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School that has eliminated, to its north, a fairly dense stand of willow, aspen, and spruce. These trees acted as a visual screen between the South Campus and Power Plant and Physical Plant, and with their removal the rather unattractive south sides of these UAF facilities are fully visible to more than just passengers on the Alaska Railroad. It has a significant visual impact when viewed from the east and from parts of Geist Road and Fairbanks Street.

Similarly, an expanded view of the west side of the University Park building was created when a new access road to West Valley was constructed. Everyone arriving at or leaving West Valley via University now passes by the University Park building, for which no significant visual improvements have been made since UAF acquired ownership.

A subcommittee of the MPC (Gary Copus, Deb Wells, and Mike Supkis) was appointed to assess the situation and make recommendations to the MPC. To supplement the ground views of the area and to get a better sense of the area involved, two members of the subcommittee took an aerial tour of the location: Gary Copus piloted his plane and Deb Wells took photos using a digital camera. The results of this survey are available for viewing. From ground and air views, the subcommittee made the following initial observations:

1. There is virtually no buffer between West Valley High School and the University. What trees still remain are few and far between.
2. The view from the south side of the University is virtually unobstructed to the Power Plant. Although an important structure in terms of function, it is singularly unattractive, nonetheless. This does not present a positive picture of UAF.
3. The west side of the University Park building is clearly visible to all vehicles exiting West Valley. As it currently appears, there is virtually nothing that links the University Park building to UAF, visually speaking.

Based on this subcommittee's presentation and the discussions that followed over several meetings, the MPC makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation

To enhance the view of UAF from the South Campus area and from the Alaska Railroad, the present visual impact of the Power Plant and Physical Plant must be modified. Specifically, it is recommended that Facilities Services be directed to prepare landscaping and paint-color designs to enhance the view of UAF from the south,

