

LEAVE NO TRACE HOT SPOTS



Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics created the Hot Spots program as an initiative that implements successful Leave No Trace programs at geographically and environmentally diverse areas across the country experiencing severe impacts caused by recreational use. Now in its sixth year, Leave No Trace Hot Spots are designed to raise awareness about natural areas around the country facing the threat of irreversible environmental damage.

WHAT IS A HOT SPOT?

With more than 11 billion visits to public lands in the United States each year, many outdoor areas across our nation are negatively impacted by recreational use. We are literally loving our land to death. The reason is usually not malicious or intent to harm nature and wildlife, rather it's simply lack of knowledge or skills. The end result however is usually the same: Litter, invasive species, habituated wildlife, dog waste, trail and campsite erosion, water sources polluted with human waste, filthy campfire rings, and more.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Leave No Trace calls these areas Hot Spots or areas that are damaged but can recover again with a motivated community and after week-long Leave No Trace training. The training including a series of special workshops for local officials, land managers, volunteers as well as advocacy events for the general public conducted by expert Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers. By identifying and working with Hot Spots and their communities across the country, we rapidly move toward recovering and protecting the places we cherish for generations.

HOW IS AN AREA SELECTED AS A HOT SPOT?

Each year, Leave No Trace accepts nominations from the general public, land managers, community members, partner non-profits, and other government agencies who feel they could benefit from Leave No Trace training and implementation of initiatives in the park, forest or protected area. Leave No Trace then works with each area to develop locally tailored programs and events to educate the community. The newly selected 2018 Leave No Trace Hot Spots are:

