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**Office of the Chancellor**

320 Signers' Hall, P.O. Box 757500, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7500

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 22, 2008  
TO: Mark Hamilton, UA President  
FROM: Steve Jones, UAF Chancellor   
RE: Naming Opportunity on UAF Campus -- Troth Yeddha' Park

I am requesting your endorsement of naming the open space on Yukon Drive, between the Reichardt Building and the UA Museum of the North, as Troth Yeddha' Park. Attached is a detailed project description, including maps of the area, prepared by UAF Facilities Services in support of this naming opportunity.

Thank you for considering this request. If you are supportive, I look forward to your advancing this naming opportunity to the Board of Regents for their action.

SBJ

Attachment (as stated)

cc: Ro Bailey, UAF Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services (w/ attachments)  
Jake Poole, UAF Vice Chancellor for Advancement (w/ attachments)  
Kathleen Schedler, UAF Assoc. VC for Facilities Services (w/ attachments)

d1m/memoHamiltonrqsttonameTrothYeddha



**Division of Design and Construction**

590 University Avenue

P.O. Box 758160

Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-8160

(907) 474-5299, FAX (907) 474-7554

Total Project Cost	--
Approval Required	Full BOR

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Joseph Trubacz  
Chief Financial Officer  
Associate Vice President  
Finance Operations

THROUGH: Kathleen Schedler  
Associate Vice Chancellor  
Facilities and Safety

Handwritten signature of Kathleen Schedler in blue ink, with the initials 'SW' written to the right.

FROM: Mike Ruckhaus  
Sr. Project Manager

DATE: January 11, 2008

SUBJECT: Naming Approval  
Project Name: Troth Yeddha' Park  
Project No.: WRTY 2007086

In accordance with Regents' Policy 05.12.080, approval by the Board of Regents is required for this project. Your prompt review of this project would be greatly appreciated.

Requisite materials are enclosed.

CC: Ro Bailey  
Vice Chancellor  
Administrative Services



## **REQUEST TO NAME TROTH YEDDHA' PARK**

### ***INTRODUCTION***

In accordance with Regents' Policy 05.12.080, official naming of all "significant" buildings, building subcomponents (e.g. wings, additions, auditoriums, and libraries), streets, parks, recreational areas, plazas and similar facilities or sites will be approved by the Board of Regents.

### **Background**

The cultural heritage of the Alaska Native population is as vast and varied as the state itself. Encompassing eleven native cultural groups with over 20 spoken languages, the cultures are diverse and distinct. But each shares a common vision of community, respect for the land, and a desire to embrace modern culture without losing their defining traditions and heritage.

Two of the Core Values of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) are:

1. active engagement of the university with Alaskan communities in creative endeavors, and
2. stewardship of human, fiscal, social and environmental resources.

In addition, among its strategic goals the university is proposing to improve UAF's freshman retention rate to 75% by 2010 and to expand substantive community involvement in UAF-wide programs, with special emphasis for those accessing UAF services in distance, rural, and Native communities.

These values and goals reflect the university's concern for its students, the diverse Alaskan community, and the resources inherent on campus. UAF, with other partnering agencies will create an Alaska Native physical and artistic cultural gathering on campus in the form of the Troth Yeddha' Park. The gathering will be a permanent and culturally expressive place that honors Alaska Native heritage and offers a cultural centering point for all Alaska Native students, staff and faculty on the UAF campus.

Troth Yeddha', meaning the site where the wild potato is gathered, is the Athabascan name for the area where the university is currently situated and where the wild potato was traditionally gathered. It is a site where elders would gather and hold council regarding the state of affairs of Native nations in the Interior of Alaska. When the elders learned that Troth Yeddha' was to become the site of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, they placed an eagle feather on a pole to let the Athabascan people know that the ridge would no longer be used for meeting or picking wild potatoes but for a new formalized type of education that would serve future generations of their people.



Troth Yeddha' Park creates a link between that historic eagle feather and the contemporary UAF academic and research institution. Troth Yeddha' Park dedicates open space on the UAF campus to Alaska Native history and culture and confirms the University's commitment to incorporating indigenous culture into higher education while also addressing their aspiration to develop a model of how cultural diversity strengthens a university and society.

Troth Yeddha' Park can help students bridge the gap between the reality of urban college life at UAF and the rural, traditional homes they have left behind. Troth Yeddha' will provide Alaska Native students with a touch of familiarity, a living, breathing place and culture within the stone and brick institution. Troth Yeddha' will host a gathering of native vegetation, landscape design and artwork to create a peaceful retreat among the nonstop bustling of a university campus.

The College of Rural and Community Development and the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Native Education (CACNE) are spearheading the Troth Yeddha' Park naming. Their leadership and dedication to addressing the unique educational and cultural challenges of Alaska Native students is unparalleled in the statewide University of Alaska system. Both the College and the Advisory Committee work to ensure that rural and Alaskan Native students within the University of Alaska are not marginalized by the university system through the provision of the following:

1. recommendations and guidance in the development of programs to enhance the educational opportunities of Alaska Native students;
2. academic and vocational education and outreach to promote workforce preparation, economic development, life-long learning, and community development throughout Alaska, with an emphasis on Alaska Natives and underserved communities.

UAF is one of several University of Alaska schools. It is the only school, however, that provides rural and Alaska Native students with a college of their very own: the College of Rural and Community Development. In a statewide university system, the CRCD and CACNE focus solely on the education and future of Alaska Native and rural communities.

Troth Yeddha' is an extension of that focus. With the designation of the Troth Yeddha' Park as a space honoring the culture and heritage of Alaska's indigenous peoples, it adds a physical sense of belonging to the experience of Alaska Native students at UAF.

Other organizations honor Alaska Native culture and heritage, but none link it to the future so clearly and none state so plainly that it is the land itself that forms such an integral part of the culture. The focus of Troth Yeddha' is not inside a building or museum but among the land itself. And because the land is the central feature of Troth Yeddha', it serves an entirely different purpose than cultural centers and museums.

### **Project Description:**

***Goals and Objectives:*** Goals of the Troth Yeddha' Park naming include:

1. Creating a living, lasting and functional tribute to Alaska Native culture and history on the UAF campus.
2. Enhancing the educational experience of Alaska Natives students at UAF.

3. Allowing concurrent activities and use of space; i.e. Townshend Point, hosting Shakespeare Theater

These goals will be measured with the following objectives:

1. an increase in Alaska Native student retention and graduation rates;
2. an increase in Alaska Native student perception of cultural sensitivity and awareness at UAF;
3. an increase in knowledge about Alaska Native cultures and history among UAF students, faculty and staff; and,
4. increased preparation among Alaska Native students for entry into both the rural and urban Alaskan workforce.

The park will be a collaborative effort between many university and non-university partners. Chancellor Jones will prepare and execute a Statement of Understanding relating to mutual expectations concerning the development of the Troth Yeddha' Park naming including the expectation that the Park will not prevent growth on West Ridge, nor will it in any way deter UAF's ability to meet its core mission. The Statement of Understanding, signed by members of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Native Education and the Vice Chancellor for Rural Community and Native, will show concurrence between the university and non-university partners on the intent, and future expectations of the Troth Yeddha' Park. The Park location has also been approved by the UAF Master Planning Committee.

**Benefits:** Troth Yeddha' Park will be created under the theme of incorporating indigenous cultures into higher education. The park will be a quiet haven in the midst of a thriving, dynamic institution: green space filled with culturally relevant symbols recognizing Alaska's First Nations peoples. Visitors to the park will come away with two primary thoughts: 1) UAF is an institution that recognizes the importance of Alaska Native culture and values the contributions of Alaska Natives; and 2) the park provides a peaceful retreat for students, staff and faculty seeking a quiet, open space among the hustle and bustle of the flourishing institution.

Students, staff and faculty can access any of the proposed features, including benches, rest stops, native vegetation, sculptures, cultural exhibits, a fire pit and a small amphitheater. The park will be accessible throughout all seasons, reflecting the character and traditions of indigenous cultures. Use of Alaska Native artwork and cultural symbols will create a sense of identity and esthetic pride among students, staff and faculty and will clearly root the university in its cultural, geographic and historic place. A "good neighbor" policy will foster concurrent activities in the park, such as outdoor theater performances, visits to Townshend Point, and multi-seasonal trail usage. In addition, Native students from across the state will find a comfortable and familiar touch of culture within the folds of the university.

### **Supporting Documents**

- Maps indicating approximate Park boundaries



## Approval

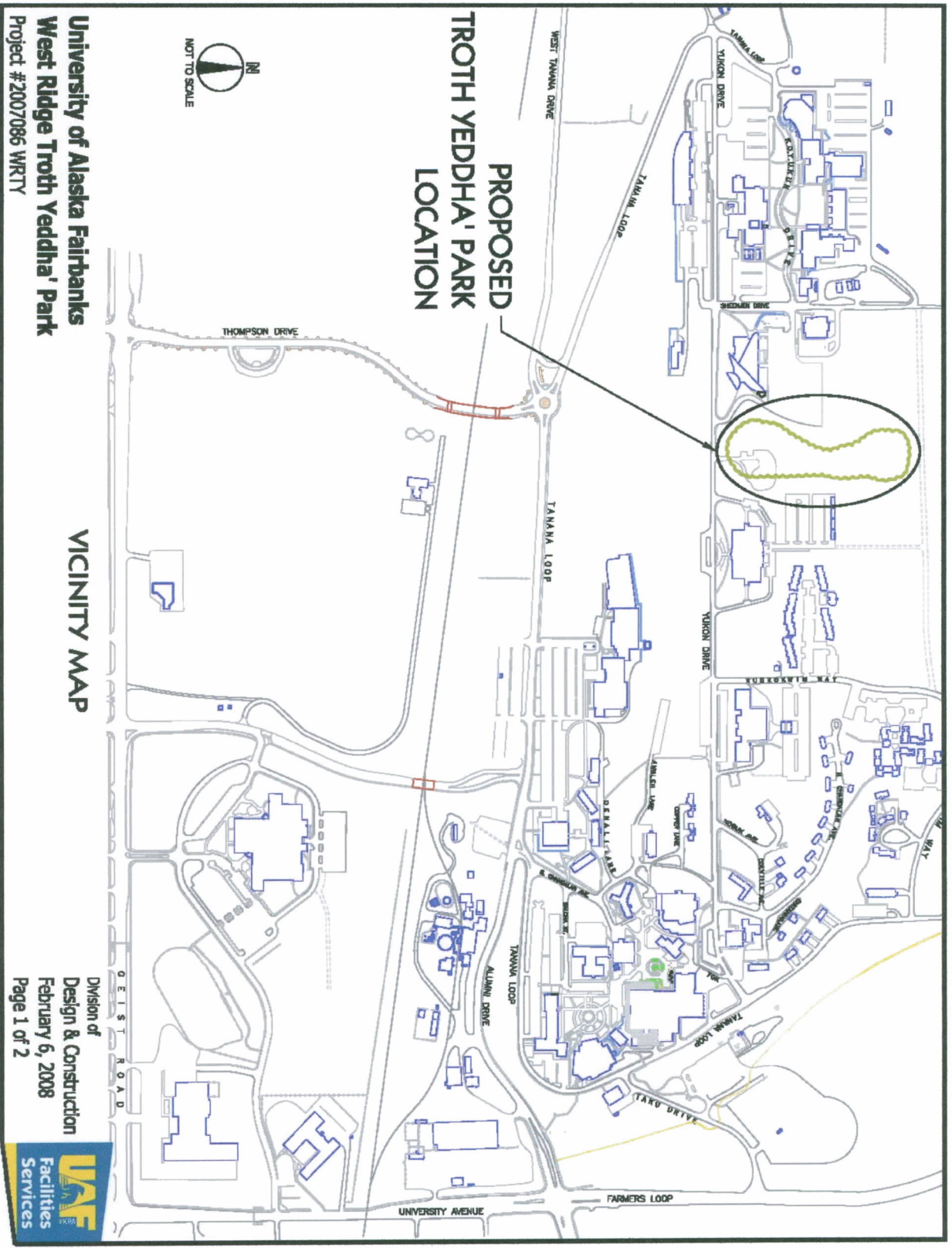
The President recommends that:

### **MOTION**

**"The Board of Regents approves the following name for the tract of land located near the Paul Reichardt Building and the UA Museum at the University of Alaska Fairbanks: Troth Yeddha' Park. This motion is effective February 7, 2008."**

### POLICY CITATION

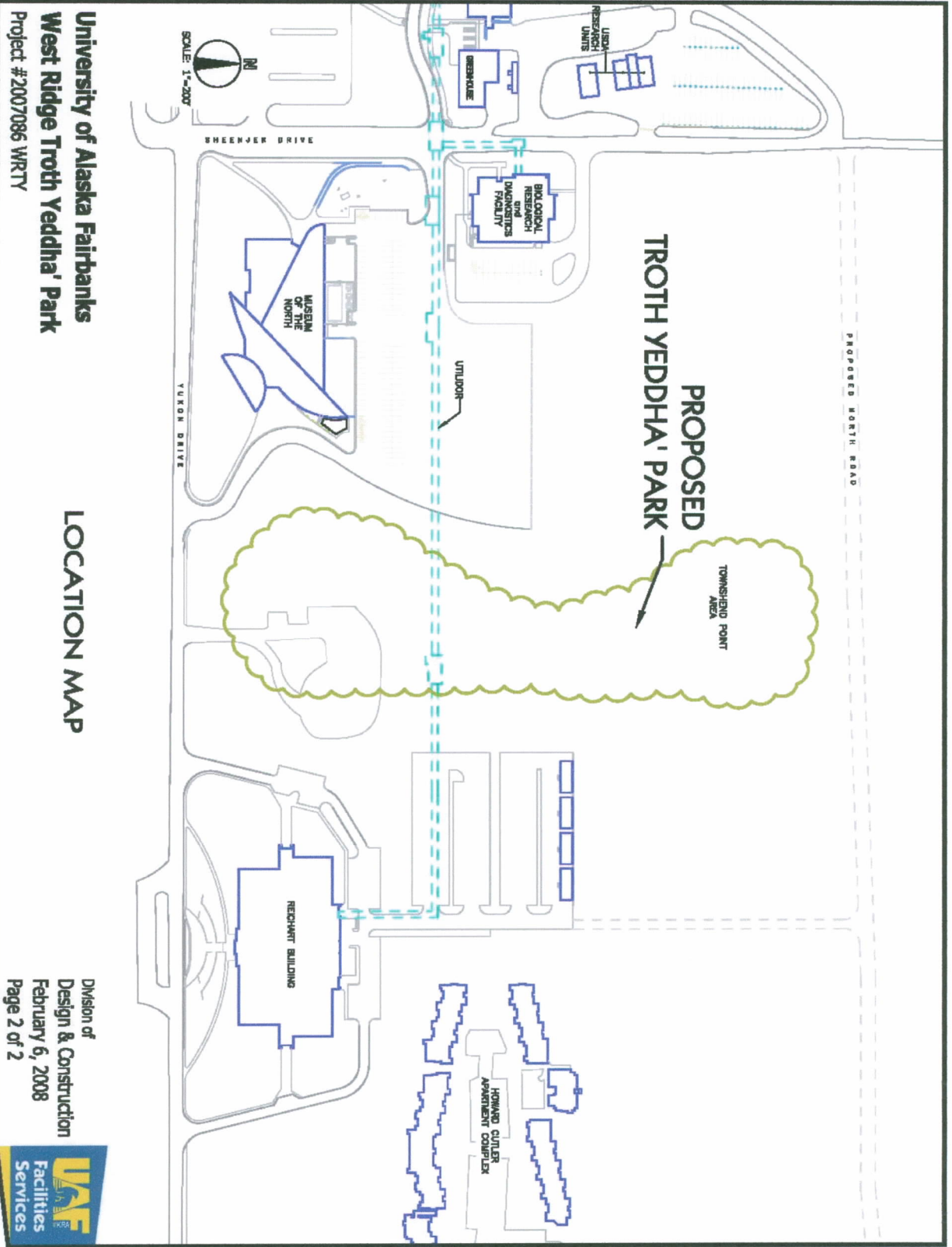
In accordance with Regents' Policy 05.12.080, official naming of all "significant" buildings, building subcomponents (e.g. wings, additions, auditoriums, and libraries), streets, parks, recreational areas, plazas and similar facilities or sites will be approved by the Board of Regents.



**University of Alaska Fairbanks  
West Ridge Troth Yeddha' Park  
Project #2007086 WRTTY**

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**University of Alaska Fairbanks**  
**West Ridge Troth Yeddha' Park**  
 Project #2007086 WRTV

**LOCATION MAP**

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