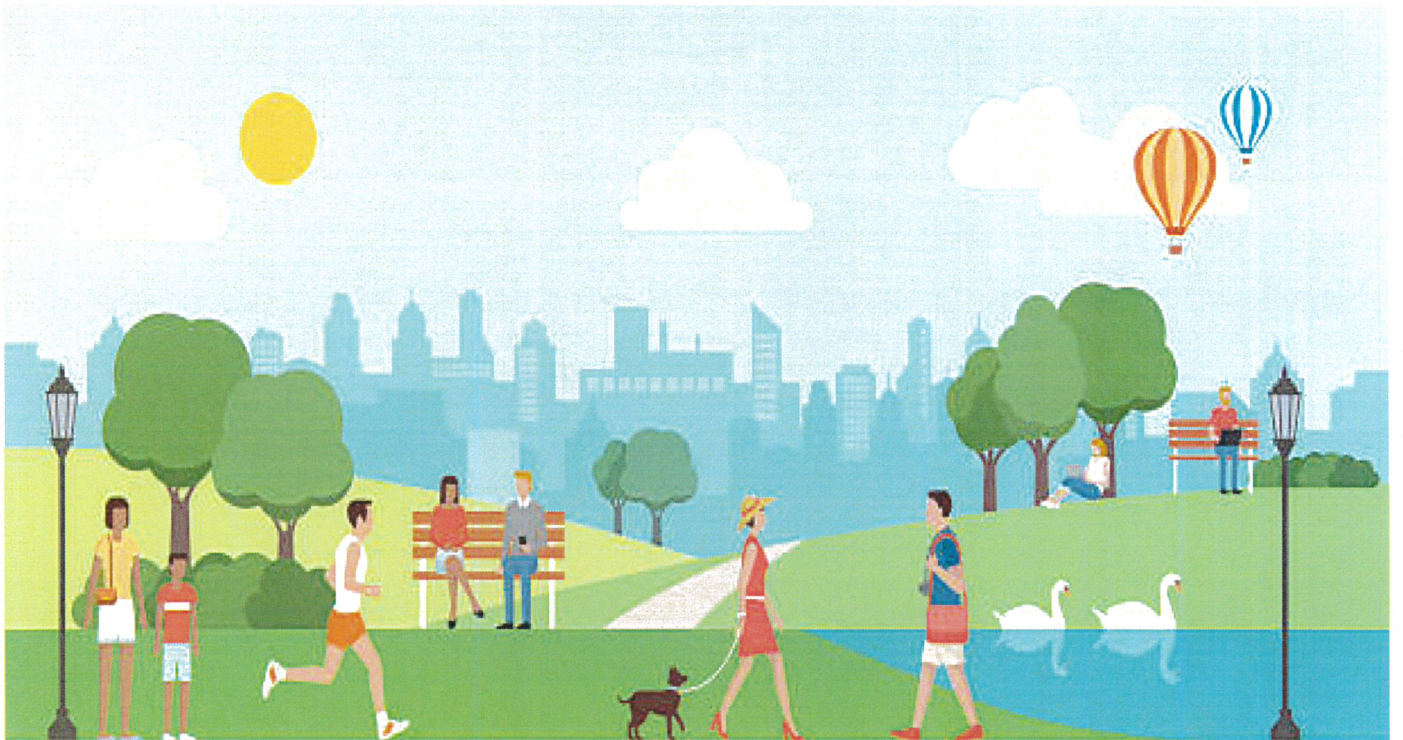




City of Palmer
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
November 3, 2022



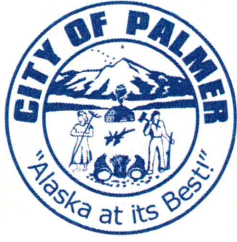
**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 2022 6 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
231 W. EVERGREEN AVENUE, PALMER
www.palmerak.org**



CHAIR Richard Ryan
VICE CHAIR Shannon Connelly
BOARD MEMBER Marilyn Bennett
BOARD MEMBER Richell Carmichael
BOARD MEMBER Lisa Albert-Konecky
BOARD MEMBER Joseph Parreira
BOARD MEMBER

AGENDA

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Approval of Agenda
- E. Minutes of Previous Meetings
- F. Reports
- G. Audience Participation
- H. Unfinished Business
 - 1. A Committee of the Whole: Update and discussion to IM 22-004 Veterans and First Responders Walk (Note: Action may be taken by the Board following the committee of the whole)
 - 2. A Committee of the Whole: To discuss IM 22-008 Update City Park Signs (Note: Action may be taken by the Board following the committee of the whole)
 - 3. A Committee of the Whole: IM 22-006 Presentation and recommendation on Strategic Direction of Railroad Utilization (Note: Action may be taken by the Board following the committee of the whole)
- I. New Business
- J. Board Member Comments
- K. Adjournment



**CITY OF PALMER
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM 22-004**

SUBJECT: Veterans & First Responder Memorial Update

AGENDA OF: July 7, 2022
January 13, 2022

ACTION: Review and Discuss Palmer Veterans & First Responder Memorial

ATTACHMENTS: Parks & Recreational Advisory Board

Summary: November update

The resolution passed by Parks Board was forwarded to the city Clerk. Mayor and Clerk determined that this would be taken up at the joint meeting with city council at early in 2023.

City manager placed on the City of Palmer's Capital Improvement list for the Memorial Wall of \$2,000,000.

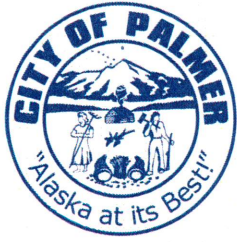
July UPDATE

A resolution for the Board to consider.

The Advisory Board discussed the Veterans and First Responders Memorial project last meeting. Some of the discussion points included:

- 1) Pioneer home support;
- 2) financial costs & financing;
- 3) potential designs. Status update from Ryan.

Recommendation: Review resolution.



**CITY OF PALMER
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM 22-008**

SUBJECT: Update City Park Signs

AGENDA OF: November 3, 2022
April 7, 2022

ACTION: Review and Discuss Updating City Park Signs for Consistent Branding

Attachment(s): 1) Bill Hermann Tennis Courts 2) Busby/Soule Ball Fields 3) Senior Field 4) Major League Field 5) AMoosement Sign 6) Palmer Skate Park Sign

Summary: November 3 Update

Signs have been installed at Bill Hermann Tennis Courts, Busby, Soule & Lions Ballfields. Discussion should revolve around What are the next parks to receive signs?

One of the priorities in Palmer's 2012 Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan was to Develop a City Park Signage Program. Currently, Most of the updated Palmer City Parks have either one of two signs:

- 1) the blue mountain-shaped City of Palmer Welcome park sign, or,
- 2) a plaque & rock sign like the Shane Woods Memorial trail & Palmer Skate Park.

Two of the Parks in the most need of updated signs are Bill Hermann Tennis Courts and Busby/Soule Ball Fields.

Recommendation: Make recommendations regarding next park facility to receive signs.



The Bill Hermann Tennis Courts were constructed in the 1970s with a donation from Bill Hermann.

Bernard "Bernie" Nieman faithfully cared for these courts for 30 years.

Courts were reconstructed in 2022 by Mat-Su Tennis Association and these community partners:

Palmer Rotary

Wasilla Sunrise Rotary

Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation

Matanuska Susitna Borough School District

Matanuska Electric Association
Charitable Foundation

United Way of Mat-Su

Mat-Su Sea Hawkens

Stephanie & Stephen Nowers



**CITY OF PALMER
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM 22-006**

SUBJECT: Railroad Tracks Utilization

AGENDA OF: November 3, 2022
January 13, 2022

ACTION: Discuss the Area-Wide Plan for the Railroad Corridor

Attachments: 1) Downtown Palmer Improvement Presentation

November Update

On October 26, 2022, a presentation was given at the Palmer Community Center (Depot). The board should consider a resolution of support for a strategic direction of improvements to downtown Palmer, including Parks and Trails.

The city of Palmer completed a Brownfield Area-Wide Plan for Downtown Palmer, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should begin discussion about opportunities for further park development within the railroad corridor in downtown Palmer.

Included in the packet is BED Resolution No. 21-001 that was passed and submitted to the City Council for consideration of improvements that would promote economic development and park improvements in the city. Also provided are past studies that support railroad right of way improvements that improve the quality of life in Palmer. Excerpts from the Area Wide Plan and the Palmer Urban Revitalization are included to show efforts that have been made to increase the utility of the corridor. Both studies can be found at <https://www.palmerak.org/community-development/page/economic-development>. Support for railroad improvements can also be found in the Palmer Comprehensive Plan and the University of Washington plan.

The city has applied to the Alaska Railroad to renew the Permit for Grow Palmer and Shane Woods Trail. If there any supplemental requests, now would be the time to approach the railroad.

The Parks and Recreational Advisory Board has not actively participated in the railroad discussion, a joint meeting with the Board of Economic Development should be considered if the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board wishes to pursue improvements in the railroad corridor.

The question for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should the city pursue a strategy plan that will encourage development within the railroad right of way that benefits residents and

visitors today?

The strategic plan will help guide discussion and should include:

- Railroad corridor concept for elements/improvements
- Comprehensive approach to parking and circulation
- Preservation of historically important items, concepts, or architectural features
- Pre-approved specialty features the community members or groups can purchase or install
- Discussion and involvement of Planning and Zoning, Parks and Recreational Advisory Board
- Alaska Railroad concurrence

Recommendation: Direct staff on the direction the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would like to pursue.



Downtown Palmer Survey

The Palmer City Council and Board of Economic Development has prioritized community project improvements to the downtown Railroad right-of-way, and we'd like your input as we move forward in this effort. Please share your feedback by scanning the QR code below. Thank you!

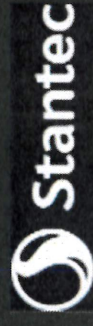




Palmer, AK
October 26, 2022

Downtown Palmer

PLANNING FOR
COMMUNITY SPACES



Agenda

1. Review of Past Plans
2. Community Events
3. Existing Conditions
4. **Program Elements**
5. Next Steps

*Presentations at:
6:00 and 7:00pm



Past Plans

Past Plans

<u>Study</u>	<u>Year</u>
• Urban Revitalization Plan	2002
• Pioneering Palmer's Future (Washington Study)	2005
• City of Palmer Comprehensive Plan	2006
• Community Branding and Way Finding	2015
• EPA Brownfield Area-Wide-Plan	2020

Community Events

Community Events in Downtown

- Bike Blessing
- Road/Bike Races
- Trick or Treat Street
- Farmers Markets
- Weddings
- Car Shows
- Corporate Customer Appreciation Events
- Advocacy Demonstrations
- Drive your tractor to work
- Non-profit events
- Mid-Summer Garden and Art Fairs



Community Events in Downtown

- Colony Days
- Colony Christmas



Existing Conditions

Mat-Maid Property

Revitalize the Matanuska Maid Historic Creamery. The site offers a good venue for events, retail, offices, restaurants, institutional and other mixed uses.

Historic Depot

The historic Depot is a strong symbol of Palmer's historic past. Continue improvements in the vicinity of the Depot.

Historic District

The Quadrangle

Palmer's historic Quad is an asset that will best serve downtown if its original design is strengthened and more active uses are implemented.

Visitor Center and Garden

Use the Visitor Center and Garden to reinforce Palmer's agricultural traditions. Provide a year round answer to the question: "Where's the giant cabbage?"

Railway Corridor

Better utilize the rail corridor for a variety of community benefits. The corridor can provide trail and walkway links, serve as a community green belt, and host future light rail service.

Downtown Core

The Downtown core is a vital resource for Palmer that could be strengthened. Work toward improving the variety of shopping, attractions, and experiences for Palmer visitors and residents. Utilize the downtown as a hub for an extensive trail and walkway system and identify private-public parking options to serve growth.

Gateways

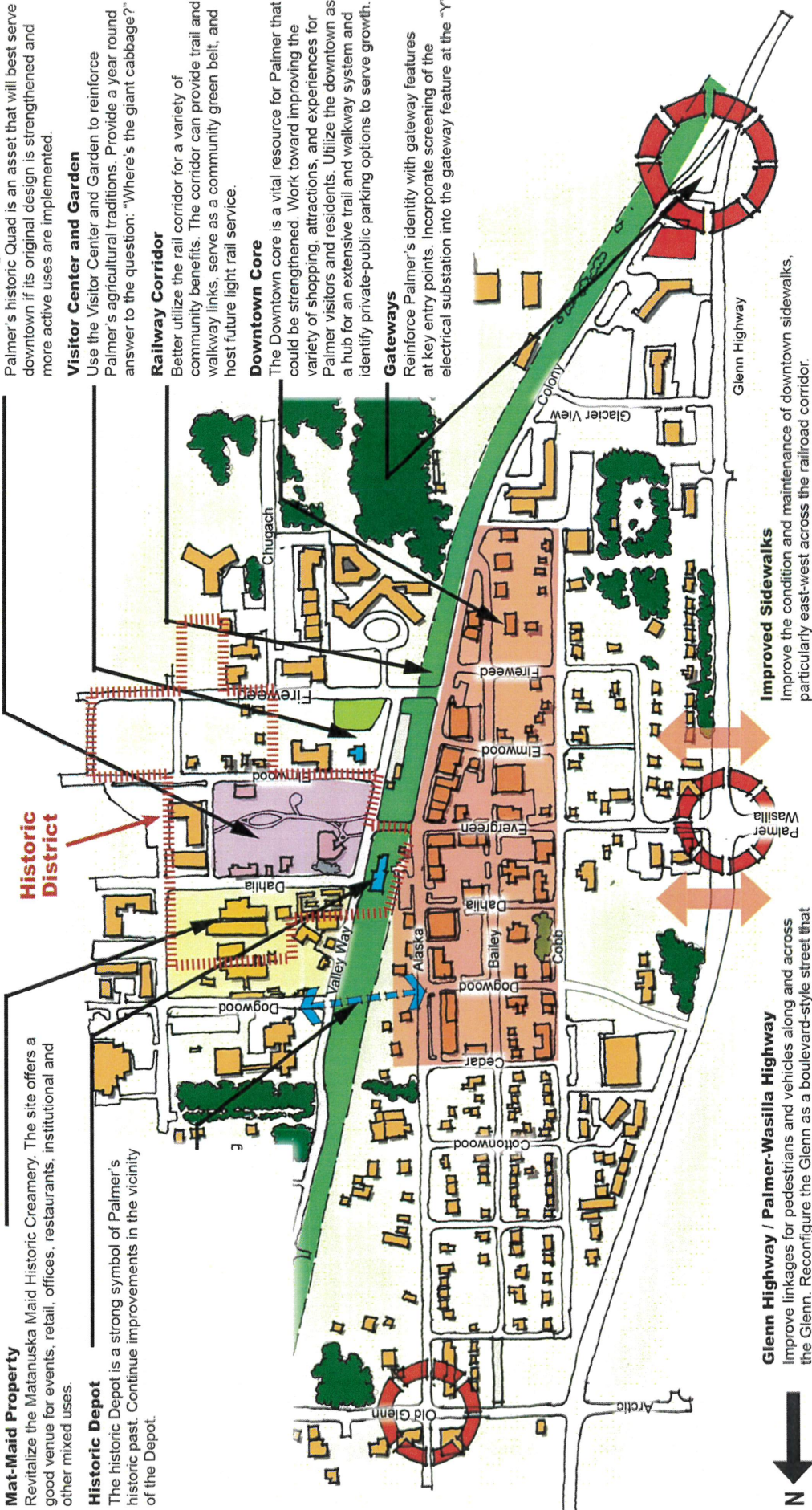
Reinforce Palmer's identity with gateway features at key entry points. Incorporate screening of the electrical substation into the gateway feature at the "Y".

Glenn Highway / Palmer-Wasilla Highway

Improve linkages for pedestrians and vehicles along and across the Glenn. Reconfigure the Glenn as a boulevard-style street that connects rather than divides "east and west Palmer."

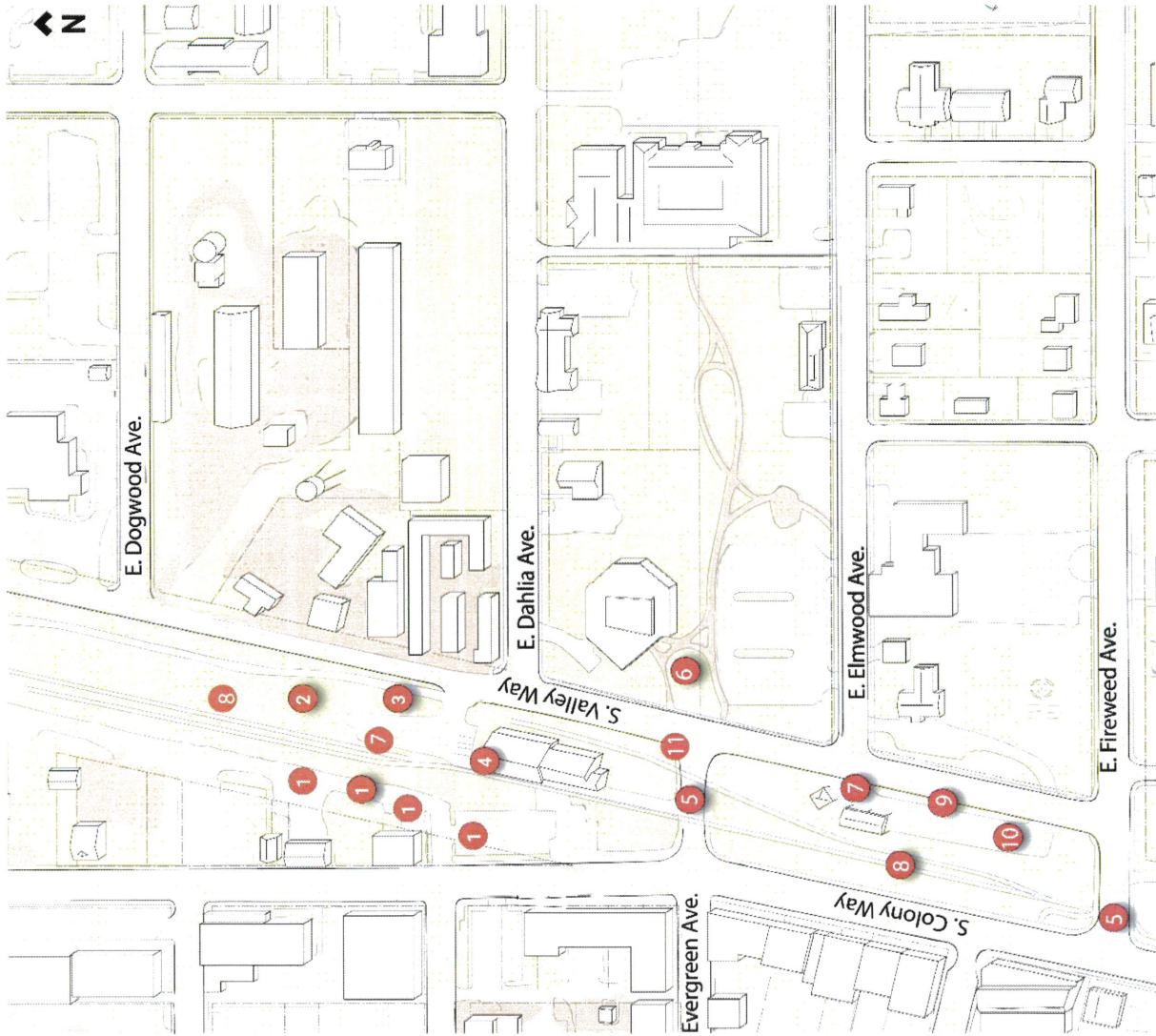
Improved Sidewalks

Improve the condition and maintenance of downtown sidewalks, particularly east-west across the railroad corridor.



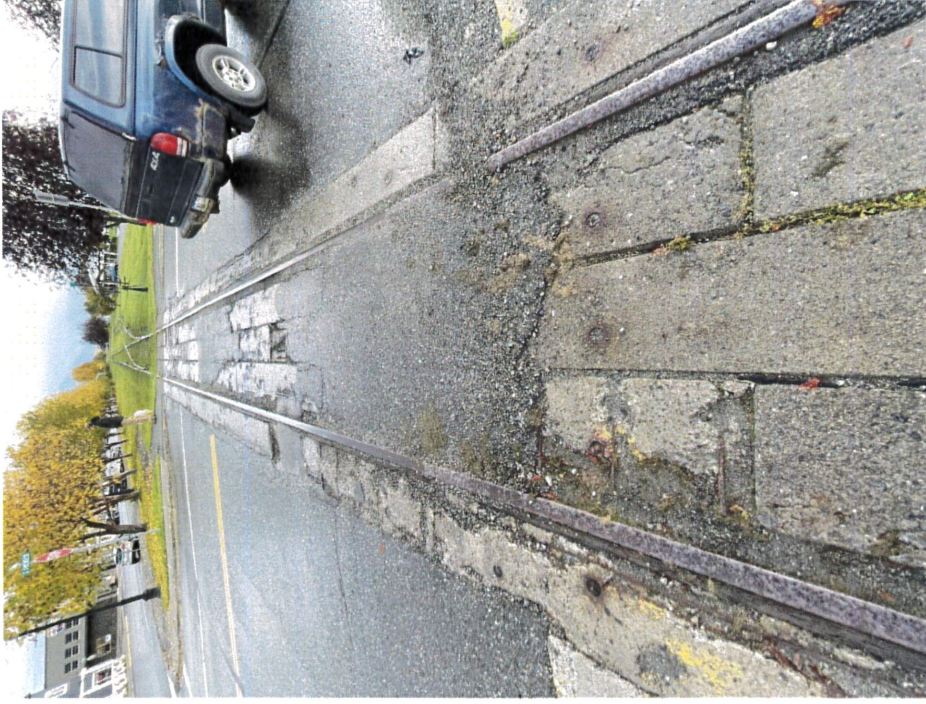
PALMER, Alaska

Downtown Opportunities
Land Use Goal 4, Objectives B & C



1. Expanded Parking and street improvements on Colony Way
 2. Create Community Event Space on the property between Depot and Dogwood
 3. Remove Railroad siding and expand parking
 4. Add handcart display
 5. Remove track crossings to facilitate pedestrian and improve motorized connectivity
 6. Library Courtyard improvements for amphitheater and plaza
 7. Relocate existing pavilion to Community Events Center –North of Depot
 8. Remove or improve existing tracks to reduce tripping hazards
 9. Add sidewalks on park side
 10. Include stations for Electric Vehicle charging
- ** Branding and signage throughout the concept area

Opportunities and Constraints



Opportunities and Constraints

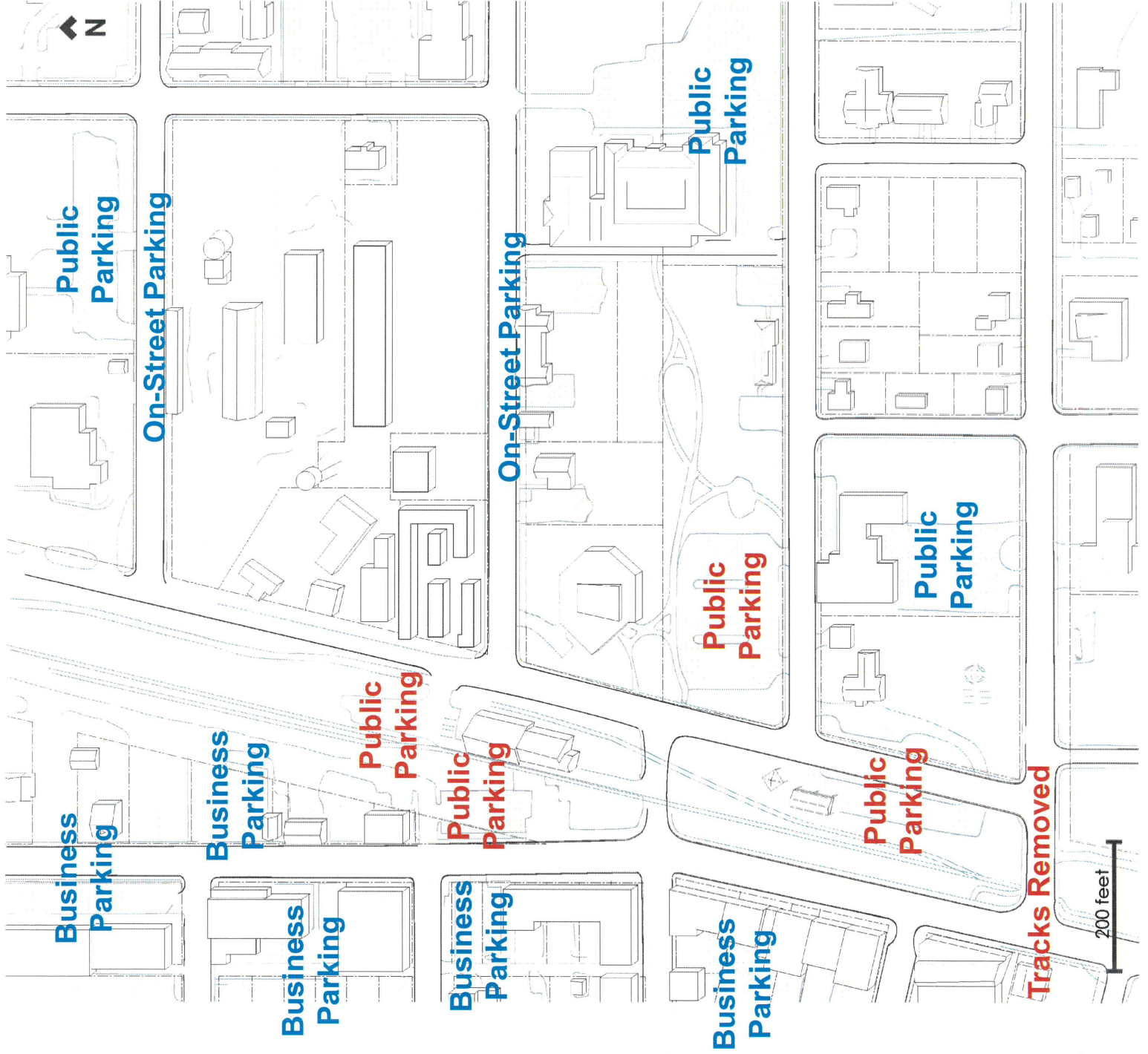


Opportunities and Constraints



Existing Parking

- Off-street surface parking lots are evenly dispersed within downtown
- The ratio of parking to building footprints is nearly balanced
- On-street parking is available around the perimeter of the site, and is widely used by area businesses
- Surface parking lots, serving institutional and government offices, are open to the public

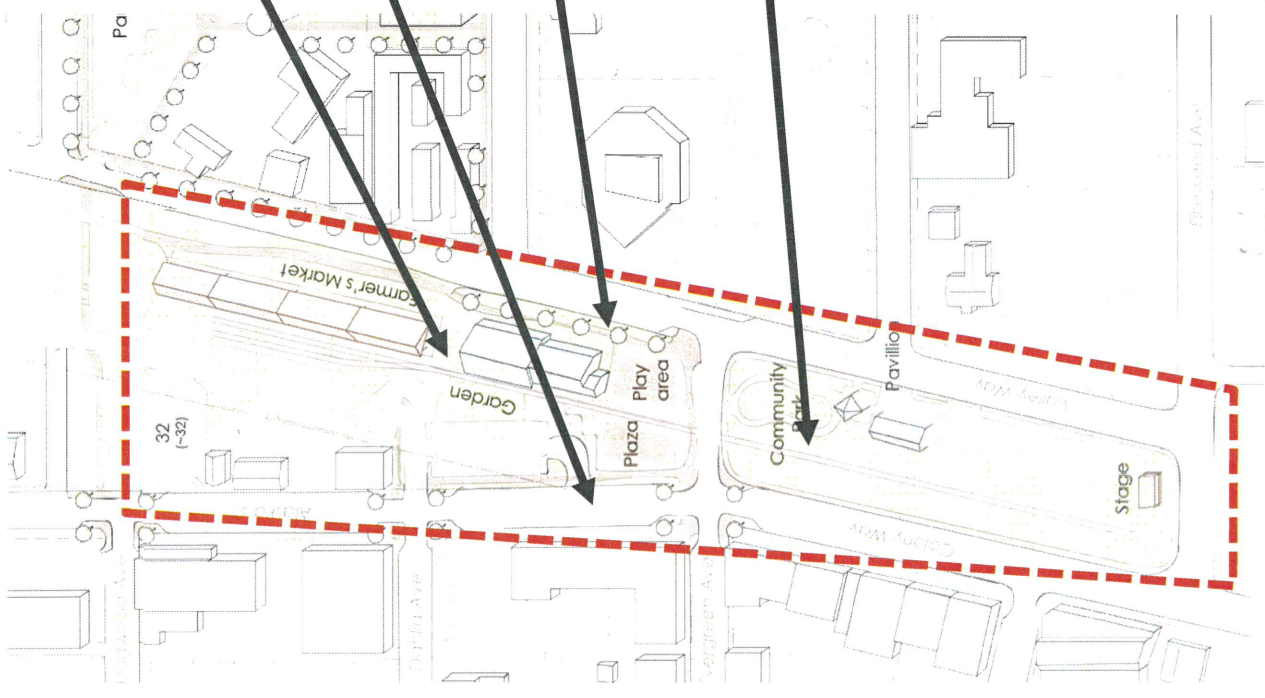


Existing Connections

- Trails and sidewalks (illustrated in green) enhance walkability for downtown
- Trails should be further developed within the Mat-Maid site
- Vehicular connectivity is strong in the downtown core, but is underserved to the Mat-Maid site
- Additional vehicular connectivity, between the Mat-Maid site and downtown, should be considered to support long-term growth

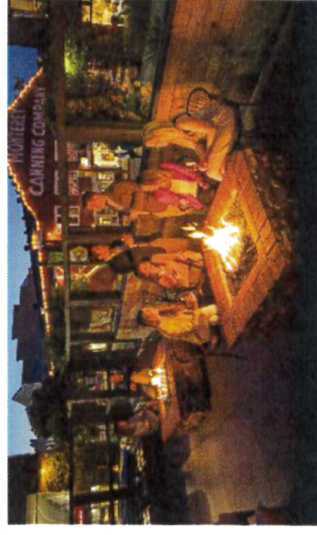
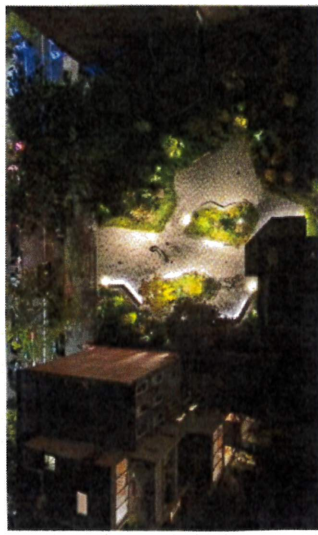
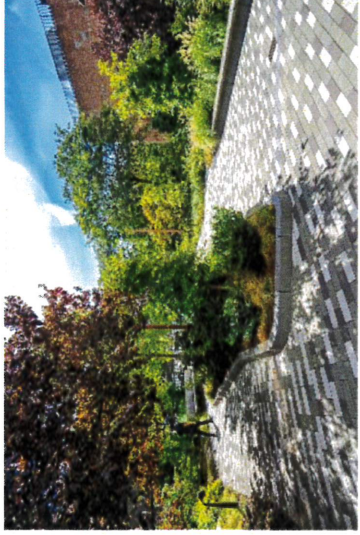
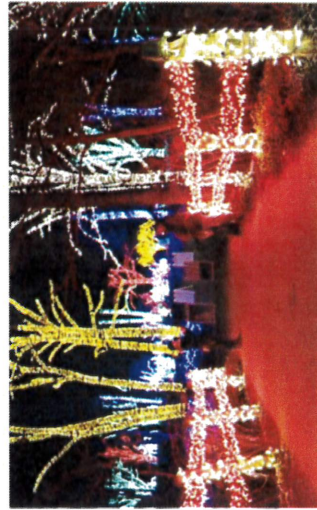
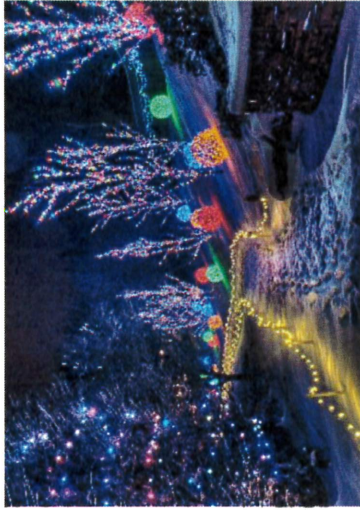


Program Elements

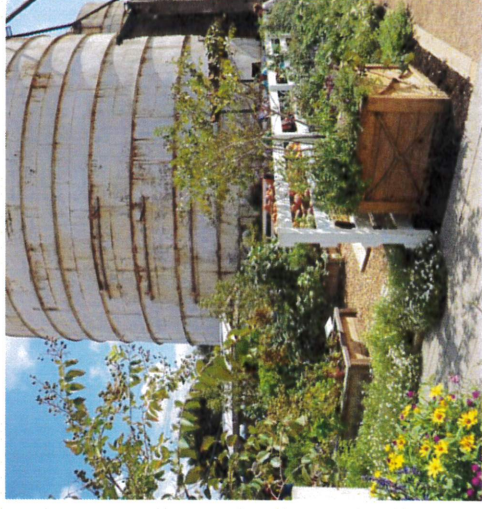
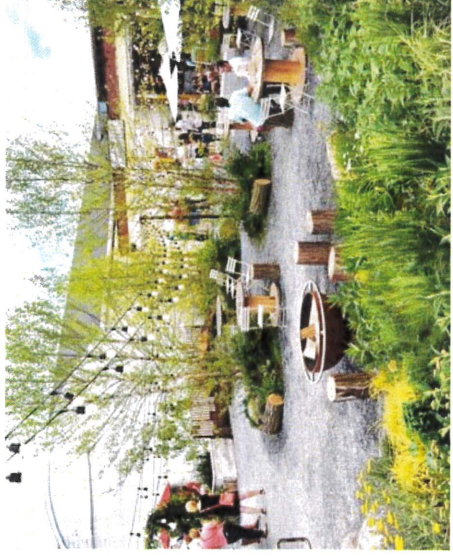
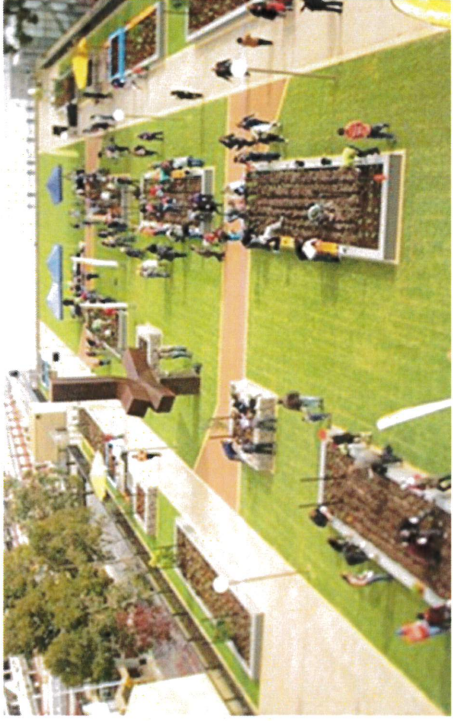


- Community Event Space
- Parking Enhancements on Colony Way and Valley Way
- Motorized and Non-Motorized Activity
 - Bike Path Extension – South
 - Pedestrian Crossing North of Depot
 - Elimination of RR Crossing at Fireweed
- Parks and Playground Improvements
- Branding and Signage

All Season Use



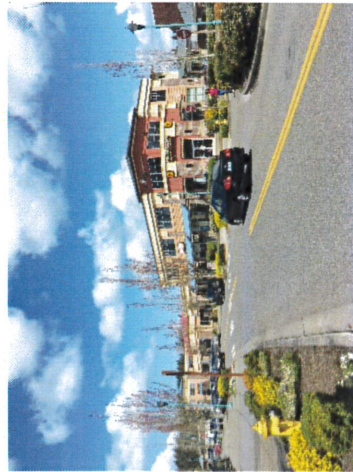
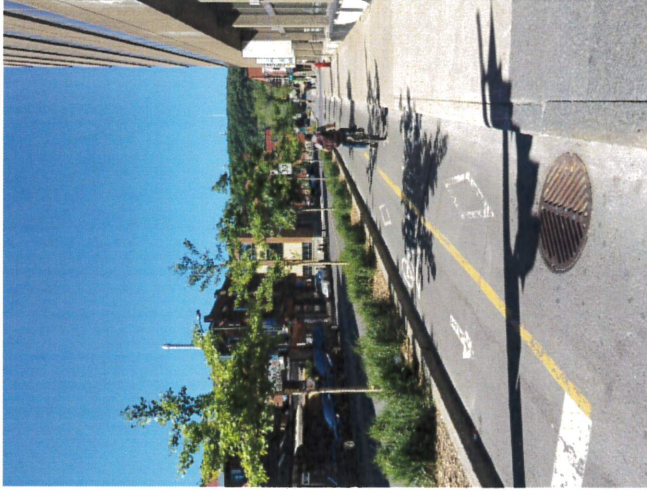
Community Event Space



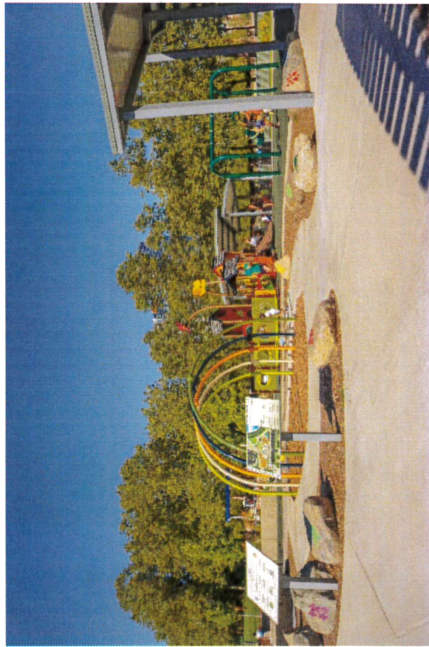
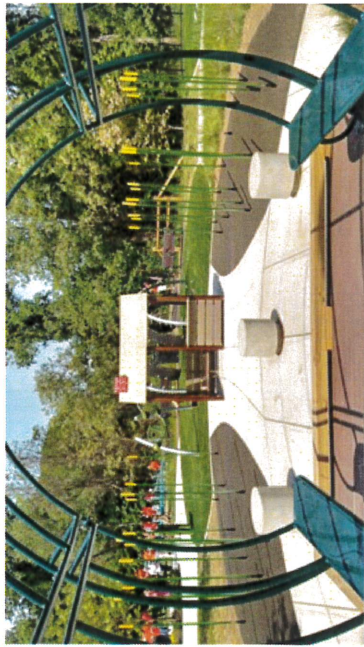
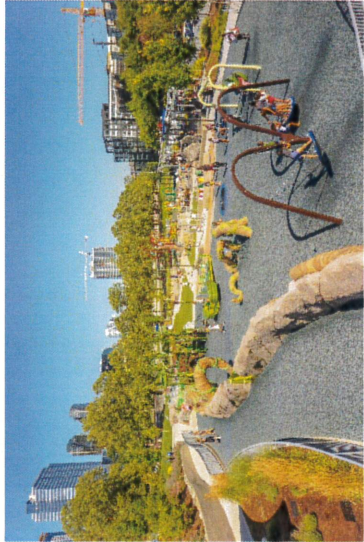
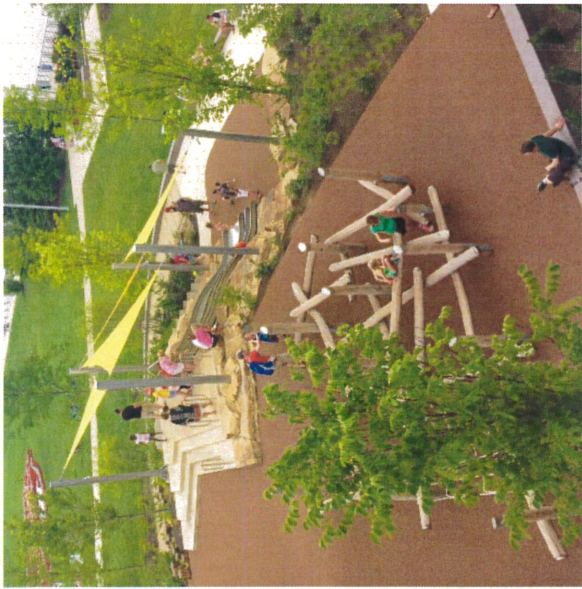
Parking Enhancements On Colony and Valley Way



Motorized and Non-Motorized Activity



Park and Playground Improvements



Branding and Signage

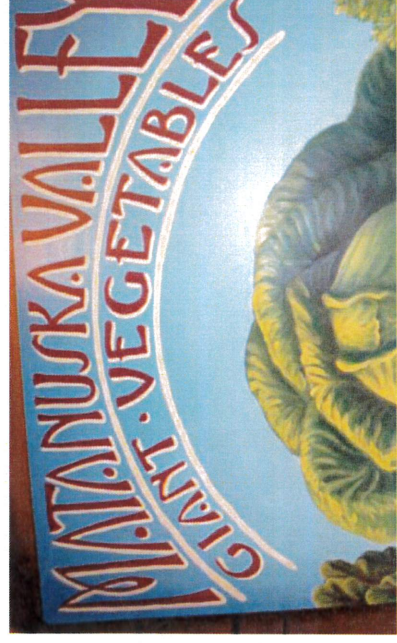
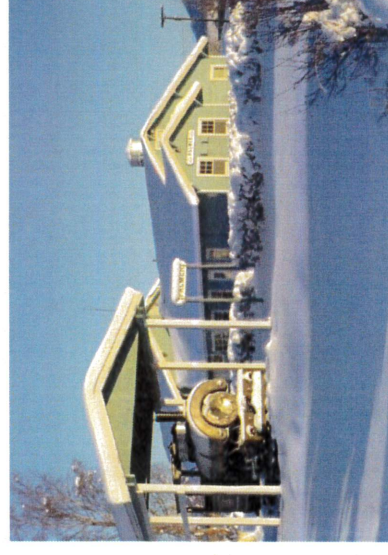
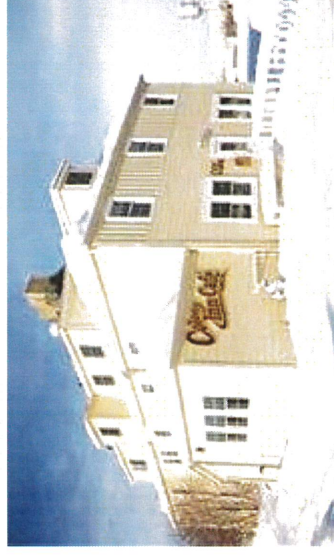
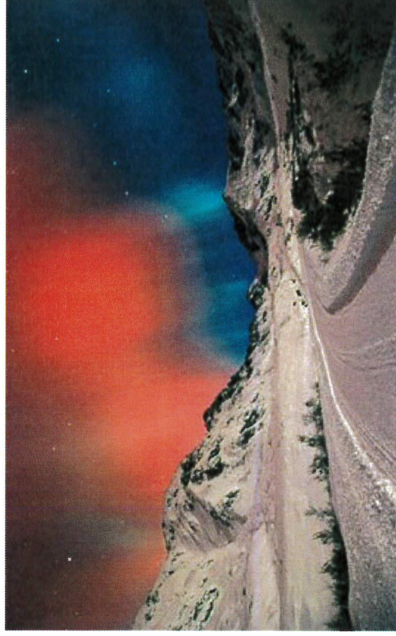
Local History



Regional Influences



Color & Texture

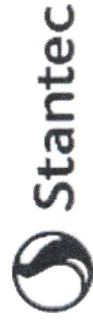


Next Steps

Community Survey

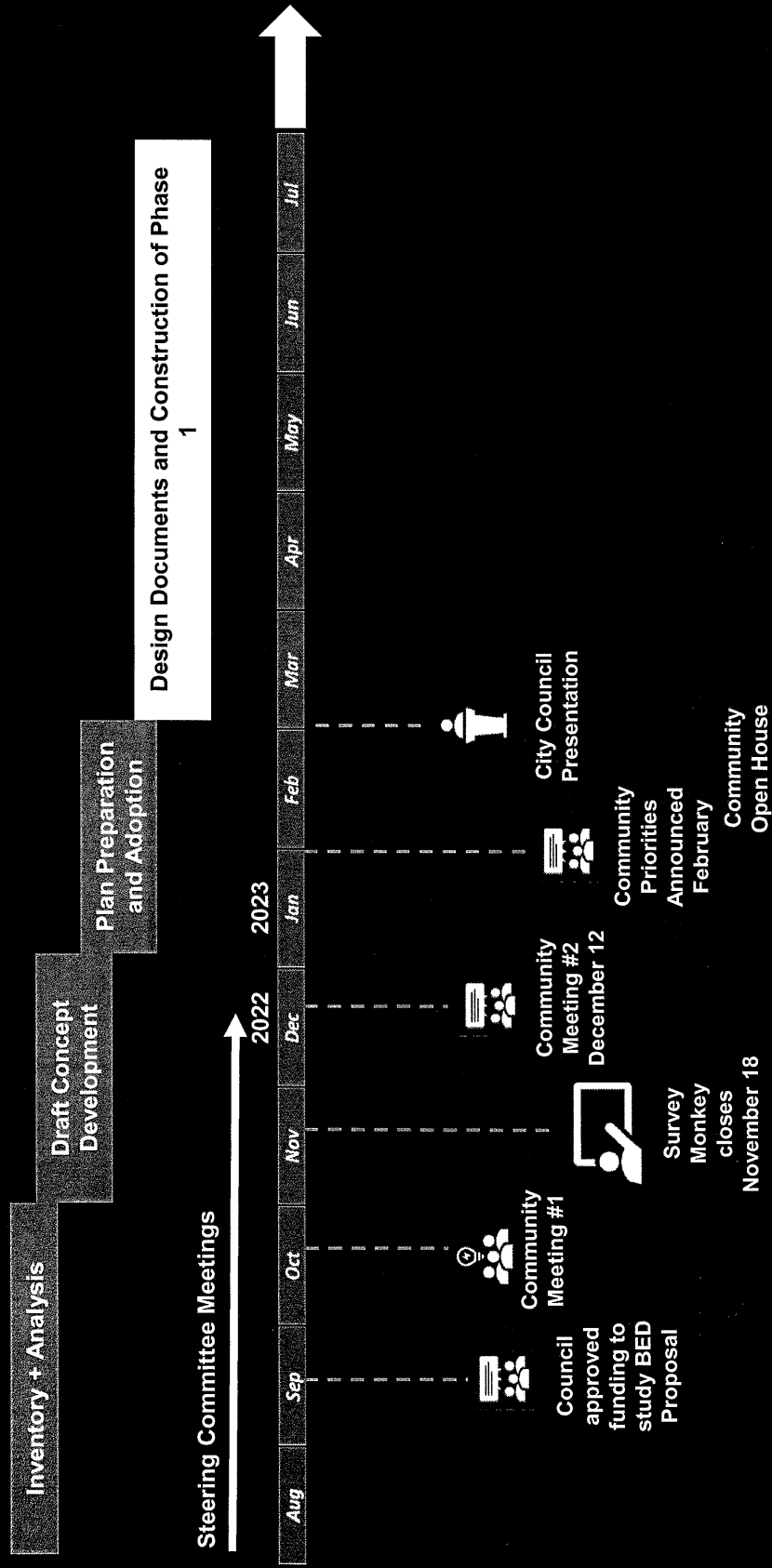


PALMER Alaska



10/15/2023

Timeline



Thank You!

