



**TAKE ONLY PICTURES –  
LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS**

ELEVATION AT PEAK= 2503  
ELEVATION AT WATER = 2128

## **TUBBS HILL HISTORICAL - NATURE TRAIL**

Welcome to Tubbs Hill. The two-mile loop trail features outstanding scenic viewpoints, woodland habitats and historical focal points. The self-guided walk follows the “loop trail” markers and begins at the trailhead located at the South end of the Third Street Parking Lot between McEuen Field and the Coeur d’Alene Resort (look for the large map of Tubbs Hill). The wood trail markers are 8 inches by 10 inches in size and are at a height of about 8 feet. Allow about two hours and wear comfortable shoes as the trail is rocky and steep in some areas. Dogs are permitted if kept on a leash, but please keep the trail clean for those who follow.

This pamphlet is designed to acquaint you with the historical events that shaped Coeur d’Alene and to help you identify some of the major trees and shrubs found in the area. A spectacular display of wildflowers appears in the spring but because they are so fleeting, the species will not be identified in this pamphlet. A more complete list of plants, as well as a list of birds and animals that are found on Tubbs Hill is available at the Parks and Recreation office located at City Hall.

Tubbs Hill is a wonderful place to experience the change of seasons. Whether it is the long, warm evenings of summer, the crisp golden days of fall, the quiet solitude of winter, or the exuberance of spring bursting forth, you will be constantly rewarded with new discoveries. Please take time to enjoy your walk.

## OWNER OF TUBBS HILL

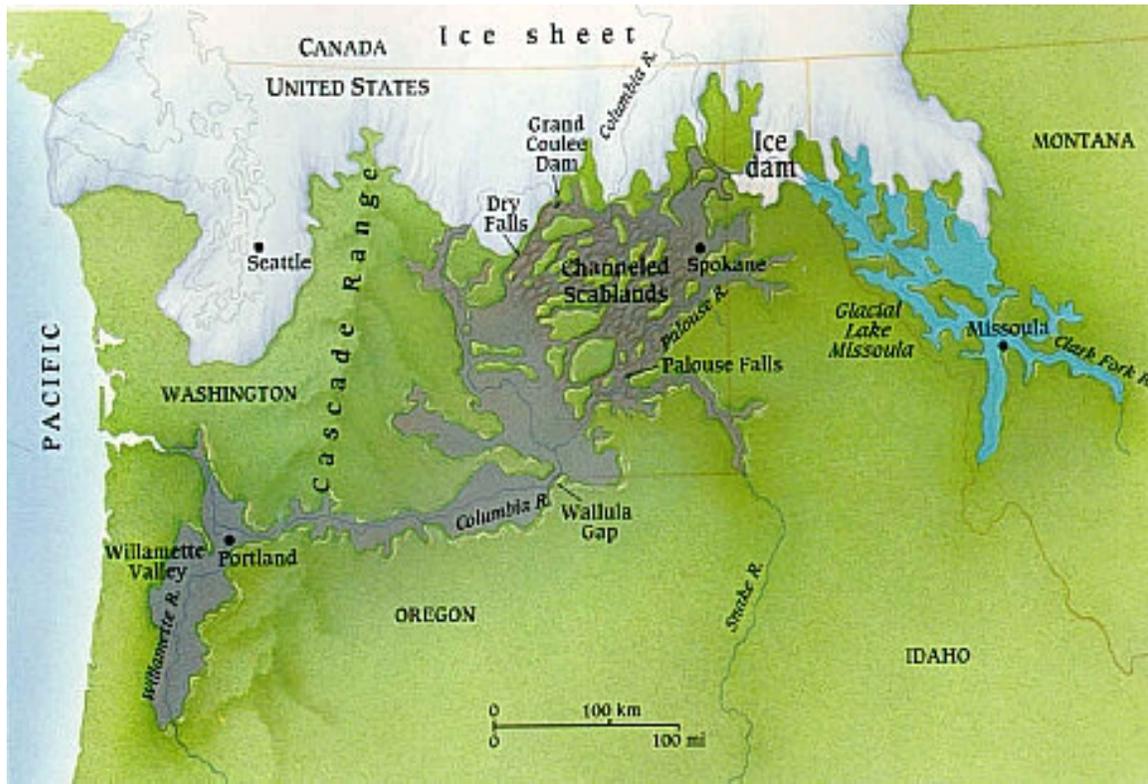
Tony A. Tubbs, an immigrant from Germany, came to this area in 1882 and filed a claim which included a large portion of what is now Tubbs Hill. In 1884 he made a plat of the west portion of the site which became known as the "Tubbs Addition to the City of Coeur d'Alene", and included 11 lots approximately 300 feet square. Tubbs, who became the first Justice of the Peace in Coeur d'Alene, is also credited with the building of Coeur d'Alene's first hotel known as the "Hotel d'Landing". He has been described as a happy go lucky man who was well liked by all.

### 1) GEOLOGY



You are standing on Precambrian metamorphic mica schist and gneiss. These very old sediments that, heated by rising basalt magma, were turned into rocks. The flakes of mica in lakes and streams are known as "fool's gold".

## 2) SOIL



Scoured by the Glacial Lake Missoula floods, soil on the hill has only been formed over the last 12,000 years. Although some soil has been formed by weathering rocks, most is composed of volcanic ash from Mt. Mazama (6,500 years ago) and soil blown in by the wind. The upper layer is being formed by decaying plants and animals. Soil depth on Tubbs Hill rarely exceeds 5 inches. Since plant roots stabilize soil, areas with little vegetation are prone to erosion. Please help reduce erosion by remaining on trails.

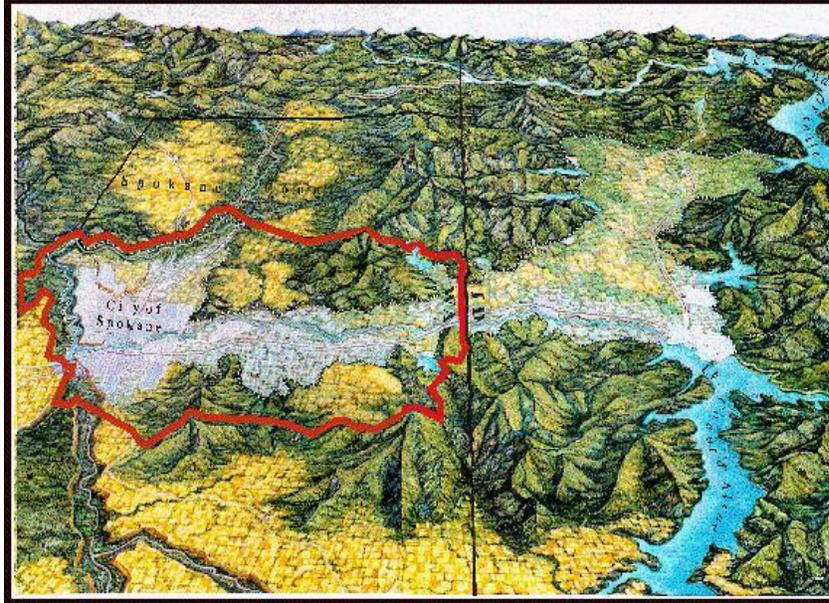
### 3) KINNIKINNICK (*Arctostaphylos-ursi*)



This low-profile evergreen shrub with reddish bark and leathery leaves produces pinkish-white, urn shaped flowers that yield orange or red berries. The Greek word *Arctostaphylos* and the Latin word *uva-ursai* both mean bear's grape. The berries are edible but beware of their bitterness!

The Native American word "Kinnikinnick" was applied to many tobacco substitutes but frequently to this species. Both Native American's and early settlers made a smoking mixture by combining the dried leaves of this plant with the dry inner bark of Red-osier Dogwood. Tannin was obtained from the leaves to cure pelts.

#### 4) LAKE COEUR D'ALENE



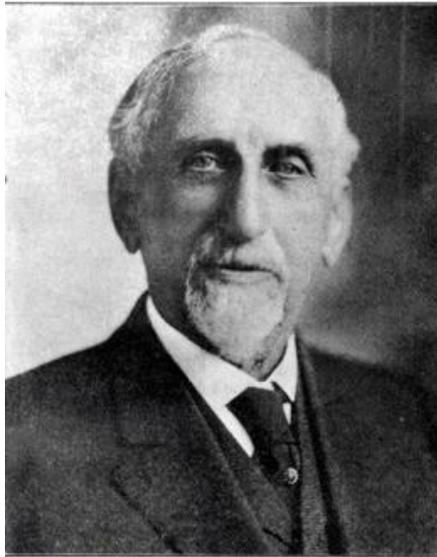
Geologists believe that the ice margin never advanced as far south as Coeur d'Alene and attribute the formation of the lake to rocks carried by floodwaters from prehistoric Lake Missoula. According to this theory, a glacier known as the Purcell Lobe moved southward from Canada approximately 15,000 years ago and blocked the Clark Fork Valley, impounding the water of the Clark Fork River. The advancement of this glacier scoured a long deep trough which later became Lake Pend Oreille. Water from the Clark Fork River filled tributary valleys behind the glacier for more than 100 miles beyond Missoula. The shrinking and collapse of the Purcell Lobe released the powerful mass of water from Lake Missoula. The floodwaters deposited rock and silt across the Coeur d'Alene and St. Joe River Valleys, creating a natural dam upon which the City of Coeur d'Alene is built. Impounded by this dam, rivers and streams flooded the valley and formed 32,000-acre Lake Coeur d'Alene. The raging water proceeded past what is now Spokane and created the Channeled Scablands in Eastern Washington.

## 5) (1/2 MILE) COUGAR BAY



Just north of this sign is a view of Cougar Bay and the outlet to Lake Coeur d'Alene. This is the beginning of the Spokane River which flows west into the Columbia River. On the skyline Mica Peak can be seen over the timbered ridge; to the left, Blossom Mountain is to the center of this view.

## 6) D.C. CORBIN



In 1866 D.C. Corbin facilitated the transportation of ore from the mines by building two railroads. One railroad, which was the first to reach Coeur d'Alene, linked the steamboat docks (near the present day floating boardwalk) with the Northern Pacific route to Hauser Junction. Corbin then purchased the existing two lake steamers to connect the terminals of his railroads and built the Kootenai, a steamboat with enough power to break ice and transport ore in the winter.

Concrete foundations of the Corbin House can be seen from this point. Access to the house was along this same trail and by boat. At the end of this peninsula there now exists a battery powered navigation light that is maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard.

## 7) STEAM BOATS AND THE U.S.ARMY



The City of Coeur d'Alene began as a military post in the late 1870's when Camp Coeur d'Alene, later renamed Fort Sherman, was established by General Sherman of Civil War fame. The purpose of the fort was to provide safety for settlers traveling west. A small community developed around it consisting of soldiers' families and of settlers who provided the fort with wood and food.

Several years later the first steamboat to ply the water of Lake Coeur d'Alene was built at the Fort Sherman sawmill. The 85 foot sternwheeler, named the Amelia Wheaton after the daughter of an early post commander, cost the U.S. Government \$5,000.00 and was launched in 1880. Originally used to carry Army supplies, it later transported prospectors to the Coeur d'Alene mining district.

## 8) LICHENS (North of trail on rock)



Lichens are a bizarre group in the plant world because they are a combination of algae and fungus, but are unlike either in form. The algae lives within the fungus and benefits from the moist, protective habitat. In return, the algae supply the fungus with food through photosynthesis. Lichens usually grow where there is little competition from other plants and are found on rocks, tree trunks, and bare soil. They are slow growing and long lived; some grow less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch a year. Lichens come in a variety of forms and colors and are classified by descriptive terms such as crustose (crusty), foliose (leaf like), and fruticose (shrubby). Several different lichens are growing on this rock. Can you guess the form of the bright green yellow lichen? Look for other forms as you continue your hike.

## 9) OCEANSPRAY (*Holodiscus discolor*)



This common shrub grows over 10 feet tall. The leaves are ovate, toothed, green above and nearly white underneath. It produces masses of small creamy-white flowers that remain as dry seed pods throughout winter and spring. Its small dry fruits were eaten by Native Americans.

## 10) PONDEROSA PINE (Pinus Ponderosa)



One of the most important timber species, Ponderosa Pine attains a height of 120 -180 feet. It has yellowish-brown bark which grows in large scaly plates on mature trees and long needles in bundles of three. Some of the Ponderosa Pine on Tubbs Hill are over 150 years old. Western tribes used the gummy pitch as adhesive in canoes.

## 11) FOREST HABITATS

The tree species that you will see most on Tubbs Hill are Ponderosa Pine and Douglas-fir. These conifers have different light and moisture requirements and are accompanied by characteristic understories forming distinctive habitat types. Ponderosa Pine, which tolerates greater sun and wind exposure, is common on south and west facing slopes whereas Douglas-fir prefers the wetter north and east facing slopes. Notice the scarcity of shrubs in this open, grassy Ponderosa Pine forest. Watch for a dense understory when the dominant tree species changes to Douglas-fir further along the trail.

## 12) SNAGS



Standing dead trees, called snags, serve an important function in the forest by providing homes and food for a variety of wildlife species. Burrowing insects live in the dead wood and provide food for birds. Osprey nest on tops of snags, and both osprey and eagles perch on them near lake shorelines to watch for fish. Bats often roost beneath the loose bark.

When bacteria, fungus, and insects attack dead wood, they cause decomposition which forms humus, the layer of material above the topsoil. This process returns nutrients, particularly nitrogen, to the soil which is then reused for plant growth. Dead wood is an important ingredient in a healthy forest environment.

## 13) (1 MILE) HALF WAY POINT

**Alternate at this point will lead you across the fire road to the top of Tubbs hill**

## 14) GRANDSTAND



Concrete footings are all that remain of a once impressive grandstand. Erected in 1914, it was the favorite spot of thousands for viewing Independence Day celebrations, rowing regattas and powerboat races. From this point the passage of the steamboat era was viewed as several of the old boats were burned for Fourth of July celebrations. It was a tearful occasion when the Georgie Oakes, which had carried freight and passengers for thirty years, was burned July 4, 1927.

## 15) DOUGLAS-FIR (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)



The most important timber tree in the world, this evergreen grows 110-170 feet tall. It can be identified by its short needles spiraling around the branches and by its 3-inch long cones with distinctive three pronged bracts protruding from between the scales. Native Americans made fish harpoon shafts and other tools from the wood of this tree and used the roots in basket-making.

## 16) THIMBLEBERRY (*Rubus parviflorus*)



This thorn-less shrub is easy to recognize by its large, soft, maple-like leaves, white flowers, and edible red berries. Ripening in mid-summer, the berries are juicy but somewhat seedy. Like blackberries and raspberries, thimbleberry belongs to the genus *Rubus*. All species of this genus have 5-petaled flowers with numerous stamen that develop into edible berries.

## 17) VIEWS OF SANDERS BEACH



The long shoreline seen east of here is known as Sanders Beach. Now a favorite swimming and sunbathing area, it was once the location of the first sawmill on Lake Coeur d'Alene. Built in 1883, prior to the demand for lumber, the mill soon went bankrupt and the machinery was shipped to Wallace, Idaho. In the early 1900's logging and lumbering became the main industry in this region when eastern lumber companies were attracted by large stands of western white pine. The lumber industry dominated the economy for approximately 30 years.

## 18) MYRTLE PACISTIMA (*Pachistima myrsinites*)



The dark green leaves of this evergreen shrub are often used for winter decorations. The flowers are numerous but small and inconspicuous. They are brownish to yellowish-red and grow in clusters at the base of the leaves. Juncos, small sparrow like birds, nest amidst the protective branches of this hedge like shrub that prefers to grow in moist shaded areas.

## Suspension Bridge at 18



## 19) NINEBARK (*Physocarpus malvaceus*)



This shrub can be recognized by its shredding bark that peels off in long strips. The maple-like leaves are alternate, and the small white flowers produced in early summer are clustered in hemispherical heads. It prefers to grow at forest edges bordering meadows but is also found in brushy areas. It grows in both Douglas-fir and Ponderosa Pine forests.

## 20) (1 ½ MILES) MOSSES



Often overlooked are the mosses that carpet the forest floor. They often help prevent erosion by holding moisture. Growing on soil, rock, and bark, these small plants are anchored by root like threads called rhizoids. Mosses germinate from spores that are produced in capsules. See if you can find any of the long stalked capsules rising above the leafy stems.

## 21) GRAND FIR (*Abies grandis*)



This evergreen tree can attain a height of 100-160 feet. Its flat and relatively wide needles are mostly 1-2 inches long. They are dark green and shiny above the silvery-white underneath. Birds and rodents enjoy the ripe seeds produced in the 2 to 4 inch cones that grow upright. Generally the cones of this and other firs disintegrate before winter.

## 22) WESTERN LARCH OR TAMARACK (*Larix occidentalis*)



The largest tree just north of the trail is a larch. This conifer grows from 100-160 feet tall and is unusual because it loses its needles in late fall. In early autumn the yellow-green needles turn golden-yellow and add a spectacular display of color to the forest. Larch is one of the first species to seed in an area after a fire.

Larch is loved by those who burn wood for the hot, long-burning coals it produces. It is straight grained and is used for splitting shakes and split rail fences.

### 23) OREGON GRAPE (*Berberis repens*)



This low-growing shrub with holly-like leaves has clusters of bright yellow flowers that develop into bluish-purple berries. The ripe berries are edible but are very sour. By adding sugar, juices and jellies can be made. The Native Americans made a yellow dye from the roots which they used for dyeing clothing and basket-making fibers.

### 24) SERVICEBERRY (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)



Serviceberry ranges in height from 3-20 feet and is one of the first shrubs to flower in spring. Its showy white blossoms are often mistaken for our state flower, *Syringa*, which blooms about a month later. The bluish-purple fruits are edible although they are not sweet or juicy. The Native Americans dried the berries for winter use and made pemmican by pounding together the dried berries with dried meat. Many wildlife species browse on this shrub and the berries are consumed by pheasant and grouse.

## 25) FERNS



Ferns are considered less advanced than flowering plants because they reproduce by spores rather than seeds. The spores are contained in tiny capsules called sporangia and generally are found on the undersides of the leaves (fronds) in clusters called sori. Changing from green to brown as they mature, the sori often resemble groups of insect eggs.

There are ferns present (as of 4/6/04) but they are far a few between at this location. Can you spot them?

## 26) SNOWBERRY (*Symphoricarpos albus*)



This plant is easiest to recognize when it has fruit. Its waxy-white berries are persistent through winter and are consumed by birds. From spring to late summer look for leaves arising in pairs and white to pinkish flowers occurring in terminal or axillary clusters. Saponin, a poisonous drug, is contained in the leaves.

## 27) (2 MILES) COEUR D'ALENE MILL



These concrete footings are the only reminder of the sawmills that operated on this site for over 40 years. Preceded by several mills with different names, the Coeur d'Alene Mill Co. was the last mill to operate here. It closed in bankruptcy in 1929. Try to imagine millions of board feet of lumber piled in the area now occupied by McEuen Field and the parking lot. Coeur d'Alene certainly has undergone many changes!

At this point, you are just a short distance from the end of the trail. We hope that your hike around Tubbs Hill has been enjoyable and that you leave with a better understanding of the historical and environmental aspects of this area. Please come visit again!

### **Tubbs Hill**

Tubbs Hill is comprised of 135 acres of publicly owned land. It is largely undeveloped and only a few man-made elements are found in what is essentially an urban wilderness area., accessible only by foot. Tubbs Hill offers as great a picturesque scenery and tranquil setting as anyone could hope to find in a natural park.

Tubbs Hill was obtained through four separate purchases that spanned a period of over 40 years. The first 33 acres were purchased in 1936 for \$19,000.00, following voter approval of a bond issue for that amount. The property included what is now known as McEuen Field, the present site of City Hall, and a narrow strip of waterfront property along the west side of the hill extending to the southwest point. It was not until 1969 that the second purchase was made for 34 additional acres. At that time Tubbs Hill was dedicated to the people forever.

In 1974, 34 more acres were purchased. The last land purchase was in 1977 for another 34 acres. Coeur d'Alene is proud to have Tubbs Hill as part of its park system and hopes that you enjoy this unique park setting.

Tubbs Hill and the City of Coeur d'Alene were once part of the vast 4 million-acre territory claimed by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The Coeur d'Alene's were a semi-nomadic tribe with an estimated population of 3,000 to 4,000 people. They refer to themselves as Schitsu'umsh, meaning "Discovered People", and acquired the name Coeur d'Alene from French Canadian trappers. According to one popular story, the trappers attempted to trade for valuable furs with insignificant items. The Native Americans were shrewd traders and stated that the trappers had hearts as small as the point of an awl. Accepting the retort, the trappers called the tribe Coeur d'Alene or "Heart of the Awl".

In 1890 the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Co. built a railroad into the mining district that bypassed the steamer route and provided low cost transportation for the ore. The old steamers suffered a serious decline until the early 1900's when lake boating experienced a dramatic shift from freight to passengers.

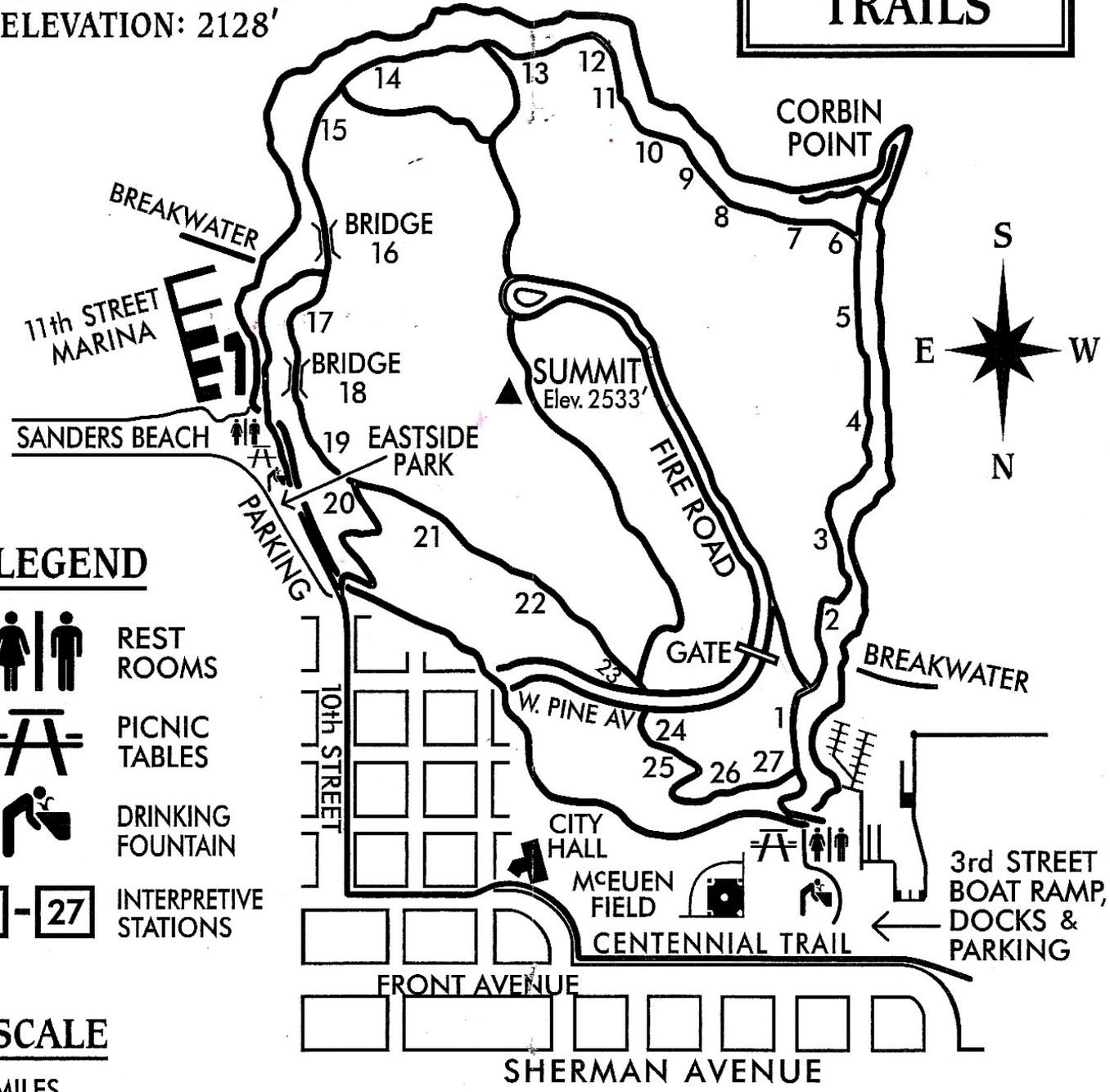
The completion of the electric railroad between Spokane and Coeur d'Alene in 1903 ushered in an era of elegant steamboat travel which lasted over twenty years. New and refurbished steamers with fancy dining accommodations, pianos and dance barges attracted tourists who arrived daily by the hundreds and then thousands.

With the arrival of faster boats and inexpensive automobile travel, the last chapter in the steamboat era was written. No longer profitable to operate, many of the old steamers were burned and sunk. Across the lake between Three Mile Point and Stevens Point lie the remains of several steamers: the Kootenai, the Colfax, and the Harrison.

# Lake Coeur d'Alene

ELEVATION: 2128'

## TUBBS HILL TRAILS



### LEGEND

-  REST ROOMS
-  PICNIC TABLES
-  DRINKING FOUNTAIN
-  1-27 INTERPRETIVE STATIONS

### SCALE

