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Hodges Village Dam Earns Leave No Trace Gold Standard Designation

OXFORD, Mass. – June 2, 2025 – Leave No Trace, the national nonprofit dedicated to promoting outdoor ethics, has announced that Hodges Village Dam has been designated as a Leave No Trace Gold Standard Site. This prestigious honor is awarded to sites, organizations and programs that exemplify excellence in promoting responsible outdoor recreation. Hodges Village Dam is the first U.S. Army Corps of Engineers site to receive this designation.

In order to be designated as a Leave No Trace Gold Standard Site, locations must meet the following criteria:

- Formally train staff in Leave No Trace and outdoor ethics
- Implement Leave No Trace messaging throughout site operations and programs
- Provide Leave No Trace educational opportunities to the community

“We’re beyond happy to reach the Gold Standard designation. Being able to implement Leave No Trace principles in our everyday work is something to strive for,” said Briana Johnson, Natural Resource Specialist, Park Ranger, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District. “It’s about leading by example. We Rangers care for our site, and this was another way of showing folks that we’re out there, and we’re trying to preserve what we have so that we can still enjoy it down the line. We can’t ask others to minimize their impacts if we aren’t putting in the work to minimize them ourselves.”

About Leave No Trace

The Leave No Trace organization is a national nonprofit organization that protects the outdoors by empowering everyone through science, hands-on training, and simple guidelines. The Leave No Trace Gold Standard Site designation recognizes public lands implementing the highest standard of onsite Leave No Trace education. For more information, visit: www.LNT.org.

About Hodges Village Dam

Sitting on 1,200 acres, Hodges Village Dam is a dry bed reservoir built in 1959 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Along with providing flood risk management to downstream communities, the dam offers recreation for hiking, biking, kayaking, birding, disc golfing, and horseback riding, with over twenty miles of trails crossing through wetlands and hardwoods.

Find out more on our social media page: <https://www.facebook.com/HodgesVillageDam>