Leave No Trace
Gold Standard

The Leave No Trace Gold Standard Site designation recognizes areas implementing the highest standard of onsite Leave No Trace education.

**Benefits**

Sites that achieve Gold Standard designation are recognized nationally for their implementation of Leave No Trace and sustainable management. Sites are awarded with a plaque to display, but the true benefit is in working through the process.

Gold Standard designation ensures minimum-impact education is part of every visitor’s experience, and thereby alleviates the significant damage that can affect outdoor areas and promotes sustainable use of the site.

**Site benefits include...**

- More sustainable use of trails and other resources
- Visitors are more prepared to enjoy the outdoors safely

**Organization benefits include...**

- Organization/site name and website listed on the Leave No Trace website
- National recognition for highest level of Leave No Trace implementation

**Designation**

Each area undergoes a rigorous process to receive a Leave No Trace Gold Standard Site designation based on the Every Park Site Assessment. Sites must score at least thirty points to qualify for Gold Standard Site designation.

Once designated, sites are required to maintain a Leave No Trace Community Partnership or equivalent agreement and submit annual reporting on Leave No Trace education. Designation lasts for five years, after which sites must resubmit materials to maintain designation.