

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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BRISTLING IN BRISTOL. Someone left this message for the people who leave garbage behind and wreck the scenery for everybody else. Most people who litter will pick up what they dropped if asked. They tend not to litter if they feel watched or at risk of penalty.

[San Diego beaches in trouble](#)

Beach abuse has put San Diego in trouble. Litter pickers report higher litter levels, more single use plastics from increased takeout meals and a plethora of discarded gloves and masks. Seagulls spread loose garbage and its pollution all over the place. Groups orchestrate solo litter picks and advocate reduced plastic use at source to reverse the tide of damage.

[Alabama says trash costs cash](#)

Public service announcements hammering home the expense of cleaning up litter are running in Alabama, where the annual cost in 2019 was \$7 million. The hope is that litter bugs won't litter when they hear what that habit really costs them.

DID YOU KNOW?

Calanques National Park in France holds a [draw](#) for a prize worth €68, equal to the current fine for littering. Anyone "caught red-handed picking up litter" or who brings a bag full of litter lifted from the beautiful 50,000-hectare tract is eligible. The contest is called "flagrant delit de bon geste". Translated that means "Blatant Act of Good Deed".

[Ontario parks are getting slaughtered](#)

Parks in Ontario, Canada are taking a beating and COVID-19 could be partly to blame. As people break free of the limits imposed on them to stop the spread of coronavirus, they are heading outdoors to parks in droves and leaving their manners behind. Staff can't keep pace with the garbage left on beaches and public green spaces. A plea has been issued for parks users to take their trash home. COVID control measures - keeping one's distance, avoiding crowds, cancellation of events and concerts, wearing masks - are inherently anti-social, but have been deemed by health authorities to be essential for stemming the disease. Could it be that the escalation in littering during the pandemic is related to the heightened anti-social environment we find ourselves in? Littering is classified as an anti-social behaviour and is it mere coincidence that the problem is worse than ever after six months of restrictions? Have these measures inadvertently prompted heightened anti-social conduct?

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (AUG 2 - 9)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Overnight camping ban punishes bad conduct [\(8/5\)](#)

Dartmoor National Parks Authority has banned all-night camping for 27 days in Bellever, UK after campers showed they couldn't be trusted to clean up after themselves. The site was placed off limits to allow time for the area to regenerate after destruction from fires, dumped garbage and human waste. Rangers and parks marshals are stepping up their enforcement efforts.

Ireland sees the need for a national ethic [\(8/6\)](#)

[Love This Place, Leave No Trace](#) is Ireland's answer to a growing litter problem. It's part of an attempt to get the Irish to embrace "a national ethic" of taking care of the outdoors, said the Minister of State for Heritage.

Fines doubled in crackdown on mess [\(8/5\)](#)

In the UK Knowsley Council okayed a doubling of the fine for littering to £150 and is promising to enforce.

COVID-19 doesn't impede hikers' mission [\(8/6\)](#)

Two Alberta hikers don't appreciate trashy trails and are taking action. The pair, Sarah Kuindersma and Glen Gorrie, [recruited](#) 220 others (and counting) to tidy up Kananaskis and Canmore trails all week. Good job!

Winnipeg butt blitz a show and tell [\(8/6\)](#)

Take Pride Winnipeg took science to the street on Saturday with its inaugural Butt Blitz, a program to collect and count littered cigarette butts. Butts comprise 30-35% the city's street litter. e.g., 1h 15m = 4,172 butts.