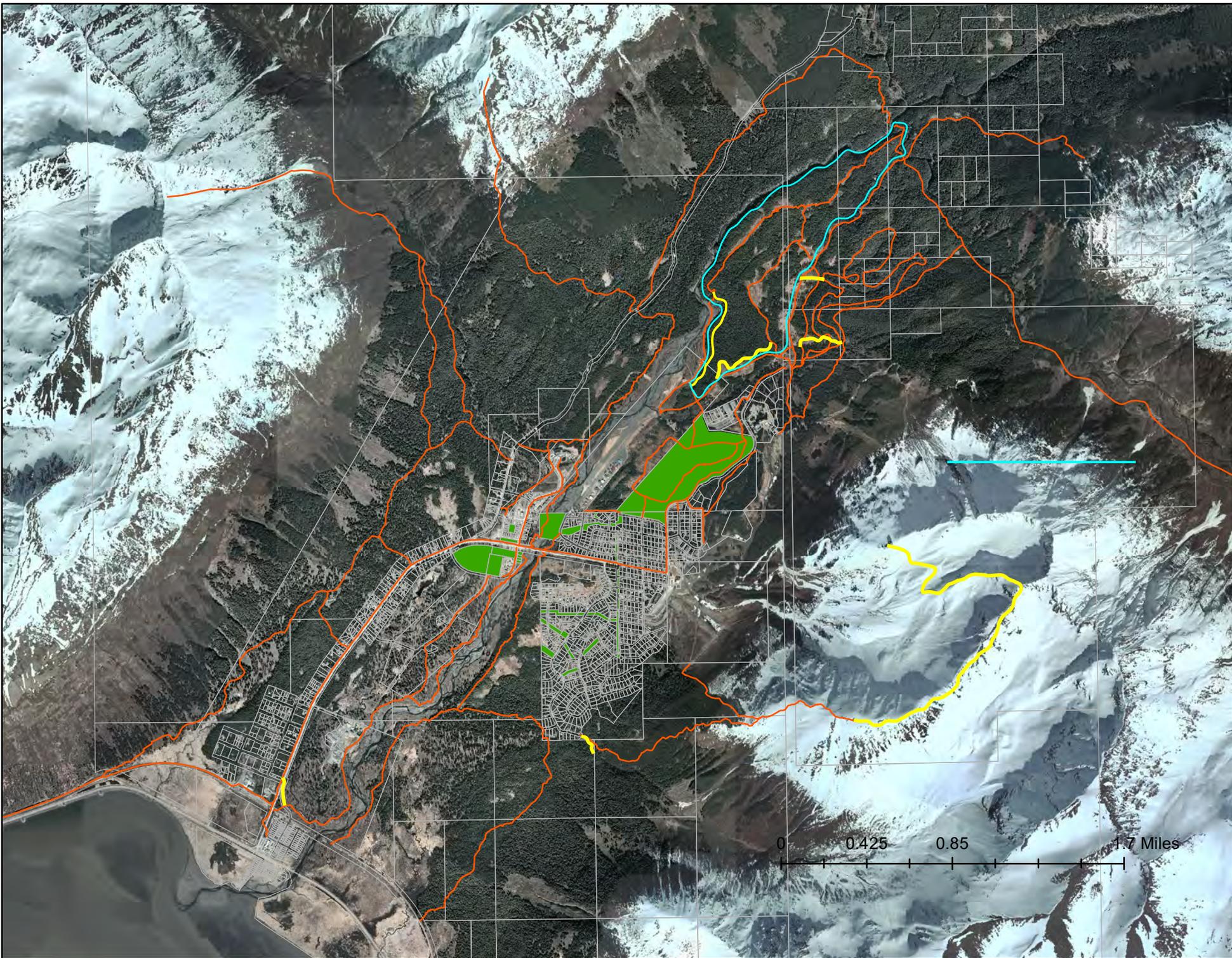
- Important: This is not a negative. It is a positive for people who enjoy using such places in those states and for other reasons as well e.g. existence value, ecosystem services, marketing the community, etc. Some uses of these areas include, for example, skiing, snowshoeing, walking and hiking, gathering, wildlife viewing, education, photography, solitude, meditation, etc.
- We should also be mindful of hunting, which is something we haven't really discussed, especially when we are talking about the areas which are currently somewhat distant from the community
- See attached "Map 2": just FYI - there are 'two' Stumpy's Trails (plus some off-shoots) - one winter and one summer - that are hard to show on a map. Tried to fix the provided map as best I could to reflect this, adding in part of the 'summer' trail that goes along/through the ridge and forest.

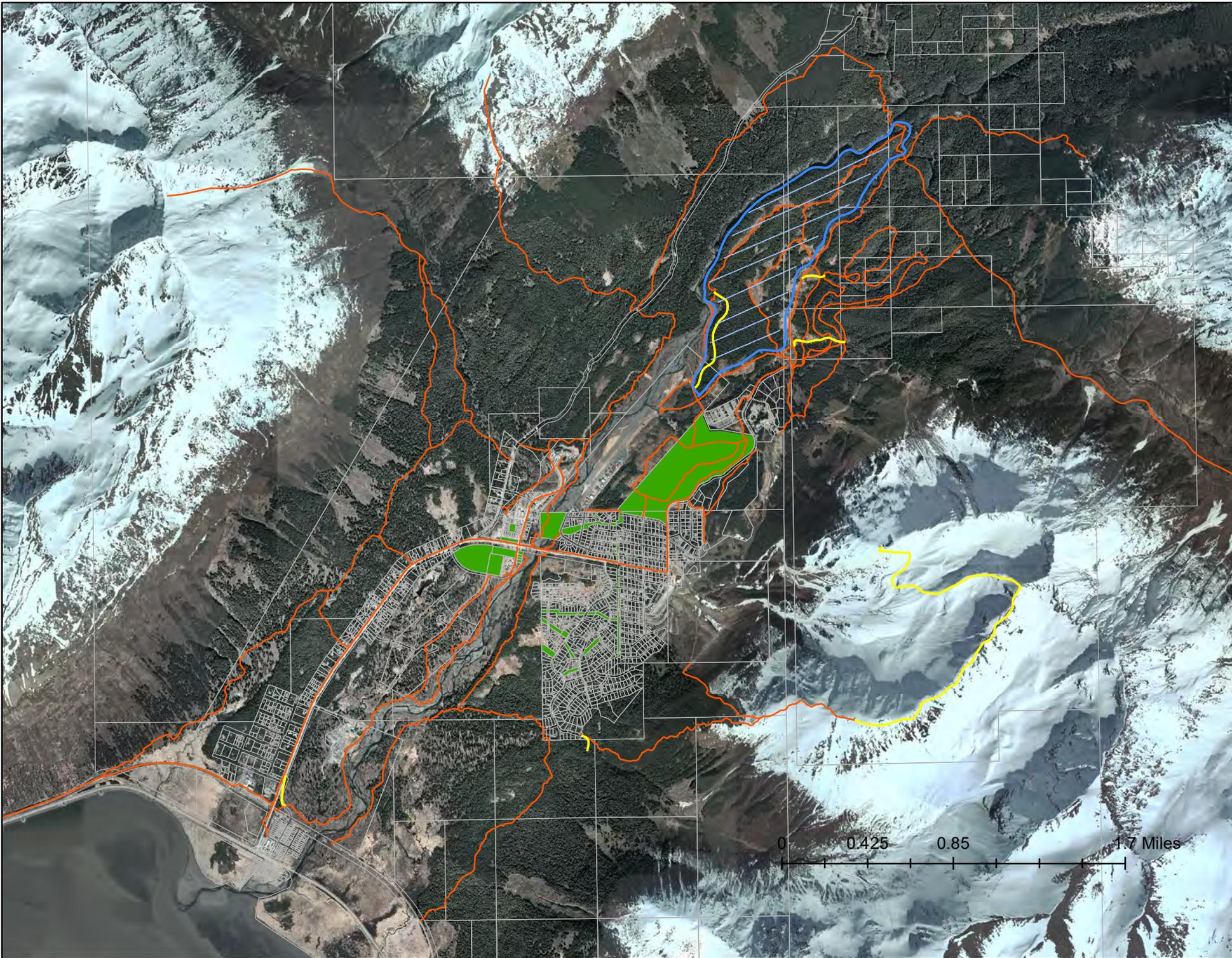
"MAP 1"

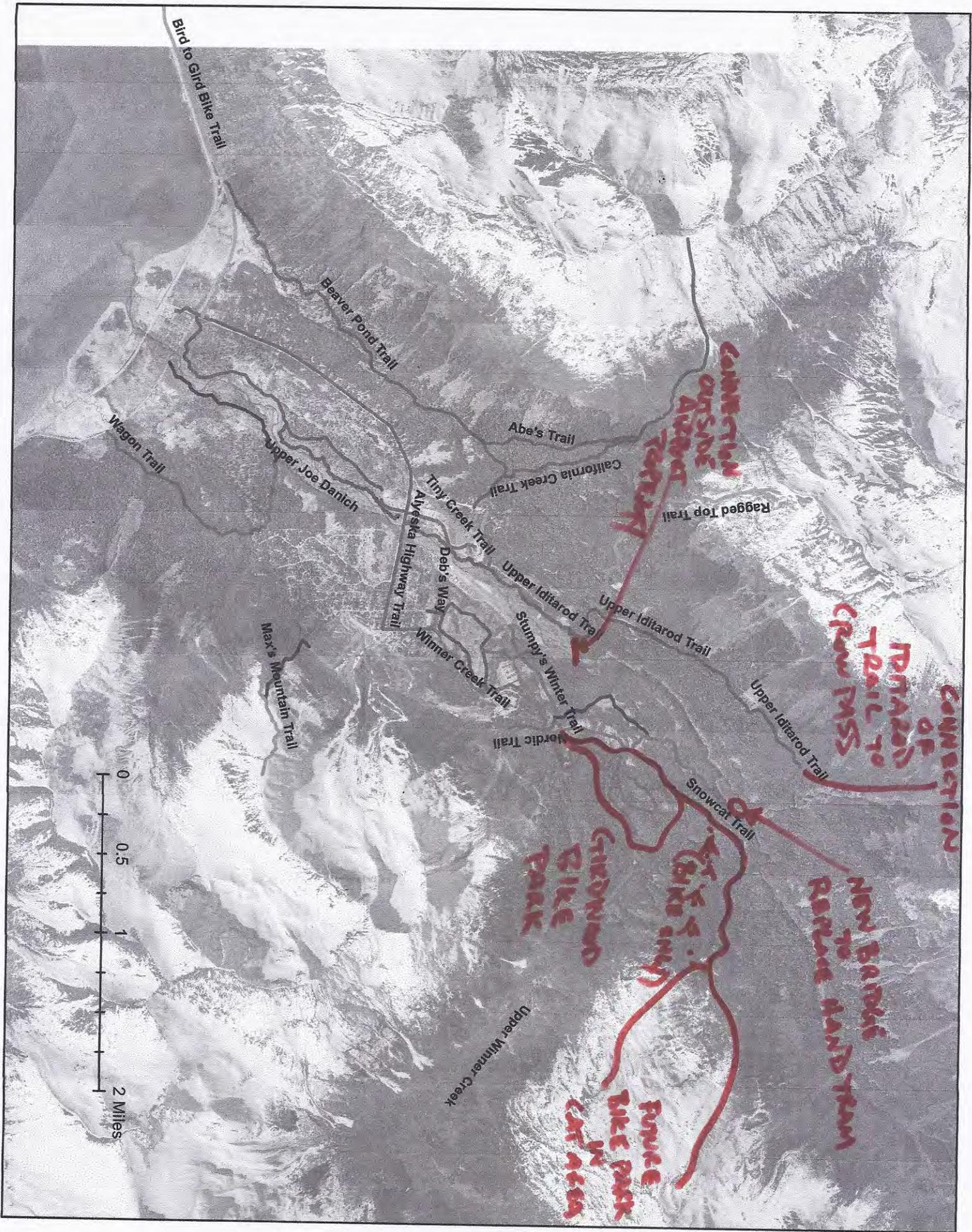


"MAP 2"









Blid to Gird Bike Trail

Beaver Pond Trail

Wagon Trail

Upper Joe Danich

Abe's Trail

California Creek Trail

CONNECTION
OUTSIDE
APOST
TRAIL

Ragged Top Trail

Tiny Creek Trail

Alyeska Highway Trail

Deb's Way

Upper Iditarod Trail

Upper Iditarod Trail

CONNECTION
OF
IDITAROD
TRAIL TO
CROW PASS

Mace's Mountain Trail

Winner Creek Trail

Stumpy's Winter Trail

Nordic Trail

Upper Iditarod Trail

0
0.5
1
2 Miles

Snowcat Trail

GREENWOOD
BIKE
PARK

BIKE
TRAIL

NEW BARRIE
PASS TO HARD TRAIL

Upper Winner Creek

FRUIT
BIKE PARK
IN
CAT AREA

