

Grand Canyon National Park

Arizona

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Desired Conditions for the North Rim

As part of this planning effort, park staff refined desired conditions for the North Rim. Desired conditions help park managers answer the question, “what are we trying to achieve?” The key desired condition for the North Rim, as articulated in the park’s 1995 General Management Plan, is that:

“The North Rim should maintain a low-key and uncrowded atmosphere that offers visitors opportunities to be intimately involved with the environment.”

Desired conditions were developed for:

- **Visitor Experience** – low density of visitors; relaxed pace; let the outside in; discovery of unobstructed views; human-scale development.
- **Natural Resources** – mostly intact ecosystems; natural processes prevail; pervasive natural sounds and dark night skies; maintained but not manicured plant life; healthy wildlife.
- **Cultural Resources** – retains historic features and feel.
- **Proposed Wilderness** – accommodates a range of perspectives and experiences: source of renewal; sense of adventure; pervasive wilderness.
- **Facilities** – enduring high-quality facilities; facilitate spontaneous community and connection; wildfire resilience.
- **Activities and Services** – services facilitate visits but do not distract from them; basic digital connection, widespread disconnection; traditional low-key activities.

How To Comment

As you review the concepts, the planning team would like to hear your feedback.

- Share how the actions and ideas would align or detract from your desired experiences at the North Rim
- Identify actions or ideas that the planning team has not yet considered, but that you would like to see evaluated
- Describe facilities and amenities that you feel are essential for a visit to the North Rim
- Consider resource protection and fire resiliency when providing input on the long-term management of the area.

Concept Summaries



Concept A: Restore and Modernize. This concept rebuilds the North Rim’s developed areas and key destinations largely as they were, modernized to meet current safety, accessibility, and operational standards. Prefire activities, services, and functions are restored, and the primary visitor season remains approximately May 15–November 30. As with all three concepts, the start of the North Kaibab Trail would be relocated to the top of CC Hill. This concept most closely resembles the prefire North Rim familiar to longtime visitors.



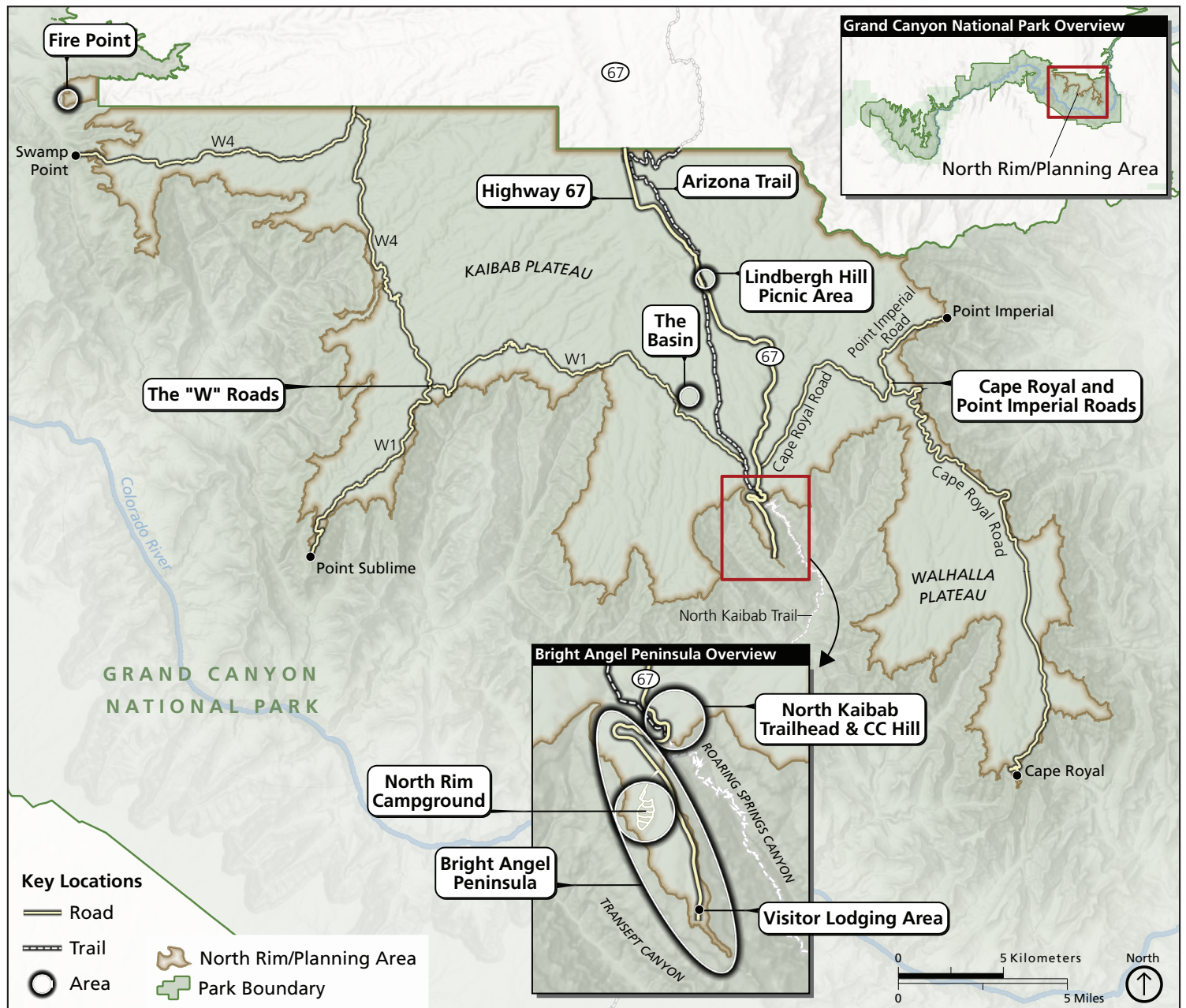
Concept B: Transform. This concept reimagines the North Rim as a four-season destination through major infrastructure upgrades, extending the primary visitor season to approximately April 1–January 5. As with all three concepts, the North Kaibab Trailhead would be relocated to the top of CC Hill. A longer season means a larger year-round workforce, requiring expanded administrative facilities—offices, employee housing, and equipment storage—to support operations. This concept preserves the North Rim’s core character while opening up new opportunities to experience it across all four seasons.



Concept C: Expand. This concept combines year-round access with a larger developed footprint—expanding overnight lodging, camping, recreational opportunities such as trails, and visitor services to increase capacity during peak season. As with all three concepts, the North Kaibab Trailhead would be relocated to the top of CC Hill. To accommodate increased lodging, overnight parking would move from the lodge area to CC Hill, which would also serve as a park-and-ride and visitor services hub. The expansion of visitor services requires an expanded workforce and additional administrative facilities exceeding what is needed for the other concepts.



Project Website QR Code



Key locations within the scope of the planning effort for North Rim recovery:

- **North Rim.** The upland areas of the Kaibab Plateau that fall within Grand Canyon National Park.
- **Bright Angel Peninsula.** The Bright Angel Peninsula juts southward from the southern edge of the Kaibab Plateau and is situated between Transept and Roaring Springs Canyons.
- **North Rim Campground.** Located in a wooded area on the west side of Bright Angel Peninsula.
- **CC Hill.** Located just north of the Bright Angel Peninsula, this high point divides Roaring Springs Canyon to the south and east from Thompson and Fuller Canyons to the north and west.
- **North Kaibab Trailhead.** The start of the North Kaibab Trail, which descends south into Roaring Springs Canyon and eventually to the Colorado River.
- **Cape Royal and Point Imperial Roads.** These scenic drives lead to various points of interest. Also known as “The Scenics.”
- **Lindbergh Hill Picnic Area.** Located approximately 4 miles south of the North Rim entrance station.
- **Arizona Trail.** A nonmotorized path from Mexico to Utah that passes through the North Rim from the North Kaibab Trailhead to the north park boundary.
- **Highway 67.** Also called the “Grand Canyon Highway,” Highway 67 is the only paved vehicular access to the North Rim. The road is currently closed in winter.
- **The “W” Roads.** High-clearance dirt roads to Point Sublime (W1) and Swamp Point (W4).
- **The Basin.** An ecologically sensitive area comprising meadows located along the W1 road.
- **Fire Point.** A backcountry camping area and scenic viewpoint on the western end of the North Rim.