

The Iditarod Trail

The history of the Iditarod Trail began in 1908, when the Alaska Road Commission sent a party to survey a winter mail trail from Seward to Nome. The Commission was established by Congress in 1905 to build roads and trails in Alaska.

The discovery of gold in the Iditarod District on Christmas Day 1908 led to the last great gold rush in Alaska.

Because of increased traffic over the trail from Seward to the Iditarod District, the Road Commission provided for the improvement of the condition, alignment and marking of the trail from Seward to Nome in 1910-11.

Thousands of people and tons of supplies, mail and gold went over the trail until the late 1920s when mining declined and the airplane replaced the dog team.

In 1978 Congress designated the Iditarod Trail from Seward to Nome as the first National Historic Trail.



The Trail For All Seasons

Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers

The Trail Blazers oversees the location, construction, maintenance and promotion of the Iditarod National Historic Trail from Seward to Girdwood.

Over the years, the Alaska Railroad and the Seward Highway overlaid parts of the original trail between Seward and Girdwood. The



main goal of the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers is to reestablish a continuous alternative trail between Seward and Girdwood. With help from the Chugach National Forest much has been done, but there are still gaps in the trail that need to be completed.

Membership information at:

Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers

PO Box 1923, Seward AK 99664

sitblazers@gmail.com

Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance

The Alliance promotes public awareness of the Iditarod National Historic Trail from Seward to Nome and its gold rush and Alaska Native Heritage by encouraging education programs, historical research and assisting in the protection, improvement and marking of the trail.

Membership information at:

Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance

PO Box 2323, Seward AK 99664

IditarodHTA@gmail.com

WALK THE FIRST MILE OF THE IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL IN SEWARD, ALASKA



The First Mile of the Iditarod National Historic Trail

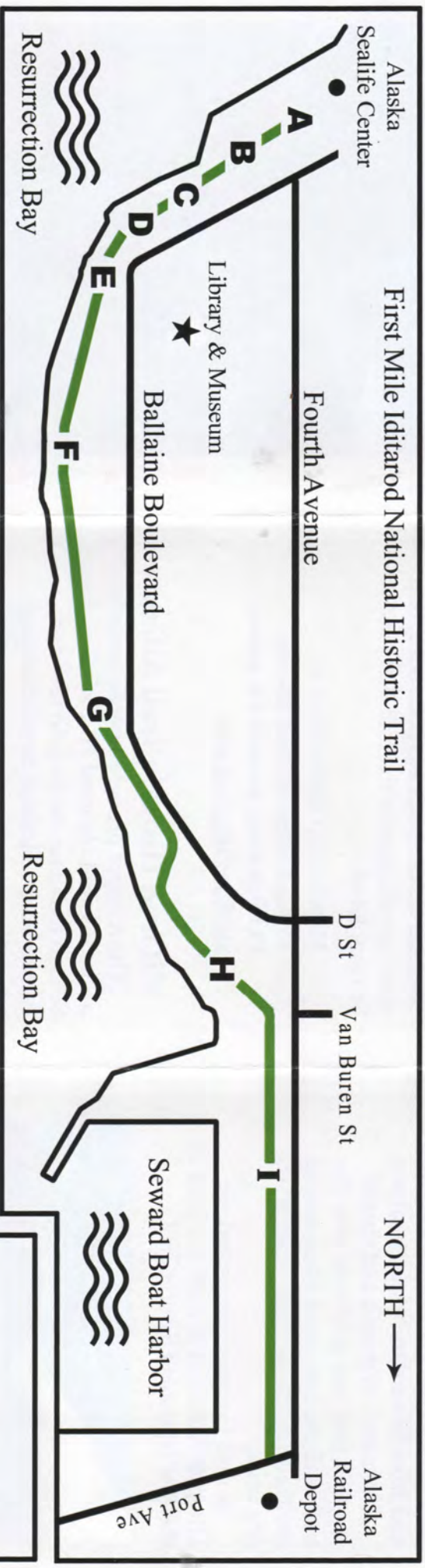
Enjoy the magnificent scenery along the trail and the interpretive signs about the flora, fauna and history of the Seward area. Special points of interest include:

- A. Trail Blazers** statue, erected in 2012 by the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers, commemorates Seward's important role in the history of the Iditarod Trail.
- B. Historic Alaska Railroad Depot and Hoben Park.** The depot, built in 1917 at the foot of Adams Street, was moved next to Hoben Park in 1928. It served as the Alaska Railroad Depot until the 1964 Alaska Earthquake.
- C. Jujiro Wada** statue, erected in 2016 by the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers, honors this Iditarod Trail pioneer.
- D. The Founders' Monument** commemorates the founding of Seward in 1903.
- E. The Mile Zero** sign of the Iditarod National Historic Trail from Seward to Nome.
- F. Remains of the 800 foot U. S. Army dock** built in 1943 and destroyed by the 1964 Alaska Earthquake.
- G. Japanese Gazebo**, a gift from Seward's sister city Obihiro, Japan, is a wonderful place to sit and enjoy the beauty of Resurrection Bay, and to think about the mail carriers and prospectors leaving Seward for the long trip to Iditarod.
- H. Scheffler Creek Bridge** overlooks a popular fishing and wildlife viewing area.
- I. Kenai Fjords National Park Visitor Center.** Stamp your National Park Passport here with an Iditarod Trail Mile 0 stamp and in the space below.*

* To learn more about the Iditarod Trail, visit the **Seward Community Library and Museum** at 239 Sixth Avenue.



A. Trail Blazers



C. Jujiro Wada



E. Mile Zero



G. Japanese Gazebo



H. Scheffler Creek Bridge



I. Mile 0 Stamp *