Rim to Rim / Rim to River Day Hiking & Running Management

Step 1: Assess Problem

Public feedback and park staff have identified a number of issues related to extended day hiking and running along Corridor trails, including decreased opportunities for solitude, crowding at specific sites, conflict among user groups, increased instances of litter, and improper disposal of human waste.
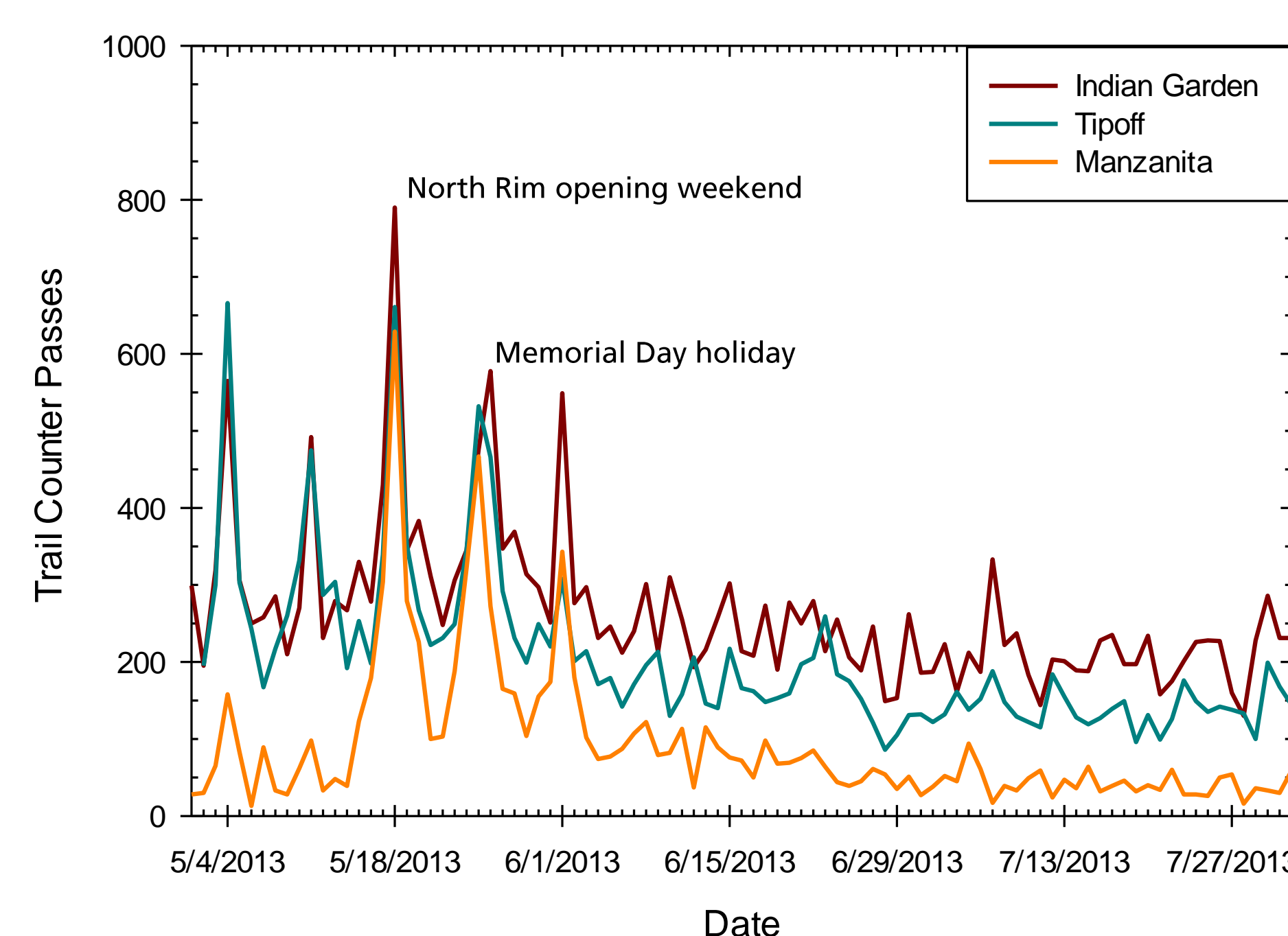
Encounters with large groups

Waiting to use the restroom

Rim to rim runner

Step 2: Design

Adaptive management requires that use levels and use patterns are known. Data collection includes trail counters, visitor surveys, and a proposed day use permit.

Use levels as estimated by automated trail counters

Step 3: Implement

A permit system for Corridor day hikes going below the Tonto would include an educational message to improve interactions among user groups, reduce litter, and promote proper disposal of human waste. The permit system would also provide data on use levels and use patterns..
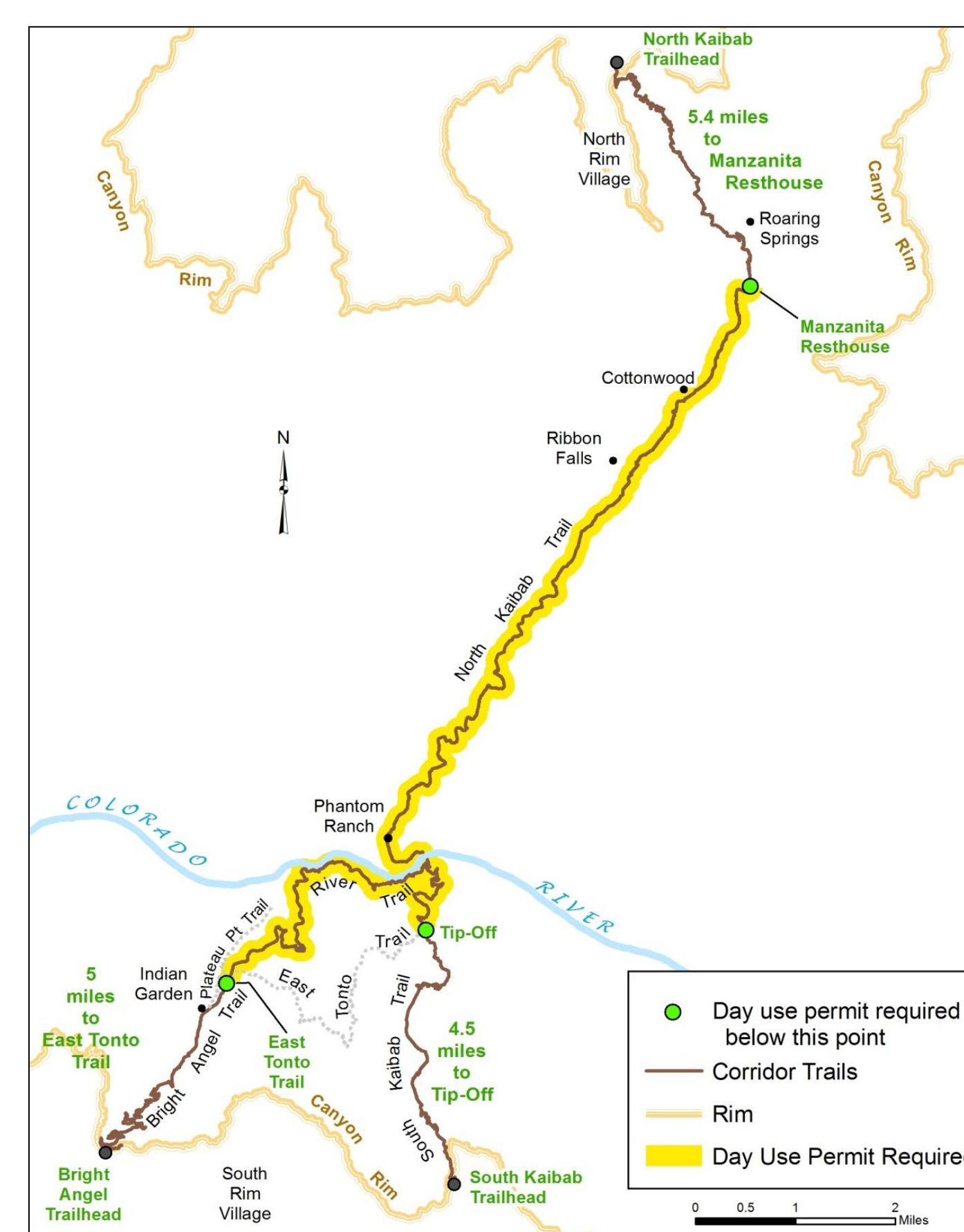
Map of day use permit area

Step 4: Monitor

Monitoring would include: 1) use levels measured by the number of permits issued; and 2) observations of encounters with other people measured by park staff. Encounters with other people may help serve as a proxy for solitude and crowding.

Step 5: Evaluate

Use level data and visitor survey data will help park managers determine if issues have been addressed.

Visitor evaluations of encounters with others

Step 6: Adjust

Additional adjustments if needed include group size limits, daily use limits by trail, and designated days for group events. As adjustments are made, this process would begin again.