

The Tripod

August 2021



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The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance promotes awareness of the Iditarod Trail and its gold rush and Alaska Native heritage by encouraging education programs and historical research, assisting in the protection, improvement, maintenance and marking of the Trail and developing partnerships that foster stewardship, commitments and support.

911 Memorial Trail

A bill has been introduced in congress which would designate a 1,300 mile memorial trail for the 20th anniversary of the terror attacks that took place on September 11, 2001. This trail already has a website, 911trail.org, which describes the trail and its mission as, "The September 11th National Memorial Trail is a 1,300-mile system of trails and roadways that symbolize resiliency and character while linking the National September 11 Memorial and Museum in New York City, the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, and the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The trail serves as a tribute to the fallen heroes who perished on September 11, 2001, and the many heroes who committed themselves to the response for their country."



The Trail offers walkers, runners, and cyclists a safe, accessible opportunity to experience beautiful landscapes, discover new towns, and visit historic sites of American resilience along the way. The nonprofit September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance is working closely with local, state and federal governments, federal agencies, and fellow trail organizations to make the 1,300-mile vision a reality.

National Trails Day®



Even with COVID-19 limitations the trail community had a great impact on National Trails Day® this year. More than 274 miles of trail were built or improved by more than 6,000 volunteers at 11 project sites.

Also trail users in all the states held events to celebrate local trails and make the general public aware of the importance of trails.

From the past...

“Iditarod Pioneer’ August 23,1913

ROGERS’ HOTEL HAS ELECTRIC LIGHTS

The first establishment in Iditarod to be lighted with electric lights is the Golden Eagle hotel, conducted by J. J Rogers on First Avenue. The plant arrived and was installed this week. The lights get their “juice” from a storage battery, which contains enough power for a month’s use, when it will be recharged. Each of the sleeping rooms is supplied for 10-candle-power light.

“Iditarod Pioneer” October 4, 1913

SCHOOL COMMENCED LAST WEDNESDAY

The newly elected Iditarod school board has rented the cabin on Second Street lately occupied by Mrs. Earle Byers and have made it into a very cozy schoolhouse.

Miss. M. Haley has been engaged as teacher and the school term started last Wednesday morning.



“Iditarod Pioneer” November 5, 1913

WILL DEBATE THIS WINTER

Iditarod is now the proud possessor of a full-fledged debating society. The large and comfortable hall above Bill Ashley's bookstore on Richmond Street has been secured and is being fitted up with seats and tables, and there will be plenty of literature on hand for the members. The society starts with an active membership of 25, and nearly all of them are ready to take a hand at the topics to be discussed.

The trustees of the society will shortly announce a winter program which will contain many interesting subjects. The society will endeavor to arrange its meeting nights so as not to conflict with the entertainments of other organizations.

2021 trail use survey of first mile of Iditarod National Historic Trail through Seward.

The survey location is at about mile 0.5 on the Trail.

Adults, teens and children	June 21-27 4-4:30 pm	June 28-July 4 5:30-6 pm	July 5-11 2-2:30 pm	July 12-18 11-11:30 am	July 12-18 7-7:30 pm	Total
Walking	176	333	171	258	329	1267
Biking	54	62	29	28	31	204
Running	3	9	13	7	7	39
On scooters	4	4	8	10	5	31
Skateboarding	1	5		1	2	9
On unicycles				3	2	5
In wheelchair					1	1
Total	238	413	221	307	377	1556
Dogs being walked	10	17	30	15	7	79

The smallest number on the trail for any of surveyed times was 6 walkers on June 23 from 4-4:40 pm. It was overcast and raining that day. The most people on the trail for a surveyed time was 103 on July 3, from 5-5:50 pm, 93 walking, 5 running, 4 biking and 1 skateboarding. It was overcast that day, but no rain or wind and there were a lot of people in town for the 4th of July weekend.

Alaska Long Trail Funding Vetoed

One of the budget items vetoed by Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy in early July was \$13.2 million for the Alaska Long Trail.

The Dunleavy administration had earlier supported funding for the trail, which has also had bipartisan support in the Alaska Legislature.

Portage Pass Trail

The Conservation Fund has announced the protection of roughly 250 acres of recreational land in Whittier, Alaska using funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. An inholding within the Chugach National Forest, which contains a portion of the historic Portage Pass Trail, including the trailhead and parking area, was transferred from the environmental nonprofit, the Conservation Fund, to the USDA Forest Service to secure permanent public access of the trail.

Dave Dickason, Mayor of Whittier said: “This is a huge gift for the City of Whittier. We have community members who use the Portage Pass Trail almost daily for exercise during the summer months. Some use it for berry picking and to access the beach at Portage Lake for picnics and recreation. It also brings more business in for our business owners.”

