



Gardner River Canyon Reclamation

Gardner River Canyon

The North Entrance Road through the Gardner River Canyon was constructed in 1884. The scenic Gardner River Canyon includes the Gardner River, which flows next to the old North Entrance Road. The Gardner River originates in the northwest corner of the Park and flows into the Yellowstone River, a tributary of the Missouri River, near Rattlesnake Butte at the North Entrance to the Park. The Gardner Canyon area has long been popular with Park visitors due to its:

- Geology
- Scenery
- Fishing access
- Opportunities to view wildlife, such as bighorn sheep

Currently, the Gardner River Canyon is not easily accessible to Park visitors as the road has washed away; however, limited access is available for visitors who are able to walk the road into the canyon.

Canyon Reclamation (Alternatives 2 and 3)

Portions of the old North Entrance Road would be removed, along with remaining flood-damaged infrastructure, including the old sewer line:

- Restoration of Gardner River Canyon would occur during the second through fourth construction seasons.
- From the new Gardens Bridge to the large washout area, pavement would be removed and replaced with a 6-foot-wide Architectural Barriers Act (ABA)-compliant trail into the canyon.
- Interpretive wayside exhibits highlighting the 2022 flood may be installed along the trail.

Benefits of Reclamation

- Vehicle access to many key scenic and recreational areas would be restored in the southern portion of the Gardner River Canyon, improving the visitor experience over current conditions from the McMinn Bench area south to Mammoth Hot Springs.
- Once construction is complete, visitors would be able to use:
 - New vehicle turnouts
 - New pedestrian trails, including one by the new Gardens Bridge and a new loop trail from a new proposed parking area north of Slide Lake



Gardner River Canyon after the flood



Large rockslide on North Entrance Road in the Gardner River Canyon. Retaining walls would be constructed to minimize geologic hazards and potential impacts on resources.



Gibbon River Canyon Reclamation

The Gardner Canyon area is popular with Park visitors due to the opportunity to view wildlife, such as bighorn sheep