

LEAVE NO TRACE HOT SPOTS



The Hot Spots Program identifies areas suffering from the severe impacts of outdoor activities that can thrive again with Leave No Trace solutions. Each location receives a unique blend of trainings, expert consulting, education programs for youth and adults, service projects, monitoring programs and more. The result is areas on the road to a healthy and sustainable recovery with site-specific Leave No Trace tools in place.

WHAT IS A HOT SPOT?

With more than 11 billion visits to public lands in the United States each year, many outdoor areas across the nation are negatively impacted by recreational use. People generally do not intend to negatively impact the environment. Rather, they are simply uninformed about how to protect wildlife and the natural world. They can often result in significant damage: polluted water sources, litter and dog waste left behind, the spread of invasive species, wildlife that develops dangerous relationships with humans, trail and campsite erosion and more. These areas are called Hot Spots, and though damaged, they can recover again with the help of customized Leave No Trace solutions.

THE OUTCOME

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics has completed work at over 60 Hot Spots sites nationwide so far. By identifying and working with these Hot Spots and their communities across the country, we can move towards recovering and protecting natural areas facing the threat of irreversible environmental damage. Ultimately, the program aims to turn every Hot Spot into a Leave No Trace Gold Standard Site to ensure the area is healthy and sustainable in the future.

HOW IS AN AREA SELECTED AS A HOT SPOT?

Each year, the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics accepts Hot Spots nominations from the general public, land managers, partner organizations and other groups that believe their area could benefit from the program. From over 100 nominees each year, 16 new sites are selected as Hot Spots. Four former sites also receive revisits to provide additional Leave No Trace support and consultation. The 2018 Hot Spots are:

