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- I. **Project Description**-The River Walk Park Phase I trail project is a non-motorized, year-round trail lying at the heart of a multi-use trail park facility. The approximately 2-mile trail will wind through 30 acres of mature white spruce forest, ideally nestled between the Delta River and the Richardson Highway. The River Walk Park Phase I provides easy public access to outdoor recreation as it lies walking distance from the Delta State Recreation Site, Family Medical Center, and the local grocery store. The trail will be designed to accommodate pedestrian and bike use in the summer, and groomed for skiing during snowy months. The flat terrain near downtown Delta Junction provides a good site to incorporate a segment of handicap accessible trail into part of the layout as well.
- II. **Project Alternatives**-The River Walk Park Project is a diversified recreational facility. We separated the concept plan into phases. Phase I is the non-motorized heart of the site. RWP I will connect to motorized trails, parking facility, picnic area, Delta River access. The alternative of laying out and constructing the entire site at once was considered but we chose the alternative of pursuing the plan in phases. This is Phase I. Phase I avoids an adjacent old dump site.
- III. **Local land use Plans B**-Delta Junction Community Trails Plan 2015: The River Walk Park trail ranked #4 out of 14 trail projects detailed in this community-supported land use plan.
Eastern Tanana Valley Basin Plan: The River Walk Park design advances the aims of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Eastern Tanana Valley Basin Plan. Chapter 2: Recreation and Scenic Resources Goal for Recreation Opportunities states that, "Lands will be provided for accessible outdoor recreational opportunities with well-designed and conveniently located recreational facilities." The River Walk Park provides easy public access for outdoor recreation in mature forest as well as scenic views of the Delta River and Alaska Range. Lying within city limits the trail facility is an appropriate site to designate for multi-use public access since it is walkable from Department of Forestry, Delta State Recreation Site, First Baptist Church, Delta Junction City Hall, Delta Community Library yet retains a rather intact stand of mature white spruce (*Picea glauca*) forest.
The City of Delta Junction has no land use plan but the Delta Junction City Council supports this project.
Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP 2016)
Goal 1: Increase Participation in Outdoor Recreation Strategy: Improve/increase accessibility to outdoor recreation facilities and areas (SCORP p.38)
Goal 2: Maintain Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Strategy: Design build and refurbish infrastructure using sustainable materials and promote safe and healthy environment for recreation (SCORP p. 38)
C. Social and Economic-The River Walk Park will have a positive effect on the local economy. Tourists as well as Alaskan residents pass through Delta Junction, to participate in outdoor recreation. The River Walk Park will be a visible amenity attracting summer campers from the Delta State Recreation Site and local RV parks. Travelers will stop in Delta for a scenic walk less than mile from downtown businesses. The River Walk Park will draw attention to the natural scenic beauty of the glacial Delta River and snow-capped Alaska Range and improve the appearance of downtown Delta Junction. The central accessible location of the River Walk Park will support healthy active lifestyles of residents and encourage a natural connection to the forest, river, and mountains beyond.
D. Archeological and Historical Resources:
 1. There are no National Register listed or eligible sites in the project area, and
 2. There will be no impact to listed or eligible sites.However, please note that only a very small portion of the State has been surveyed for cultural resources and therefore, the possibility remains that previously unidentified resources may be located within the project area. Should unidentified archaeological resources be discovered in the course of the project, work

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must be interrupted until the resources have been evaluated in terms of the National Register of Historic Places eligibility criteria (36 CFR 60.4) or Alaska Landmarks status in consultation with our office.

G. Wetlands: Based on the overview drawing provided, it doesn't look like there is any intent to do work below the ordinary highwater mark of the Delta River, but if things like boat ramps, bank stabilization, or other structures are part of the plan, they may require Section 404 permitting. The soil survey indicates very fine sand loam, or alluvium with coarse rounded gravel, with no permafrost or hydric soils. These soil types are classified as "well drained with no ponding." The soils do not promote the growth of hydrophytic vegetation. The plant ecosystem is mostly mature white spruce (*Picea glauca*) with typical boreal forest understory. This suggests that the well-drained soil type is well suited to accommodate a non-motorized trail will and construction of the trail will not adversely affect wetlands. It is our assumption that the River Walk Park Trail phase I will not affect the course, location, condition or capacity of US Waters as defined in Section 404 of the the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. No material will be dredged or wetlands filled. The project area lies within the 100-year floodplain. However, we are asked to review with USACE our trail project will "increase the backwater elevation of the 100-year floodplain" or "adversely impact the floodway."

K. Hazardous Waste: Site is located on a former contaminated site. Hazard ID: 25391. Cleanup complete date:4/22/20. No hazardous waste is present.

IV Public Involvement.

Delta Junction Community Trails Plan 2015

Community Clean Up Day at RWP May 2017

Trail Design and Layout Workshop open to public held RWP May 2017

Rivers Trails Conservation Assistance for RWP grant awarded Oct 2017-20

Presentations to Delta Jct. City Council and Chamber of Commerce Aug 2018

Submitted article to Delta Wind local newspaper Sept 2018

Project posted trail-head 4 Sept 2018 & 23 Oct 2020

KUAC interview and article Aug 17, 2020