



Rainbow Bridge Trail Improvement Plan



Why is a plan needed now?

Last year, Bridge Creek experienced a flood event that washed out a key section of the access trail from the courtesy dock on Lake Powell leading to Rainbow Bridge. A temporary trail has been cleared to restore access to the site, but additional work is needed to provide long-term access that does not require people to travel in the floodplain.

Improvements to the trail design and construction are also needed to address high-volume flash flooding and to maintain the

safety of tribal members, visitors, and employees while using the trail. The NPS is also considering extending the trail to provide a designated path for visitors to walk around Rainbow Bridge that would connect to the trail approaching Rainbow Bridge from land owned by the Navajo Nation.

Redesigning and rebuilding the Rainbow Bridge trail is also needed to accommodate fluctuating lake elevations and associated trail damage.

What are the goals of Trail Improvement Plan?

By redesigning and rebuilding the Rainbow Bridge trail GLCA/RABR intends to:

1. Implement an environmentally sound, aesthetically unobtrusive trail that presents the least possible risk to people, park resources, and the environment,
2. Ensure compatibility with the integrity and significance of Rainbow Bridge as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) and its associated tribal values,
3. Reduce maintenance requirements related to flash flooding events and fluctuating lake elevations, and
4. Maintain the best possible tribal and visitor experience during construction.

What kinds of changes to the existing trail will the plan consider?

The NPS will evaluate the existing trail to determine if it is feasible to improve the trail grade and surface to better meet national outdoor accessibility guidelines. The plan will also evaluate extending the current trail to allow pedestrian access around Rainbow Bridge to provide a

continuous path from Lake Powell to the monument boundary with the Navajo Nation. The trail plan will also evaluate improvements to the trail surface to provide a more stable surface where site conditions allow.

How will a decision be made?

The NPS is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of trail alignments and designs to maintain and improve pedestrian access to Rainbow Bridge.

The Rainbow Bridge Trail Improvement EA (RABR Trail EA) will be developed through a public process that complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and other

applicable laws, regulations, and policies. This process will develop and analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to meet park management goals related to resource protection, tribal values, public access and visitor enjoyment.

The RABR Trail EA will evaluate the environmental impacts of trail alternatives and will seek opportunities to avoid or minimize the potential for adverse impacts.



How can I get involved?

The NPS encourages public participation throughout the planning process. There are two opportunities to formally comment on the project; once during initial project scoping and again following public release of the EA.

The EA will consider the potential impacts to visitor use, cultural resources, natural resources, and park operations.

All comments, questions, and suggestions related to the project are welcome. During the public scoping period the following types of comments are particularly helpful:

- Specific information about the Rainbow Bridge National Monument that you think should be considered as part of this plan.
- Information about how you use this area and how proposed trail improvement might affect your use.
- Cultural, environmental, economic, or other issues that should be considered by NPS in the analysis.
- Other ideas or alternative ways of meeting the project objectives.

All comments must be submitted in writing and will be accepted in the following ways:

By mail: Superintendent
Attn: RABR Trail Improvement Plan
P.O. Box 1507
Page, AZ 86040

By website:
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/rabr-trail>

By fax: 928-608-6204

In person: Monday – Friday between
7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
Glen Canyon Headquarters
691 Scenic View Drive
Page, AZ 86040

Please provide all comments by March 7, 2014.