

AN RPL TOOLKIT



RUNNERS PASSIONATE ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

This toolkit provides specific steps you can take to start adding environmental stewardship to the life of your running community as well as resources and links to help you during the process.

RPL VISION

To create inclusive running communities dedicated to environmental justice and stewardship through advocacy and conservation.



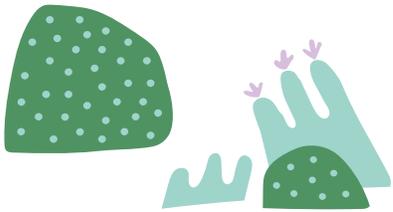
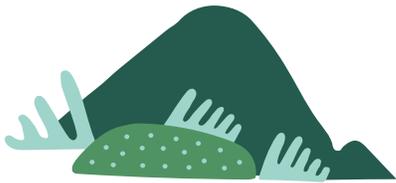
RPL MISSION

RPL mobilizes runners for environmental stewardship to protect the people and places we love through climate action; sustainability practices; the protection of public lands and expansion of conservation efforts; and equitable access to nature.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit environmental justice organization, we at Runners for Public Lands celebrate the ecological, cultural, and recreational value of public lands, including nature preserves, open spaces, and local parks. We're committed to learning more about their painful history as stolen lands, and working with Indigenous and native runners for a more just present and future. Our view of public lands is informed by Indigenous perspectives such as Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Robin Kimmerer's "Greed Does Not Have to Define Our Relationship to the Land."

We call runners everywhere to join us in adding environmental stewardship to the life of their running communities (i.e., your running groups, running clubs, cross-country teams, running events, and/or races). Increasing average temperatures, rising sea levels, extreme weather, ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss, and mass extinction associated with climate change threaten our public health, water supply, food security, decent livelihoods, economic opportunities, and international relations. Further, climate change and environmental degradation disproportionately and unjustly impact Indigenous communities, communities of color, and low-income communities. It's time to take action, prioritizing the human and natural communities most vulnerable.

What does RPL mean by environmental stewardship? We mean climate action; sustainability practices; protecting public lands and expanding conservation efforts; and seeing to more equitable access to nature. You can use this toolkit to take action in any one or more of these areas.



GETTING STARTED

Organize a fun run and meet-up with runners in your community to talk about concerns they have about the environment in and around your community and beyond. Ask runners to discuss what your community is doing about climate change, environmental sustainability, nature conservation, and equitable access. What other ideas do they have and how can runners contribute to your community doing better?



LEARNING MORE

Learn more about the environmental issues in your community. Invite a speaker to your running group who can discuss an environmental issue they care about. Organize a screening and discussion of a relevant environmental documentary film at your local running shop, or an evening discussion of a relevant environmental article or book.

Divvy up the responsibility with interested runners in your community to learn more about the environmental issues (especially those impacting Indigenous communities, communities of color, or low-income communities) in your city, county/region, and state; and organize a fun event to report back to each other.

Check out RPL's website for the environmental educational resources that we use for climate action; environmental sustainability; expanding nature conservation; equitable access to nature; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and solidarity with First Peoples and land acknowledgments.

KEEPING IT UP

Though environmental issues are complex, serious, and tough, make working together as fun, satisfying, and enjoyable as possible. Run together, celebrate together, and work together.

Do what you need to care for yourself and your loved ones as you commit to the long work of environmental stewardship. It's an ultra, not a sprint.

Honor, thank, and encourage the environmental leaders in your community, especially the First Peoples who have, and in many cases continue, to steward the land you run.



**"TO USE THE WORLD WELL,
TO BE ABLE TO STOP WASTING IT
AND OUR TIME IN IT, WE NEED
TO RELEARN OUR BEING IN IT."
URSULA K. LEQUIN**

TAKING ACTION

Help runners in your community register to vote, know who your representatives are – local, regional, state, national – and know where your representatives stand on climate action and environmental issues. Use social media to share with runners what you learn and the action you're taking.

Connect with any good, eco-friendly city, county, statewide, or national environmental initiatives to expand their impact.

Connect with any good, environmental campaigns and/or volunteer opportunities at environmental organizations in your community. Consider organizing a fundraiser to support their work.

What environmental care is missing in your community? Consider collaborating with allies and initiating environmental action to fill the gap.

Support regional race directors – and all running groups, clubs, teams, and shops – in minimizing their respective environmental footprints. See Council for Responsible Sport's "A Practical Guide to Hosting Radically Responsible Events."



BECOME A MEMBER OF RUNNERS FOR PUBLIC LANDS

Support our work in inspiring, supporting, and calling runners everywhere to add environmental stewardship to the life of their running communities. Become a member at: www.runnersforpubliclands.org/membership

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

We'd love to hear from you about how you're using the toolkit in your community. Please email us at info@runnersforpubliclands.org.

