

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Cleanup Guide



Coordinated by:



Thank You

A sincere “thank you” for pitching in this week to show your public lands some love! We wish we could be together in person, but since we can’t, please use this Cleanup Guide as a resource to aid in your trash pick-up efforts this week.

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BEFORE YOU GO ...

WHILE YOU’RE OUT ...

WHEN YOU’RE DONE ...

WHAT IS NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY & WHAT ARE "PUBLIC LANDS"?



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National Public Lands Day brings together hundreds of thousands of individual and organizational volunteers all across the country to help restore and celebrate the country's public lands. These are the places people use for outdoor recreation, education, and simply enjoying nature. The lands encompass national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, forests, grasslands, marine sanctuaries, lakes, and reservoirs, as well as state, county, and city parks and open spaces that are managed by public agencies but belong to and are enjoyed by all of us.

Our agency partners do an incredible job of caring for public lands, but funding and resources are tight.

WE ALL HAVE A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE FOR THESE SPECIAL PLACES SO THEY STAY HEALTHY AND ACCESSIBLE TO BE ENJOYED NOW AND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

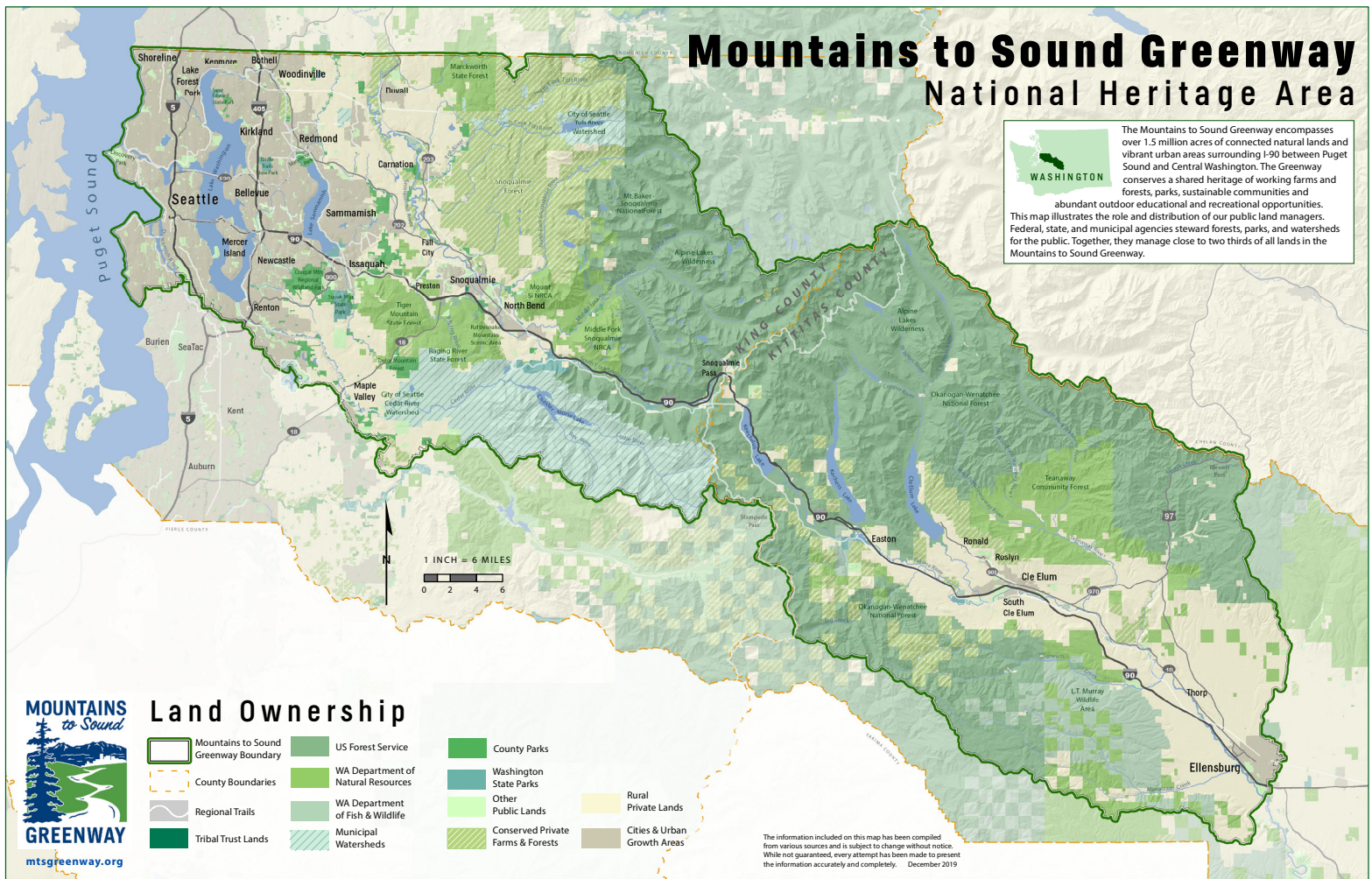
You should be very proud of your commitment to clean up trash this week, and your actions show just how much you love your lands! We hope that you'll continue to take positive action and show your support for public lands well beyond this week. Keep reading for some pointers on how to do just that!



Photos from NPLD 2019 in the Middle Fork River Valley



For more information, check out "[Your Guide to Understanding Public Lands](#)" by REI Co-op



The map above shows public lands represented in shades of green, broken out by land ownership. They span from local pocket parks, to massive national forests, and everything in between. For cleanup week, we encourage you to think close to home and/or where you'd already be going. Do you recall seeing litter around your neighborhood, in your favorite park, or along a trail you frequent? Now's a great opportunity to head back there with the proper supplies to clean up and make a difference!

COVID-19 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

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To keep everyone safe and healthy while participating in National Public Lands Day, we recommend you follow these health and safety guidelines:

- Volunteer and travel with members of your immediate household or social pod only.
- Pack a face covering and wear it whenever you are within 6 feet of another person not in your group.
- Wear gloves. We recommend nitrile or gardening gloves.
- Have a back-up plan. If you arrive at your destination and find it crowded, leave and go somewhere else.
- Wash your hands as frequently as possible. Hand sanitizer is recommended when hand washing is unavailable.
- Be sure to follow the tips in this guide on what to consider when picking up trash!



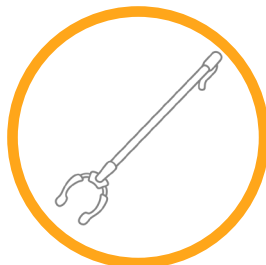
WHAT TO PACK

We suggest that you pack the following items when you head out to pick up trash. If you need assistance acquiring any of these materials, please reach out to Caroline Villanova (caroline.villanova@mtsgreenway.org).

- COVID-19 safety materials: facial covering, hand sanitizer, and gloves
- First aid kit
- Large trash bags (contractor bags recommended for max durability)

Optional, but recommended additional supplies:

- Trash grabber
- Eye protection (sunglasses are okay)
- A smartphone to track your findings via the Litterati app and take pictures



THINGS TO LEAVE BEHIND

We know that not all litter is intentional, and we also know that there is illegal trash dumping done on public lands. We ask that you collect as much, or as little, trash as you are able to do so safely and comfortably this week. We also want you to know that we do not expect, or want, you to pick up everything you find. As you help out, we ask you to please be compassionate and understanding of different living situations.

ITEMS YOU SHOULD NOT COLLECT:

Biohazards and Personal Materials

- Hypodermic needles
- Human waste and waste products (toilet paper, sexual health products)
- Cars, refrigerators, large engines/machinery (yes, they are out there)
- Any personal items possibly belonging to someone living in the area (clothing, sleeping materials, shelters, etc.)

Continued on next page...



THINGS TO LEAVE BEHIND (CONTINUED)

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ITEMS YOU SHOULD NOT COLLECT:

Cultural Artifacts

Does it look super old? Leave it. The Greenway is rich with pockets of cultural history and archaeological sites. Archaeological resources are material remains of past human life that are 50+ years old, and may include:

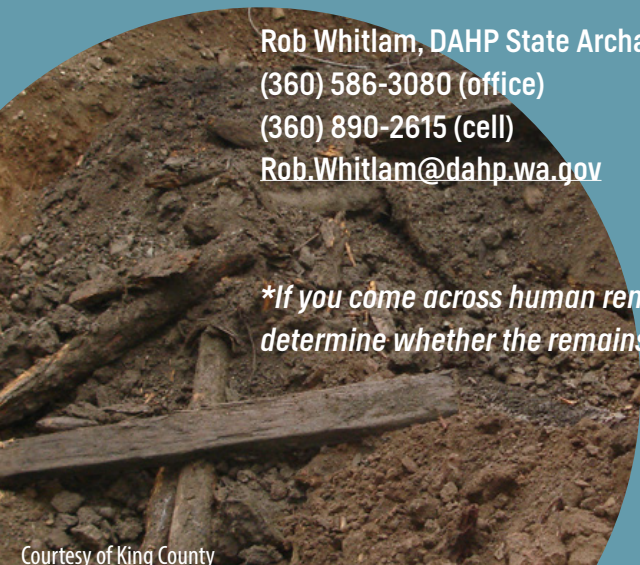
- Concentrations of shells or bones
- Arrowheads, stone tools, or concentrations of stone chips
- Large dumps of historical bottles, cans, or ceramics (old glass is usually thicker and a different color than modern beverage bottles, and old dumps typically do not contain plastic items!)
- Old privies (outhouses)
- Buried fire pits or ovens
- Buried foundations or intact wall segments
- Clusters of animal bones found with burned rocks, stone tools, or chips
- Fragments of basketry, cordage, nets, or traps made of wood or bark
- Human remains*

The soil near archaeological resources is often a different color or texture: stained with charcoal, rocks reddened or blackened by fire, or even a layer of brick. If you think you may have found something culturally significant, please leave it be and contact your state or county archaeologist:

Rob Whitlam, DAHP State Archaeologist
(360) 586-3080 (office)
(360) 890-2615 (cell)
Rob.Whitlam@dahp.wa.gov

Brandy Rinck, King County Parks Archaeologist
(206) 263-6839 (office)
(206) 681-7305 (cell)
brinck@kingcounty.gov

**If you come across human remains, contact local law enforcement immediately. They will determine whether the remains should be treated as a crime scene or archaeological site.*



Courtesy of King County

REPORT AN ISSUE

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need to report anything you find:

- East of Snoqualmie Pass: Email Nicky Pasi, nicky.pasi@mtsgreenway.org
- West of Snoqualmie Pass: Email Caroline Villanova, caroline.villanova@mtsgreenway.org

Include a description of the item(s) you are reporting, a photo, and your most accurate description of the location of the item(s) (if possible, utilize GPS coordinates).



Courtesy of Washington
Department of Natural
Resources

TRACK YOUR PROGRESS WITH **LITTERATI**

Share your real-time cleanup progress with the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and fellow volunteers by joining our challenge on Litterati.

- Download the free app through the Apple Store or Google Play .
- Enter code “NPLD2020” to join the “Love Your Lands Cleanup Campaign” challenge.
- Use the app to take photos of individual litter as you collect it.
- Upload your photos to be counted toward our overall goal of collecting 5,000 pieces of litter over the course of the week!
- Share the download link with your friends and family directly from the challenge page . . . friendly competition encouraged!

Once you’ve downloaded the app, you’ll be able to claim a free account on your basic profile page. While an account is not required for your litter to be counted toward the Greenway challenge goal, we recommend that you sign up for one. It will give you full access to your litter gallery, allow you to tag items by type (and even brand, if you feel like overachieving), and see how your collection stacks up against other volunteers. Most importantly, it lets us know who you are so we can award a prize to the top contributor!



[Getting Started and Taking
Photos With Litterati](#)

[Litter Type Tagging Tutorial](#)



PROPERLY DISPOSE OF COLLECTED TRASH

Please do not leave your bags of trash in a pile at a trailhead or next to other trash receptacles at a trailhead. This will only contribute to the trash issue on public lands as it runs the risk of wildlife getting into the trash bags.

If at all possible, please dispose of your collected trash in your own household waste stream. This is the most effective way to ensure proper disposal.



Courtesy of Washington Department of Natural Resources



SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE & SPREAD THE WORD

We know you'll be working hard, but take a minute to rest and snap a few photos of your experience! Follow along with us on social media throughout the week for the chance to win prizes.

- Share your photos on social media using #NPLDtrash
- Follow and tag Mountains To Sound Greenway and any other organization(s) you're part of that are participating in NPLD
- Don't forget to wear your NPLD t-shirt if you purchased one!

Picking up trash is a commendable task and you should be proud of your efforts! Check out mtsgreenway.org/npld for ways you can help spread the word about caring for our public lands and the continued need to #RecreateResponsibly beyond this week.

#NPLDTRASH



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[@MountainsToSoundGreenway](https://www.instagram.com/@MountainsToSoundGreenway)



[@MTSGreenway](https://twitter.com/@MTSGreenway)



CONTINUE TO CARE FOR YOUR PUBLIC LANDS

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BE A GOOD STEWARD:

One of the most important things that you can do to help keep our public lands healthy and beautiful is to practice good stewardship behavior. Being a steward of these spaces means caring for them and committing to Leave No Trace and Recreate Responsibly. Whether you are new to the outdoors or an experienced adventurer, it's good to review these resources and keep them top of mind on all of your outings.

DONATE:

Higher level stewardship includes donating to nonprofits (like the Greenway Trust!) so we can continue to help fund and execute projects that make recreational spaces safe, accessible, and sustainable. There are many nonprofits out there doing great work ... find one you connect with and show them some love!

VOLUNTEER:

Another way to support your public lands is by donating your time. Normally, we host in-person volunteer events all throughout the year, but those have been on hold unfortunately due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Be sure to subscribe to our newsletter so you can stay in the know about future opportunities when we're back up and running. And who knows what else we'll cook up during this time of virtual events and social distancing!





Better Together.

Thanks to all of our incredible partners who helped
support National Public Lands Day 2020!



List represents partners on board as of September 9, 2020