



National Public Lands Day 2021

On Saturday, September 25, 2021, over 40,000 volunteers participated in community engagement events at more than 500 public lands sites across the country. Participants joined in trail building projects, coastal and park clean-ups, guided hikes, and other outdoor fun. Some dug in with rakes, clippers, shovels, and hoes. Others went in with gloves and trash bags. And still, more grabbed binoculars, laced up hiking boots, or strapped on bicycle helmets in celebration of the 28th annual National Public Lands Day.

[National Public Lands Day](#) is the nation's largest single-day volunteer event for public lands. Established in 1994 and held annually on the fourth Saturday in September, this celebration brings out thousands of volunteers to help restore and improve public lands around the country. NPLD is also a "Fee-Free" Entrance Day for National parks and other federally managed public lands.

NPLD is coordinated by the [National Environmental Education Foundation](#) (NEEF), the nation's leading organization in lifelong environmental learning. To support NPLD, NEEF provides a number of planning resources, such as the [NPLD Promotional Toolkit](#) and the [NPLD Site Manager's Manual](#). NEEF also supports innovative NPLD events through annual NPLD sponsorship opportunities. In addition to funding and planning resources, NEEF also coordinates the printing and distribution of fee-free coupons.

National Impact Numbers

- Number of events: **536**
(523 in-person and 13 virtual)
- Number of volunteers: **46,277**
- Number of volunteer hours: **185,108**
- Est. Value of volunteer hours: **\$5,282,982.32**

Conservation Numbers

- Acres of Public Land Impacted: **3,292**
- Native Tree, Flowers and Shrubs Planted: **5,863**
- Pounds of Trash Collected: **63,053**
- Miles of Trails Built or Maintained: **447**
- Square Feet of Invasive Removed: **157,402**
- Public Facilities Built or Maintained: **277**

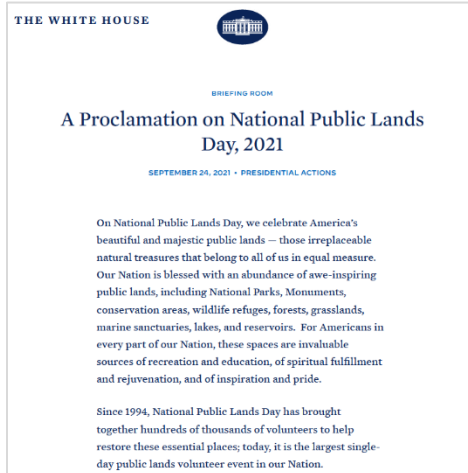
NPLD 2021 Highlights

DEI Partners - In an effort to diversify the types of audiences engaged during the NPLD 2021, NEEF partnered with four groups focused on connecting people to nature—particularly people from communities that are often underrepresented in the outdoor space, such as communities of color, LGBTQ+, and non-English speaking communities.

The groups were: Corazón Latino, Pride Outside, Disabled & Outdoors, and the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture. NEEF worked with each of these groups to provide educational opportunities to NPLD site managers.

[Learn more and watch the recorded webinars.](#)

Indigenous Land Acknowledgements - NEEF worked with the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture to launch a new guide designed to support NPLD site managers in implementing land acknowledgments during NPLD events. The guide covers key questions, such as “What are Indigenous Land Acknowledgements”, and “why are they important?” [Check out the new guide.](#)



NPLD Presidential Proclamation – The Biden administration officially released a Presidential Proclamation in support of National Public Lands Day in early September 2021. Proclamations can be used by site managers to draw additional media attention, to encourage participation, and to add legitimacy to their event. Read the [Presidential Proclamation](#).

Thank You!

On behalf of our federal, state, and local partners, we would like to thank everyone who donated their time to improving public lands for this year’s NPLD. Through your hard work, you have helped preserve public lands for future generations to enjoy. Whether this was your first NPLD or your 28th, we hope it was an enjoyable and educational experience. And remember, it’s never too early to start thinking about next year’s NPLD!