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Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division JBLM rocks in scavenger hunt

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Published: 01:28PM March 23rd, 2017

The fun, painted rock scavenger hunt phenomenon that has hit western Washington has found a place on Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Hand-painted rocks are tucked away in the nooks of trees, in parks, near the recycle center or community gardens on JBLM, for lucky people to find.

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 "It's a new way to share the JBLM Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Sustainability Message with our service members and their families."
 Miriam Villacian
 JBLM Sustainability outreach coordinator

"It's a new way to share the JBLM Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Sustainability message with our service members and their families," said Miriam Villacian, sustainability outreach coordinator. "We painted some rocks with a sustainable message and hid them where they can easily be found."

Sustainability, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency, states that everything we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment.

To pursue sustainability is to create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations.

By promoting the interconnectedness of our natural system the sustainability team also reminds JBLM of our long term goals for a sustainable future.

Our Net Zero goals are a force multiplier, enabling the joint base to appropriately steward available resources, manage costs and provide our service members, families and civilians with a sustainable future.

JBLM seeks to achieve Net Zero water and waste by 2020, to achieve a secured, renewable sourced energy on the installation by 2040 (Net Zero energy); to create sustainable neighborhoods for a livable JBLM community that enhances the Puget Sound region (Net Zero land); to maintain the ability of JBLM to meet current and future military missions without compromising the integrity of natural and cultural resources, both on the installation and regionally and to assist in the recovery of all listed and candidate federal species in South Puget Sound Region (Net Zero land); to reduce installation stationary source and nontactical motor vehicle air emissions by 85 percent by 2025 (Net Zero air).

This scavenger hunt is similar to geocaching but with a different twist, the Lakewood/JBLM Rocks Facebook page posts photos of the rocks when they are found and clues as to where to find them. No GPS or special equipment are required.

Each rock has a message on the back, asking you to post on Facebook when found. If you find a painted rock, you can keep it and use it for inspiration or you can rehide it for someone else to find.

It's a great reason to go outside, express creativity and pass on a little green love.

For more information, visit the Lakewood/JBLM Rocks and the Sustainable JBLM Facebook pages and get started.

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