

Five Principles of Responsible Outdoor Lighting

The "Urban Night Sky Place" designation incorporates the five principles of responsible outdoor lighting that were jointly published by IDA and the Illuminating Engineering Society:

1. All light should have a clear purpose.
2. Light should be directed only to where needed.
3. Light should be no brighter than necessary.
4. Light should be used only when it is useful.
5. Use warmer color lights where possible.

By applying these principles, properly designed electric lighting at night can be beautiful, healthy, and functional. Incorporating these principles will save energy and money, reduce light pollution, and minimize wildlife disruption.

Learn more at
DarkSkyMissouri.org/FivePrinciples

Why Dark Skies?

The need to protect and restore the natural nighttime environment is more urgent than ever. Light pollution, defined as light where it is not wanted or needed, affects our health, the environment, wildlife, and our ability to find awe in the night's natural light. Studies indicate that light pollution is increasing at a global average rate of two percent per year.

About IDA

The International Dark-Sky Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Tucson, Arizona, is dedicated to preserving and protecting the natural nighttime environment.

IDA Missouri is an official chapter of the International Dark-Sky Association focusing on the State of Missouri.

Questions?

Missouri Chapter

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INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION

MISSOURI CHAPTER

URBAN NIGHT SKY PLACE

Certify your Park as an IDA

"Urban Night Sky Place"

Be Internationally Recognized

The Urban Night Sky Place is part of a family of award-winning International Dark Sky Places programs designed by IDA to encourage communities, parks and protected areas around the world to preserve and protect dark sites through responsible lighting policies and public education.

Photo: Danville Glades near Danville, Missouri, by Dan Zarlenga

Urban Night Sky Place

An Urban Night Sky Place (UNSP) is a municipal park, open space, observing site, or other similar property near or surrounded by large urban area whose planning and design actively promote an authentic nighttime experience in the midst of significant artificial light. By virtue of their characteristics, these sites do not qualify for designation within any other International Dark Sky Places (IDSP) category. However, they are worthy of recognition for their efforts to educate the public on the benefits of proper outdoor lighting that ensures public safety while minimizing potential harm to the natural nighttime environment.

Benefits

In addition to the energy and monetary savings, citizens will have the opportunity to enjoy a more authentic nighttime experience. Reduced glare and light trespass will make the park safer. Wildlife, in particular migratory birds and pollinators, will benefit from a more natural nighttime environment.

Requirements

Minimum requirements of an Urban Night Sky Place must be met including meeting eligibility requirements, developing a lighting management plan, taking a lighting inventory, providing evidence of commitment to quality outdoor lighting and demonstrating a commitment to education and public outreach.

Learn More

Take the first step

We suspect that you and your team have many questions about becoming certified as an Urban Night Sky Place. By completing the "Initial Inquiry" application on IDA Missouri's website at no cost or obligation to you, IDA Missouri's dedicated team will help you explore your options and explain what is involved.

Submit an Initial Inquiry

To submit your initial inquiry, complete the steps provided below. Once submitted, our team will contact you to arrange a virtual or onsite visit.

Step 1: Visit: DarkSkyMissouri.org/IDSP

Step 2: Click "Learn More"

Step 3: Complete the "Initial Inquiry" Form

Expand Your Public Programs With Content From IDA

Parks certified as an "Urban Night Sky Place" must host regular programs talking about the importance of dark skies. IDA Missouri is building a statewide team of experts that can "train" your personnel on how to deliver such programs. Even if your park is not ready to pursue UNSP status, submit an "Initial Inquiry" to learn more about getting your park personnel trained to deliver programs with content from IDA.



Lighting Ordinances

Consider having your community adopt an IDA friendly outdoor lighting ordinance. Thousands of cities have adopted such codes and they can be a great tool for a community to control light pollution, including glare, light trespass and skyglow. Contact IDA Missouri to learn more.