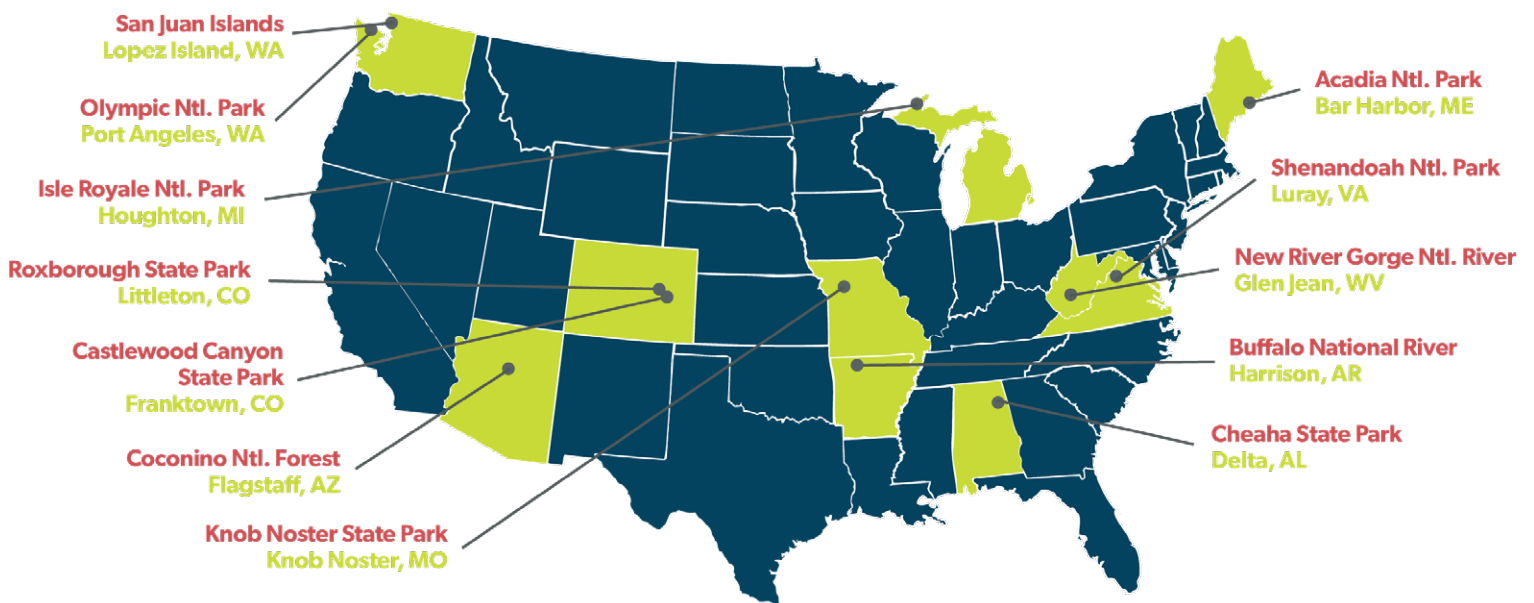


LEAVE NO TRACE GOLD STANDARD SITES



The Leave No Trace Gold Standard Site designation recognizes public lands implementing the highest standard of onsite Leave No Trace programs. National parks, national forests, grasslands, and waterways, state parks, wildlife refuges, land trusts, county and city managed areas and any other public lands are all eligible to receive recognition. To date, 10 areas across the country hold the Gold Standard Site designation.

Goals of the Gold Standard Site program include: the recognition of the strongest examples of federal, state, and locally managed lands utilizing Leave No Trace in their visitor education; to develop a national blueprint and pathway for areas to move towards becoming Gold Standard Sites; to institute effective Leave No Trace training for protected areas managers and other relevant parties and to recruit additional sites. The program aims to achieve a critical mass of Gold Standard designated sites across the country to ensure minimum-impact education is part of every public lands visitor's experience, and thereby alleviate the significant damage currently affecting these outdoor areas.



Each area undergoes a rigorous process to receive a Leave No Trace Gold Standard Site designation based on the following criteria:

- A history of successfully implementing Leave No Trace skills and ethics into management, programs, outreach and education efforts.
- Staff that has formal Leave No Trace training.
- Posted Leave No Trace signage throughout the area including trailheads, visitor centers and campgrounds. Leave No Trace language and messaging included in pamphlets, maps and other distributed materials for visitors.
- Leave No Trace interpretative programs for the public including ranger talks, campfire events, and trail outings.

In 2020, the Center is working towards designating more Gold Standard Sites. The additional sites will represent the continuation of our efforts, while helping to further shape the future of Leave No Trace implementation across our nation's public lands. Scaling the Gold Standard Site program to potentially include all parks, forests and protected areas will be a major objective of the years to come.