



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Tommy
Thompson
Parkway**
Washington



Tommy Thompson Parkway

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Though relatively short at 3.3 miles, the Tommy Thompson Parkway stands tall in the ferry port of Anacortes for its notable 2,000-foot-long paved trestle spanning picturesque Fidalgo Bay.

About the Route

Enjoyed locally for family outings, sightseeing, and bird-watching, the rail-trail is also significant for its proximity to a Washington State Ferry Terminal (4 miles west of the trail). Those ferries to and from the San Juan Islands or Victoria, British Columbia, often carry bicyclists whose travels include the trail on the first leg of their journeys.

The rail-trail follows the inactive corridor of the short-lived Seattle and Northern Company line, which was built

in 1890 when Anacortes boomed as a promised hub of a transcontinental railway. When investors ran out of money, the boom turned to bust. What's more, the railroad realized that a cross-country route from Anacortes wasn't feasible. The Great Northern Railway bought the short line, built the depot in 1911, and eventually merged into the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, which discontinued service along the Anacortes branch.

The route is named for Tommy Thompson, a passionate local railroad hobbyist who hand-built the Anacortes railway. He operated the popular six-block narrow-gauge railway for some 25 years until his death in 1999.

The tourist train and steam locomotive puffed within a couple blocks of today's northern endpoint for the Tommy Thompson Parkway at 11th Street and Q Avenue. That's also just a few blocks from The Depot Arts & Community Center (611 R Avenue) and a block from the Port of Anacortes and waterfront. Heading south, the flat trail continues past boatyards, marinas, and other maritime businesses as it passes trailheads and parking at 22nd, 30th, and 34th Streets. A bus stop, water, and restrooms are available at 22nd Street and R Avenue.

Continuing south, the path rolls along the shoreline below some bluffs and then crosses Fidalgo Bay on the long trestle that connects Weaverling Spit and March's Point. Along the way, visitors are treated to murals, trailside sculptures, and more than a half-dozen turnouts with interpretive signs that describe the local history, economy, flora, and fauna. In that final mile, the forest of firs and madrones gives way to mudflats at low tide. The shallow waters expose eelgrass beds and habitat for salmon, other fish, and marine animals. Snowcapped Mount Baker can be seen in the distance on clear days, while great blue herons and bald eagles fly overhead.

When a mysterious fire damaged the trestle in 2009, local



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States: Washington

Counties: Skagit

Length: 3.3miles

Trail end points: 11th St & Q Ave (Anacortes) to
March's Point Rd (Anacortes)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Boardwalk

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The Tommy Thompson Parkway runs between 11th St & Q Ave (Anacortes), where parking is available, and March's Point Rd (Anacortes).

Parking is available at:

- Ben Root Skatepark, 2313 R Ave. (Anacortes)
- 34th St. Station (Anacortes)

Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



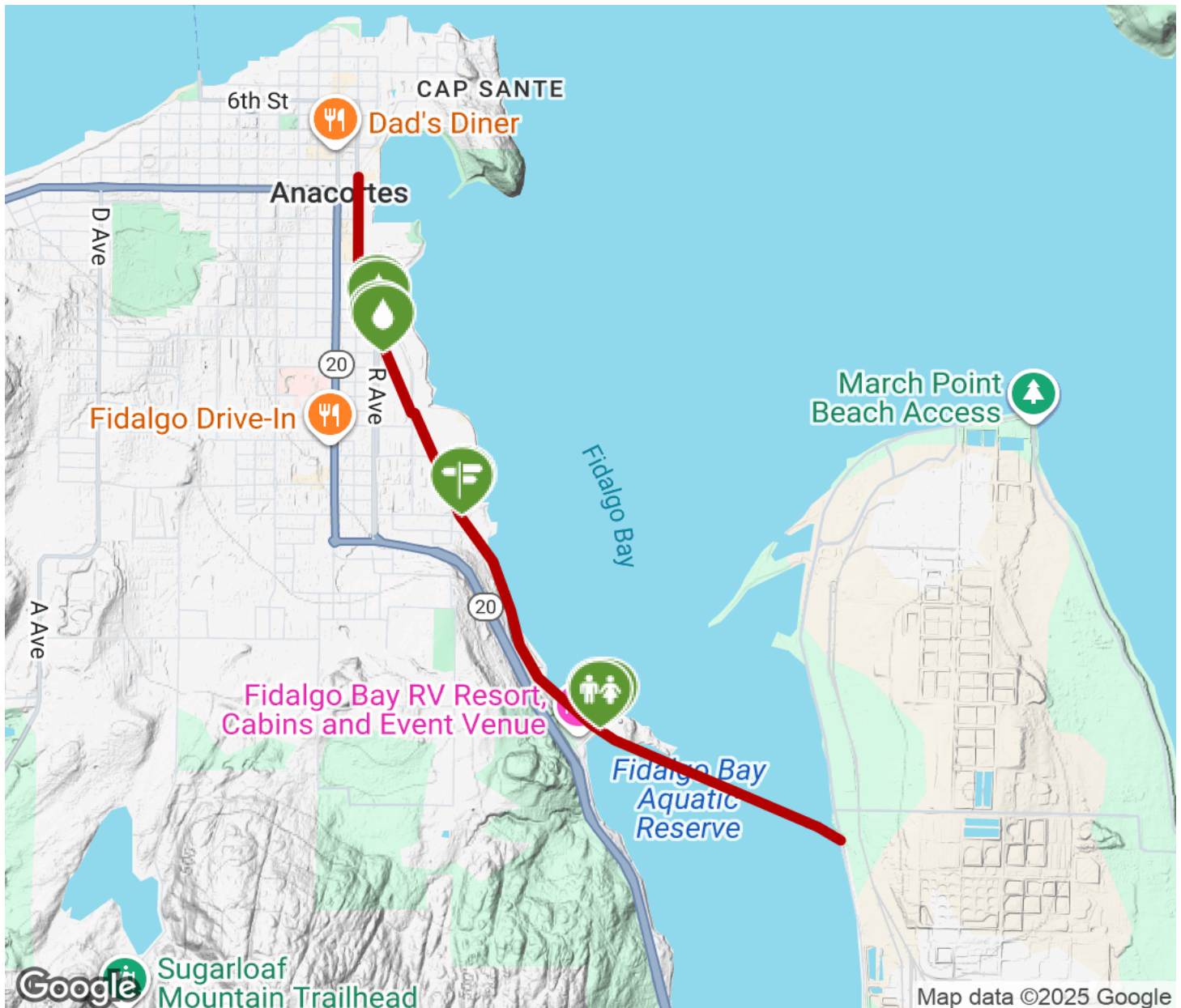
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Tommy Thompson Parkway

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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