

LEAVE NO TRACE HOT SPOTS



The Hot Spot Program was created to address the severe impacts often associated with heavy use and outdoor spaces being “loved to death.” Through a nationwide nomination process, areas are selected and provided with a unique blend of educational programs, trainings, service projects and more. With site-specific Leave No Trace measures in place, the areas are equipped to bounce back from impacts and recover their natural qualities.



The program began in 2010 at the Red River Gorge on the Daniel Boone National Forest. Since then, the program has grown into one of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics’ (the Center) flagship offerings, with 100+ Hot Spots carried out across **33 states** involving the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a wide variety of state and municipal park agencies, as well as countless local and regional stakeholder groups. The intended outcome for every single Hot Spot we select is to strengthen stewardship efforts by empowering stakeholders, land managers, volunteers, and outdoor enthusiasts through Leave No Trace education. Additionally, we seek to establish or strengthen key relationships within these respective communities to ensure a sustainable recreation future for all.



At the conclusion of each Hot Spot activation, Leave No Trace staff sit down with all of the local stakeholders involved to discuss successes, challenges and opportunities. The outcome is to produce a future-forward action plan. To ensure consistency, Leave No Trace staff employ a detailed scoring **rubric** for each site, helping to highlight attainable goals as well as more long-term intensive measures.



Leave No Trace works to continue the long-lasting effects at each location by assisting with fundraising and grant-seeking to bolster local resources. The Center also encourages **citizen science** projects to monitor impacts and measure the effectiveness of the recommended Hot Spots solutions.



Hot Spot communities may also decide to re-engage the Leave No Trace Center after a Hot Spot campaign has concluded for additional **fee-based consulting work**.