



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Grand Canyon News Release

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Environmental Assessment for the Bright Angel Trailhead Area Design Plan available for public review and comment

Grand Canyon, Ariz. – Park Superintendent Steve Martin has announced that an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Bright Angel Trailhead Area Design Plan is now available for public review and comment.

Grand Canyon National Park is proposing to develop and implement a design plan for the Bright Angel Trailhead Area located in Grand Canyon Village on the South Rim. The approximately 5-acre project area is an important component of the Grand Canyon Village National Historic Landmark District.

Proposed actions include developing a plaza near the primary trailhead; separating vehicle parking and circulation areas from pedestrian zones; enhancing trail connections and wayfinding; and constructing a new restroom near the proposed plaza and existing mule corral. Future implementation phases, if additional funding becomes available, include hardening the parking area surface and delineating approximately 70-80 parking spaces, creating an interpretive area at Kolb Garage and enhancing signage, revegetation and site amenities. The project's primary objectives include enhancing the area's signing, shade, seating, and restroom availability, improving paths and connecting trails, eliminating rim edge vehicle parking to provide enhanced pedestrian circulation, and creating a sense of place—an area visitors will immediately recognize as the Bright Angel Trailhead.

The EA evaluates two alternatives for addressing the purpose and need for action. The EA also evaluates taking no action (Alternative A, No Action).

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, calls on federal agencies to consider environmental issues as part of their decision making process and to involve interested parties in the process. The NEPA process was initiated in January 2006 with a public scoping letter, soliciting issues and concerns on a preliminary project proposal. Responses to these scoping efforts were used during preparation of the EA, which is the next step in the NEPA process.

The EA can be reviewed online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grca>. Comments can be submitted online at the same web address (the preferred method) or mailed to Steve Martin, Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, Attention: Office of Planning and Compliance, P.O. Box 129 (1 Village Loop for express mail), Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023. Comments will be accepted through December 21, 2007.

For questions and additional information about this project, or for copies of the EA, please contact Debbie Lutch, project planning leader, at (928) 774-0095.

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