

LEAVE NO TRACE HOT SPOTS NOMINATIONS FAQs



Can anyone nominate a Hot Spot?

It is best to have someone that either works for the site or an organization that works closely with the site to be the one nominating the site as a Hot Spot. As mentioned in the [host site responsibilities](#), nominees will need to be able to commit to certain items in order to have a successful Hot Spot. It is important to have the full support of the land managers and stakeholders associated with the site before going through with a nomination. If you are a concerned citizen looking to nominate your favorite park that has seen an increase in impacts, we recommend reaching out directly to the site leadership and making them aware of the opportunity to become a Leave No Trace Hot Spot instead of submitting the nomination on a site's behalf without their knowledge or express approval.

How long (or how many days) is a Hot Spot?

A Hot Spot activation takes place over 5 days on-site with the potential for some virtual/hybrid programming instead of on-site programming, if requested. The planning process leading up to the 5-day activation, however, lasts about 4-5 months depending on the site.

What does a site get out of being a Leave No Trace Hot Spot?

In addition to 5 days of on-site Leave No Trace staff presence which can include programming, staff and/or partner trainings, service projects, stakeholder meetings, and community outreach, each site's hosts will receive a Hot Spot Analysis after the completion of the Hot Spot. The analysis will include site-specific recommendations for the most pressing recreation-related impacts each site faces as well as an action plan for how best to address these moving forward with a particular focus on education and stakeholder collaboration. It is important to note, however, that the Hot Spots program is **not** a consulting program. Those sites interested in in-depth consulting services and who do not have the capacity to plan, organize and execute a Hot Spot in partnership with the Center should look to the Center's [consulting services](#).

How are Hot Spot sites chosen?

The Hot Spot nominations process is highly competitive as the Center generally receives hundreds of applications. Nominations are reviewed by a panel, and selections are based on a number of criteria including but not limited to:

- Type and severity of recreational impacts a site is experiencing
- A collaborative community of stakeholders at the site as well as on-the-ground staffing resources for a successful activation
- The ability of the site to continue the work developed in the action plan beyond the 5-day Hot Spot activation
- Geographic location—we strive to engage sites and communities all across the country and from different types of settings and agencies ranging from municipal parks to federally managed Wilderness
- Alignment with the Center's strategic goals
- Alignment of timing with Center staff capacity

When will I be notified if my site is chosen?

The Center will notify all sites of their status by October 31, 2021.

When will Hot Spots take place?

Depending on the hosts' preferred dates as well as availability of the Subaru/Leave No Trace Teams and weather conditions in a chosen site, Hot Spots can take place as early as the winter/spring of the following year, with the majority of Hot Spots happening in the summer and fall months in the year following the nominations process.