



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
Walla Walla District

# News Release

News Release 08-80

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## **UPDATE: District plans National Public Lands Day activities; federal agencies partner to promote new national campaign**

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – Public Lands Day is the nation’s largest, single-day volunteer event to benefit public lands. Officially the last Saturday of September, organizers anticipate more than 100,000 Americans of all ages will participate nationwide, volunteering their time and effort to help restore the beauty and vitality of our public lands.

The Corps has been involved with National Public Lands Day since its inception in 1994 and has consistently been one of the largest providers of sites and volunteers participating in the event. The Corps of Engineers is the number one federal provider of outdoor recreation, managing more than 12 million acres of land and water for natural resources and public recreation benefits. The Corps’ 2,476 recreation sites at 423 projects offer a wide range of opportunities and facilities for outdoor recreation.

In addition, this year’s National Public Lands Day kicks-off an interagency pledge of cooperation among the eight federal land management agencies to promote the new “Get Outdoors-It’s Yours” national campaign. This national initiative will raise awareness of the opportunities for America’s youth to reengage with nature and to encourage children and their families to spend more time participating in outdoor education, recreation and stewardship activities.

NPLD volunteer opportunities in the Walla Walla District:

Walla Walla, Wash. – At Mill Creek Dam and Bennington Lake volunteers will help build a retaining wall on a section of one of the walking trails, conduct general trail maintenance, and if enough volunteers join in, construct a wildlife observation blind. The event will last from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sept. 27. Volunteers should meet park rangers at the Corps’ Mill Creek office located at 3211 Reservoir Road in Walla Walla. For more information or to sign up to help, call John Derinzy, Natural Resource Specialist, at (509) 527-7165. *Getting there:* from Hwy. 12 at the east end of Walla Walla, exit south onto Tausick Way, continue past Walla Walla Community College, immediately on the south side of the Mill Creek crossing, turn left onto Reservoir Road and follow it about 1 mile to the Corps office, located on the left side of the road.

Burbank, Wash. – Ice Harbor Natural Resources Management Office staff need volunteers to help make improvements to the Hood Park Nature Trail from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 27. This project includes installing bulletin boards, picnic tables, squirrel boxes, bird boxes, mallard tubes, wood duck boxes and spreading wood chips on trails. Volunteers should meet Corps staff at 10 a.m. in the parking lot nearest the entrance to Hood Park. For more information, call Park Ranger Joyce McDonald at (509) 543-6066. *Getting there:* travel 3 miles south of Pasco, Wash., on U.S. Highway 12; turn east at junction of Highway 124; Hood Park entrance is immediately on the left.

Whether you join a formal public lands event or just grab a trash bag to help pick up litter as you walk the trails in a nature area or park, your efforts help preserve the beauty of public lands for everyone to enjoy. Anyone who enjoys fun in the great outdoors is encouraged to “Give a helping hand to America’s lands.”

Volunteers should wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes suitable for uneven terrain, dress appropriately for weather and working conditions (long pants, hat for shade) and bring personal work gloves, snacks and drinking water in a portable container – some project locations do not have potable water services in the immediate vicinity.

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Last year, National Public Lands Day involved 110,000 volunteers at 1,300 sites. Volunteers removed more than 500,000 pounds of trash, built and maintained 720 miles of trails, and planted 55,000 trees among many other tasks. National Public Lands Day partners include federal agencies, National Environmental Education Foundation and other nonprofit groups, 125 state, county and city agencies, and several corporate sponsors.

For more information about National Public Lands Day, visit their Web site at [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org).