

FRIENDS OF THE NIGHT SKY RESOURCE GUIDE

Appendix

April 2025



Created and maintained by



In Partnership with



Updated [4.23.25]

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SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [Date]

[Contact Name]

[Organization Name]

[Phone Number]

[Email]

[Press Release Title]

[Press Release Subhead (One Line Maximum)]

[City, State]: [Organization name] today announced [description of momentum or major milestone]. This milestone is a major move for [organization name] on its mission to [main goal of project] (Include a brief summary of the latest development/ announcement.)

“[Quote from collaborating organization/company about the milestone],” says [name], [title] at [company]. “[Additional quote].”

[Transitional sentence] This news comes in the wake of many recent initiatives and accomplishments of the company, including:

- Initiative or accomplishment #1
- Initiative or accomplishment #2
- Initiative or accomplishment #3

“[Quote from leading organization perspective/staff member about the milestone],” says [name], [title] at [company]. “[Additional quote].”

To learn more about [milestone], click here [link to website page about the milestone].

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[ORGANIZATION LOGO]

About Collaborating Organization if applicable:
Organization Boilerplate.



About Hill Country Alliance:

The Hill Country Alliance is a nonprofit organization, bringing together a diverse coalition of partners to preserve the open spaces, starry night skies, clean and abundant waters, and unique character of the Texas Hill Country. Visit us at www.hillcountryalliance.org.

DELETE THE SECTION BELOW BEFORE PUBLISHING!

Checklist Before Publishing ANY Press Release:

1. What is the goal of the release?
2. Have relevant facts and information been shared to achieve this goal?
3. Is writing clear and concise?
 - a. Simplify sentences - more than one connecting word is generally too much
 - b. Remove unnecessary phrases
 - c. Active voice where relevant - Organization XYZ leads..... as opposed to Organization XYZ will help lead....
4. Obtain permission to use quotes
5. Verify links are accessible
6. Verify use of correct/ approved logo for collaborating organization(s)
7. If photos were used, obtain approval and give credit

You can see examples or press releases on [HCA's press page](#).

Should you have any questions, at any time, please feel free to reach out to Leah Cuddeback, Storytelling and Public Engagement (leah@hillcountryalliance.org).

This press release template was created by:

TEXAN  NATURE™



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SAMPLE MEETING AGENDA

MEETING TITLE

DATE

MEETING LOCATION

START TIME – END TIME

VIRTUAL MEETING INFORMATION (if applicable)

MEETING AGENDA

- **Welcome**

- **Designate Notetaker**

Tip: It can be helpful to initiate an audio recording on someone's mobile device or record the virtual portion of the meeting to refer back to when compiling minutes.

- **Introduction of Members/New Members**

- Where do you live?
- What is your background?
- What interests you about this group?

Tip: Designate someone to greet the people as they arrive, especially new members. Set aside time after the meeting to get to know new members better. When you make people feel welcome, they are more likely to become involved and be more engaged.

- **Previous Meeting Minutes Review**

Tip: Refer to the Meeting Minutes Sample document.

- **New Business**

Tip: Make sure to include time for any new business that arises during the meeting.

- **New Action Items**

Tip: This is where you will keep track of action items that arise between meetings or that members have requested for discussion. If you have already identified the people involved in carrying out the action and/or determined a timeline or deadline, note it.

- **Ongoing Business**

Tip: This is where you will note any ongoing business that has not been completed and any incomplete business considered new from the previous meeting.



Completed Action Items

Tip: Note any action items completed since the previous meeting. This information will help you record your group's accomplishments. Furthermore, you should always take any opportunity to celebrate successes, no matter how small.

- **Next Meeting**

Tip: Try not to adjourn any meeting until you have scheduled your next one. Even if the time or place is unknown, having a date on the calendar will keep the group on track.

- **Adjournment**

Tip: Do your best to adhere to your agenda, and if necessary, designate someone as the meeting's timekeeper. If you know there is a chance you may run over, review your agenda and identify which topics can be deferred until the next meeting. Don't remove those topics from the agenda; make a note beside them (e.g., If Time Permits). Any unaddressed topics can be moved forward to the next agenda or depending on the urgency or need, can be considered for conversation online.



SAMPLE MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TITLE

Meeting Minutes

DATE | MEETING LOCATION | START TIME – END TIME

MEETING MINUTES

Present

Tip: Include first and last names. Denote any individual who is a new member, visiting, or attending in a guest or presenter capacity. If relevant, include the name of the attendee's organization. You may also choose to identify who was in person and who was online if you held a hybrid meeting.

Absent

Tip: You may find it helpful to denote those who are absent from a meeting to track attendance and determine who you may need to connect with on group business before the next meeting.

Welcome

Previous Meeting Minutes Review

Tip: Denote minutes approval, and acknowledge your note taker, if it is part of your process.

Discussion/Reports

Tip: Include the name of the individual relative to each discussion topic for future reference. If your group has a board or group officers, include their reports here.

New Business

Tip: If relevant, note the name of the person responsible for submitting any new business.

New Action Items

Tip: Include the name of anyone involved in the actions and any deadlines or timelines set.

Ongoing Business

Completed Action Items

Next Meeting

Adjournment



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SAMPLE MEETING SIGN-IN SHEETS

VISITOR SIGN-IN SHEET

MEETING NAME

MEETING LOCATION | DATE | TIME

NAME	<hr/>	EMAIL	<hr/>
PHONE	<hr/>	CITY	<hr/>
INVOLVEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> Visitor <input type="checkbox"/> Presenter	REFERRED BY	<hr/>

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PHONE	<hr/>	CITY	<hr/>
INVOLVEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> Visitor <input type="checkbox"/> Presenter	REFERRED BY	<hr/>

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PHONE	<hr/>	CITY	<hr/>
INVOLVEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> Visitor <input type="checkbox"/> Presenter	REFERRED BY	<hr/>



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MEMBER SIGN-IN SHEET

MEETING NAME
MEETING LOCATION
DATE & TIME

<input type="checkbox"/>	Member Name
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LAMPASAS COUNTY FRIENDS OF THE NIGHT SKY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



PARTNERS

Vision Lampasas: Dianna Hodges

Lampasas Chamber of Commerce: Melissa Unger

DarkSky Texas: Soll Sussman

Hill Country Alliance: Dawn Davies

Colorado Bend State Park: Debbie Hicks

LEAD	Mike Watson
TECH TEAM	Weldon Maxey Robert Noell Robert Wisan
PUBLICITY & EVENTS	Janie Watson Beth Griess Betty Lindsey-Maxey Mike Vanderhoff
SOCIAL MEDIA	Jennifer Wisian Stewart Lilley
GOVERNMENT	Dorothy Pearson
BUSINESS PROGRAM	Martha Noell
UTILITIES OUTREACH	Janet Machen Mary Grace Kuehne
EDUCATION OUTREACH	Janet Machen' Diana Hodges
FINANCE & REGULATION	Tom Griess
PARTNER LIAISON	Pam Butler
CONTACT COORDINATION	Mary Ann Wavell
FUNDRAISING	EVERYONE!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

General – nightsky.lampasas@gmail.com
Website

<https://business.lampasaschamber.org/list/member/lampasas-county-friends-of-the-night-sky-1573>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lcfons>

Pam Butler p.....@.....net

Dawn Davies d.....@.....org

Beth Griess b.....@.....com

Tom Griess t.....@.....com

Debbie Hicks d.....@.....gov

Dianna Hodges i.....@.....org

Soll Sussman w.....@.....com

Mary Grace Kuehne m.....@.....com

Stewart Lilley s.....@.....com

Janet Machen m.....@.....com

Betty Lindsey Maxey l.....@.....com

Weldon Maxey w.....@.....com

Martha Noell m.....@.....com

Robert Noell r.....@.....com

Ross Oliver i.....@.....org

Dorothy Person d.....@.....com

Melissa Unger l.....@.....net

Mike Vanderhoff k.....d@.....net

Mike Watson n.....@.....com

Mary Ann Wavell m.....@.....net

Jennifer Wisian j.....@.....com



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BLANCO COUNTY FRIENDS OF THE NIGHT SKY VOLUNTEER ROLES

BLANCO COUNTY FRIENDS OF THE NIGHT SKY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

The Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky needs volunteers for specific, limited tasks that need doing. These volunteers will enable the organization to extend its reach and improve its effectiveness in educating the community at large about night sky preservation and light pollution abatement.

Some of these volunteer positions are actually “understudy” positions to work with current BCFNS members to assist with on-going activities and be able to step in and do the task in the absence of the principal.

Having a full stable of active and enthusiastic volunteers is essential for the long-term viability of the organization and its ability to protect the night sky.

Remember: Of all the forms of pollution mankind has foisted on this world, light pollution is the easiest and cheapest to fix. And we can do it in our own lifetimes! All it takes is people who are willing to help.

Note: Volunteers undertaking any of these opportunities **will be provided training and assistance.**

To volunteer, just shoot an email to info@blancocountynightsky.org

LIST OF VOLUNTER POSITIONS

(as of May 4, 2024)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Assistant Social Media News Gatherer | 10. Night Sky Song Animator |
| 2. BCFNS Historian | 11. Volunteer Coordinator |
| 3. NSF Business Recognition Program Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator (for Johnson City) | 12. Little Green Light Database Understudy |
| 4. NSF Neighborhood Program Facilitator | 13. Webmaster Understudy |
| 5. NSF Community Program Facilitator | 14. “NextDoor” Social Media Administrator |
| 6. NSF Contractor Program Facilitator | 15. Night Sky Junior Ranger Coordinator |
| 7. NSF Outdoor Fixture Guru | 16. Legislative Liaison Representative |
| 8. Night Sky Darkness Data Recorder for Southern Blanco County | 17. Posthole Digger/Membership Sign Mounter |
| 9. Night Sky Song Contest Facilitator | 18. Outdoor Lighting Ordinance Evaluator/Advisor (One for Blanco and one for Johnson City) |



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1. Assistant Social Media News Gatherer

Duties:

- In coordination with the existing BCFNS News Gatherer, consult the automated Google (or other) news feed for night sky/light pollution news from around the world.
- Evaluate the news for possible interest to readers of the BCFNS Facebook page, Instagram feed, and other social media; choose at least two items per week for distribution on BCFNS social media.
- Format the items selected so they can be easily used on BCFNS social media.
- Write a short introduction to the item telling the reader what it is about and/or why it is important
- Forward the formatted items to the BCFNS Facebook Administrator and Instagram Administrator.

Estimated Time Required:

4-6 hours a month

2. BCFNS Historian

Duties:

- Gather and maintain in an MS Word document a history of BCFNS activities, programs, and presentations.
- Coordinate with BCFNS principals after each event to ascertain the date and location of the event, its purpose, number of attendees, and other relevant information.
- Gather and maintain documentation of “Lessons Learned” to enable the improvement of events and activities over time.
- Maintain a separate history file with photos and newspaper articles about or relevant to the BCFNS. To facilitate this task, instruct other BCFNS members how to use Drop Box to submit items for the history file.
- Maintain in an MS Word document a simplified calendar of activities completed.
- Make the history files available in MS Word document (for easy cut-and-paste) each November for incorporation into the Annual Report required by DarkSky International.

Estimated Time Required:

1-2 hours to be trained; 1-2 hours/month thereafter.



3. Night Sky Friendly Business Recognition Program Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator (for Johnson City)

Duties:

- Work with the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce and/or City Government to establish this program, modeled on the successful on-going program in Blanco.
- Best if two volunteers work together on this.
- Follow-up periodically to evaluate the success of the program and solicit suggestions for improvement.

Estimated Time Required:

2-4 hours to get trained; a few hours to get the program up and running; then 2-4 hours a month to contact businesses qualifying for recognition; prepare the recognitions, coordinate a time with the businesses in which the recognition is presented; take or arrange for a photo of the recognition for the newspaper and BCFNS Newsletter. 1-2 hours to be trained; 1-2 hours/month thereafter.

Notes:

1) an experienced BCFNS member will advise on which particular businesses qualify for recognition; 2) will require more time initially as many businesses need recognition but will taper off after that with, hopefully, one or two new businesses being recognized each month.

4. Night Sky Friendly Neighborhood Program Facilitator

Duties:

- Work with the Hill Country Alliance to promote this existing program to developers currently in Blanco County as well as developments and neighborhoods already established within Blanco County.
- The goal is to have developers voluntarily include night sky friendly outdoor lighting requirements in their deed restrictions.
- Work with the Blanco County government to ascertain new developers who are coming into the county and make them aware of this program before their development begins.
- Work closely with the BCFNS Night Sky Friendly Community Coordinator
- Coordinate with Blanco County Conservation Initiative Best Practices Manager
- Follow-up periodically to evaluate the success of the program and solicit suggestions for improvement.

Estimated Time Required:

This program is already established but we need someone to take it over. Requires 1-2 hours a week working with the County Commissioners Court and perhaps 4-5 hours a month working with developers and the Hill Country Alliance.



5. Night Sky Friendly Community Program Facilitator

Duties:

- Start this program from scratch to recognize existing local communities/developments (e.g. Rocking J, Cielo Springs, etc.) that have (or could have) good night sky friendly outdoor lighting
- In conjunction with the BCFNS Board, develop standards for community recognition to include a required percentage of homes in the community/development with good lighting, i.e., if x% of homes in the community have good outdoor lighting, the community can be recognized
- Conduct after dark assessments of lighting in communities that express an interest in this
- Help design some sort of community recognition sign, sticker, or the like
- Assist community residents in developing a community education program to develop community-wide consensus on having night sky friendly outdoor lighting
- Work closely with the BCFNS Night Sky Friendly Neighborhood Program Facilitator (who works with developers)
- Training will be provided on how to do the lighting assessments

Estimated Time Required:

5 hours to get trained on how to do assessments; 10-20 hours to get the program set it and publicized; 2-4 hours a month to manage it depending on interest generated; Note: If this program takes off, other volunteers will be needed to shepherd it as it spreads from community to community

6. Night Sky Friendly Contractor Program Facilitator

Duties:

- Set up this program from scratch, working with the Hill Country Alliance and the Chambers of Commerce in Blanco and Johnson City.
- Program is to educate contractors on the benefits of night sky friendly outdoor lighting and get their cooperation in educating their clients, noting that the clients' desires will always take precedence, but we want them to make an educated decision that will protect the night sky
- Follow-up periodically to evaluate the success of the program and solicit suggestions for improvement.
- Attend periodic Contractor's Breakfast hosted by the Blanco Chamber of Commerce (and perhaps the JC Chamber as well)
- Visit with individual contractors to explain the program and its benefits
- Provide individual contractors flat-bottomed LED bulbs as a demonstration of good lighting (provided free by the BCFNS).

Estimated Time Required:

10-20 hours to get the program up and running; then 2-4 hours a month to maintain contact with the contractors



7. Night Sky Friendly Outdoor Lighting Fixture Guru

Duties:

- Work with businesses, organizations, and individual homeowners to find and facilitate purchase of night sky friendly lighting fixtures to retrofit aberrant outdoor lighting or to install in new construction.
- Retrofit work usually will be done in conjunction with another BCFNS volunteer who will do an evaluation of outdoor lighting to determine if a particular existing fixture needs replacing.
- Will work with contractors and developers to identify night sky friendly outdoor fixtures suitable for their clients.
- Will coordinate efforts with the BCFNS Night Sky Friendly Neighborhood Program Facilitator, the BCFNS Night Sky Friendly Community Program Facilitator, and the Night Sky Friendly Business Recognition Program Coordinator
- Will have no role in the actual purchase of fixtures; will provide advice only
- Note: Most of the work will be done on the internet finding fixtures appropriate to requirements.

Estimated Time Required:

10-20 hours to become familiar with the issue and the fixtures available; then 0-4 hours a month as requests for fixture recommendations come in.

8. Night Sky Darkness Data Recorder for Southern Blanco County

Duties:

- Use a BCFNS-supplied, hand-held Unihedron Dark Sky (SQM-L) meter to take night sky darkness readings at selected sites in Southern Blanco County
- Take readings at approximately 6-month intervals
- Rationale is that if we can't measure the darkness of the night sky, we can't tell whether or not we're making progress on light pollution abatement.
- Having a formal Night Sky Darkness Measuring Program is one requirement of DarkSky International for municipalities to qualify as an International Dark Sky Communities (IDSC). These readings are a required part of the IDSC Annual Report for all IDSC communities.
- Enter the readings on a BCFNS-electronically supplied Excel spreadsheet and email the data to a Texas Hill Country Regional Night Sky Data Coordinator for analysis.
- Volunteers currently cover Northern Blanco County and Central Blanco County
- Two volunteers are needed for Southern Blanco County

Estimated Time Required:

2 hours for training (less if already familiar with Excel); 4-6 hours every six months to do the readings and make the report



9. Night Sky Song Contest Facilitator

Duties:

- Coordinate the on again-off again BCFNS Night Sky Song contest to include promoting the contest to local songwriters and performers; conduct a “Sing Off” to select the best songs to possibly record on an appropriate medium; if approved by the Board, coordinate with Los Senderos Studio to schedule recording sessions for the contest winners
- Coordinate with other song writing events such as the Dripping Springs Songwriters Festival in October to elicit new songwriters from the larger Hill Country area
- Note: This has been a major project for the BCFNS in the past and many members have participated in making it a success.

Estimated Time Required:

10-20 hours a year to promote and coordinate the event; 3-4 hours a year to coordinate studio time; maybe 20 hours a year to search for other songwriters

10. Night Sky Song Animator

Duties:

- Using AI or other tools, animate night sky-related songs into short video clips that can be incorporated into BCFNS education efforts aimed at children and adults
- For an example, see the animation of the Ken Frederick night sky song on the Video tab of the BCFNS website

Estimated Time Required:

Unknown

11. Volunteer Coordinator

Duties:

- Maintain a list of all current BCFNS volunteer positions
- Contact current members to solicit their active participation as volunteers for specific positions.
- Contact new members to welcome them to the organization and provide information about BCFNS volunteer opportunities; as required, refer new members' questions to others in the organization who can answer them more completely.
- Keep the BCFNS Webmaster apprised of the status of volunteer positions in order to keep the website up-to-date.
- Using the Little Green Light (LGL) database, maintain a list of all current BCFNS active volunteers and make periodic contact to elicit their feedback and encourage their continued participation.

Estimated Time Required:

1-2 hours to learn from the BCFNS Database Administrator how to access and modify the LGL database. Then maybe 2-4 hours/month, depending on membership growth



12. Little Green Light (LGL) Database Understudy

Duties:

- Assist the current BCFNS Database Administrator with the LGL database program
- Understudy the current Database Administrator to develop the skills to manage the database in the absence of the Database Administrator
- Will be trained by the current Database Administrator on how to use the LGL database
- Note: Proficiency in Little Green Light is a marketable skill

Estimated Time Required:

8-10 hours to learn LGL; then 1-2 hours a week to work it under the supervision of the BCFNS Database Manager

13. Webmaster Understudy

Duties:

- Assist the current BCFNS Webmaster in maintaining the BCFNS website
- Understudy the current Webmaster to develop the skills to run the website in the absence of the Webmaster
- Survey other night sky advocacy websites worldwide and suggest to the current Webmaster improvements to the BCFNS website

Estimated Time Required:

2-4 hours to be oriented to the website design and procedures for its update; then 2-4 hours a week to survey other night sky advocacy websites, make recommendations for improvement of the BCFNS website, and work on the website under supervision of the current Webmaster.

14. “NextDoor” Social Media Administrator

Duties:

- Set up a BCFNS presence on the NextDoor app
- Monitor the NextDoor page and notify the BCFNS Board of needed actions or potential educational opportunities
- Note: We have never done this but the Comal County Friends of the Night Sky have used NextDoor extensively with great success

Estimated Time Required:

2-4 hours to set it up; 2-4 hours a month to manage it



15. Night Sky Junior Ranger Coordinator

Duties:

- Work with Blanco and Johnson City schools and the local Home School Community to set up a night sky appreciation program aimed at Middle School and below
- Coordinate with local amateur astronomers to arrange periodic, age-appropriate Star Parties and/or Stellarium presentations
- Coordinate with the LBJ National Historical Park and the Science Mill in Johnson City to leverage our collective efforts

Estimated Time Required:

10-20 hours to set it all up; 2-4 hours a month to manage it

16. Legislative Liaison Representative

Duties:

- In coordination with the Hill Country Alliance, DarkSky-Texas, and local county-level night sky advocacy groups, develop legislative proposals to protect the night sky state-wide.
- Develop and maintain liaison with Blanco County's State Representative and State Senator and, as required, the representatives of other districts.
- Develop and maintain liaison with relevant groups such as Keep Texas Beautiful, Scenic Texas, Master Naturalists, the Texas Hotel and Lodging Association, etc. as well as conservation groups such as the Blanco County Conservation Initiative.
- Provide the BCFNS Database Administrator relevant contact information for inclusion in the LGL database

Estimated Time Required:

10-20+ hours to become familiar with the issues; additional time TBD

17. Posthole Digger / Membership Sign Mounter

Duties:

- Upon request of new BCFNS members, assist the member in mounting the Membership Sign (the best advertising the Night Sky can have)
- Mounting could involve digging a hole, and mounting the sign on a small post; hanging the sign on a fence or gate; hanging it on a tree; etc.
- The BCFNS will provide reimbursement for any costs incurred such as posts, screws, wire etc.

Estimated Time Required:

1 hour to be oriented and shown examples. 1-2 hours/month depending on requests received



18. Outdoor Lighting Ordinance Evaluator/Advisor (2 required)

Duties:

- Develop an expertise in DarkSky International outdoor lighting requirements and how to assess such lighting for night sky compatibility.
- Develop expertise in the requirements of the Blanco and Johnson City Outdoor Lighting Ordinances
- Learn how to use the Opple Light meter and the Sky Quality meter (SQM-L) to obtain quantitative data upon which to base evaluations.
- Ascertain acceptable and unacceptable outdoor lighting at local business and, upon request, private homes.
- Make recommendations for actions to mitigate the adverse effects of evaluated outdoor lighting before any complaint is filed with the municipality.
- Assist in the filing of complaints for violations of Outdoor Lighting Ordinances. Note: Only individuals physically residing in a municipality can file a complaint about an ordinance violation in that municipality, but this volunteer can advise such individuals and assemble the requisite paperwork for them.
- Provide advice and assistance as requested to the Historic Preservation Commissions in Blanco and Johnson City.
- Advise the municipalities on revisions of their Outdoor Lighting Ordinances as required.
- If requested, assist the city governments of Johnson City and Round Mountain in applying for International Dark Sky Community (IDSC) status from DarkSky International.

Estimated Time Required:

8-16 hours of training to include nighttime training and self-study; 4-8 hours/month thereafter; IDSC application assistance may require additional hours TBD



FRIENDS OF THE NIGHT SKY GROUP LOGOS



Bandera County Friends of the Night Sky



Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky



Comal County Friends of the Night Sky



Gillespie County Friends of the Night Sky



Hays County Friends of the Night Sky



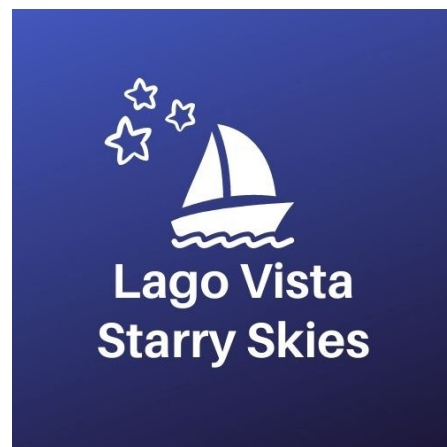
Jonestown Night Sky Advocacy



Kendall County Friends of the Night Sky



Kerr County Friends of the Night Sky



Lago Vista Starry Skies



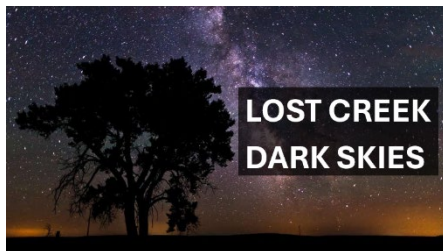
Lampasas County Friends of the Night Sky



Liberty Hill Save Our Stars



Llano County Friends of the Night Sky



Lost Creek Dark Skies



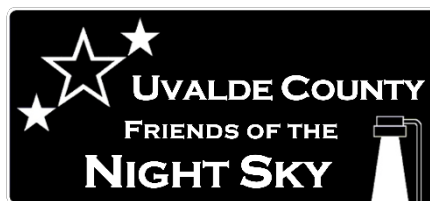
Real County Friends of the Night Sky



Spicewood Starry Skies



Travis County Friends of the Night Sky



Uvalde County Friends of the Night Sky



Wimberley Valley Dark Sky

JONESTOWN FIRST-NOTICE LETTER



Lighting Awareness

Name
Address
City, State ZIP

Date

Dear Property Owner,

We are sending this notification to make you aware of the following violation(s) of the City of Jonestown lighting ordinance at the property of 17335 Reed Parks Road.

- **Sec. 3.08.004 Definitions**

Light trespass. Light emitted from fixtures that cause light to be cast on a property other than the one where it is installed, upwards toward the sky or any other location where it is not needed. See figure 2 below:



- **Sec. 3.08.097 Prohibited lighting**

(7) Light trespass. No luminaire installed within the city limits, except governmental owned streetlights, shall create conditions of light trespass. Governmental owned streetlights may only create light trespass below it within one hundred (100) feet of its installed location. All outdoor lighting, except governmental owned streetlights, shall be shielded so that the light source shall not be visible from any other property. (Ordinance 2021-O-610 adopted 12/9/21)

- **Sec. 3.08.099 Shielding and installation requirements**

(a) All outdoor lighting except government owned streetlights shall be fully shielded so that the luminous elements of the fixture are not visible from any other property.

In 2021, Jonestown adopted a lighting ordinance to address light pollution, protect our citizens, and preserve our night sky. These regulations were designed to promote responsible lighting. The ordinance contains specific information regarding approved lighting and can be reviewed at <https://ecode360.com/40447879>.

Jonestown is a Certified Dark Sky Community, recognized by the International DarkSky Association in 2023. Mandatory requirements are a qualified lighting ordinance, community outreach, lighting education, lighting measurement, maintenance, and enforcement. Throughout our certification journey, we have found that simple awareness and understanding is often the key to addressing light pollution.



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What is light pollution? It is the adverse effect of artificial light at night, including sky glow, glare, excessive lighting, and light trespass. Light trespass is excessive light that spills beyond property boundaries. It is a common and obnoxious form of pollution. It disrupts the peacefulness of our neighborhoods, has negative impacts on wildlife, and contributes to overall light pollution, obscuring our view of the night sky and affecting human health and well-being.

How can you help? We suggest a win-win solution to fight light pollution. We believe it is essential for us to address this issue collectively to ensure that our community remains a pleasant and sustainable place to live. By addressing your outdoor lighting practices, you can mitigate light trespass, provide adequate illumination for safety and security purposes, and prevent light pollution while putting more light where you want it, using less electricity, saving money and our night sky! The simple solution is adhering to the Jonestown lighting ordinance and maintaining these simple, responsible, lighting practices.

- * **Shielding:** Light fixtures should be shielded so that the light source is not visible from above or from off-property (Light trespass). Lights should be aimed down at the ground.
- * **Color:** Light sources should have a color temperature of 2,700K or below (soft white / amber).
- * **Intensity:** Light sources should not emit more light than is necessary.
- * **Timing:** Lights should have a clear purpose and only used when and where needed. Lights that are not serving their purpose, such as decorative lights after hours, should be turned off, put on a timer to turn off automatically, or activated temporarily with a motion sensor.

Perhaps the most concerning aspect of light pollution is the loss of our heritage night sky. The view of stars and dark night skies is rapidly disappearing. Generations are growing up having never experienced the night time majesty of the Milky Way.

Please review the enclosed responsible lighting brochure, the Jonestown lighting ordinance, and consider this notice a neighborly opportunity to understand and proactively correct your lighting violation.

Sincerely,

Development Services

City of Jonestown, Texas

18649 FM 1431, Suite 1-A, Jonestown TX 78645

512.267.0359



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JONESTOWN HOA/POA LETTER

Dear Fellow Jonestown HOA/POA Board Members,

We need your help preserving our beautiful part of Texas!

My name is Mark Grossman. I am the current president of the Lighthouse Estates HOA. I also work with a committee the Jonestown City Council has challenged with the goal of attaining a Dark Sky Community designation awarded by the International Dark-Sky Association. There are several communities in the hill country that have attained that designation: Dripping Springs, Wimberly Valley, Horseshoe Bay, and, I believe, Fredericksburg. To our knowledge, Lago Vista and Liberty Hill are also currently pursuing accreditation. It is not an easy path, nor a short one. I am asking for your assistance.

Several years ago, the City of Jonestown conducted an opinion survey of all residents. The vision survey was designed to determine the desires of our neighbors and the direction of our future state. What was important to each of our residents, how did we desire to grow and what did we want the city to achieve as it matures.

- The priority short-term goal identified was to preserve our natural beauty and dark skies. To that end, the city council was to create a committee to identify view corridors, access to natural areas, and develop guidelines for protecting our existing natural beauty and night skies.
- The number one long-term goal was similar regarding our natural beauty and dark skies. It also highlighted vistas, views, access corridors as well as wildlife preservation and integration with the Town Center and points of interest.

As a member of the City of Jonestown Dark Sky Committee, I am reaching out to each of you to communicate, promote, encourage, and educate your members/neighbors about the importance of protecting our night sky from ever increasing light pollution. Our HOA/POA associations do not come close to covering the entire resident population of Jonestown, however, it is a powerful group that can control new growth and influence future behaviors of all residents.

What is light pollution? It is light that is too bright, misdirected, poorly designed, or shining where it is not wanted or needed. This is a concern, fortunately one that we can all act on and affect immediately!

Why is light pollution a problem?

- It produces glare that limits our ability to see at night, making us less safe and secure.
- Money is wasted when we light areas unnecessarily.
- Creates light trespass for our neighbors (light shining where it is not wanted or needed)
- Obscures our views of the night sky, the moon, stars, and planets.
- Impacts our own health and the health and migration habits of our native wildlife.



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I have attached several files to assist you in positively influencing your association members:

- Our committee mission statement. This outlines our goals, actions, and intents.
- A proposed city lighting ordinance. This should be reviewed and hopefully adopted into your bylaws. It follows Dark Sky lighting guidelines, and the city is prepared to officially adopt the ordinance. We do have a chicken and egg problem – with our current state law, the city cannot adopt the ordinance UNTIL we become a Dark Sky community. That is the primary reason we are reaching out to our fellow HOA/POA members. We CAN adopt the lighting recommendations and begin our journey. We CAN affect new construction, educate, and assist existing homeowners with smart lighting choices.
- A draft letter to your homeowners that highlights the benefits of protecting our night sky for now and for future generations.
- A sample letter (very non-aggressive) for owners to use when addressing other neighbors lighting issues.
- Additional Information (links) to learn more about this exciting preservation movement, key elements, and benefits, worldwide!
- Contact information for our group as well as our new website.

Please join us in adopting the attached lighting ordinance into your bylaws, reviewing current construction in your association, and educating and encouraging existing owners to review and adjust lighting accordingly. I know this is a big ask, but with new development at an all-time high, now is the perfect time to address and preserve our future. This is in direct accordance with our city council mandate and our community desires.

This is a long-term project and commitment but, as you can see, there are many benefits to preserve our heritage. Our group is here to assist you in your endeavors. As outlined in our mission statement we will help with community outreach, education, events, and general promotion towards our Dark Sky goal.

Please contact me, or anyone on the committee, for additional information or to set up any association outreach events.

Best Regards,
Mark

Mark M. Grossman
317-414-8996
mgrossman@backyardproducts.com



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WIMBERLEY VALLEY SHARED LETTERS PACKET

901.409.4310
132 River Road Circle
Wimberley, Texas 78676



@WimberleyDarkSky

Dear Mr. Utt,

Thank you for offering to forward the enclosed letter to the parties involved in the development of the Food Box at the corner of Jacob's Well road and FM 2325. We've heard from a lot of people that are excited about the convenience of the new store but are worried about the impact it will have on the night sky.

As a Wimberley Valley resident you know that our night skies are such a gift for our citizens and a big asset to the community. In 2023, the Wimberley Valley was named the international Dark Sky Place of the Year.

As mentioned in the letter, the cities are ready to assist you with lighting recommendations. I have also included a paper recently published by the Hill Country Alliance and Texans by Nature as an easy guide to responsible lighting. Dawn Davies (dawn@hillcountryalliance.org) and Leah Cuddeback (leah@hillcountryalliance.org) with the Hill Country Alliance are excellent resources that would be happy to assist you.

Mr. Utt, your associate mentioned that you own the property adjacent to the Food Box as well as additional residential property for development. I hope your leadership at Impact Real Estate Solutions will set the example for dark sky friendly lighting for future development in the Wimberley Valley.

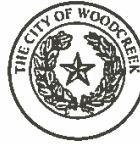
Thank you again for your help and please contact me if I can assist in any way.

Best regards,

Greg Webb

Chair, Wimberley Valley Dark Sky





Welcome to the Wimberley Valley!

We think you'll find this area a wonderful place to live and work. The Wimberley Valley is known for friendly citizens, crystal clear rivers and creeks, abundant wildlife and a beautiful night sky that's full of stars.

Both Woodcreek and Wimberley share our International Dark Sky Community designation, awarded by Dark Sky International. An appreciation for our night skies is an integral part of our culture and an important draw for visitors to the area. In fact, in 2023, the Wimberley Valley was named International Dark Sky Place of the year! Our two cities now have robust outdoor lighting codes to support Dark Sky practices.

Although your location is technically outside of the corporate city limits of Woodcreek or Wimberley, we – and the people of the Wimberley Valley – sincerely hope you'll embrace our community values and install night sky friendly lighting consistent with the lighting codes for our two cities. Please help us preserve this precious gift of night skies filled with stars for all of our residents to enjoy.

The City Managers of both Woodcreek and Wimberley will be glad to share our lighting codes with you. For information, contact Jim Burton at manager@WoodcreekTx.gov and Timothy Patek at Cityadministrator@cityofwimberley.com.

Thank you. We look forward to seeing you under the stars.

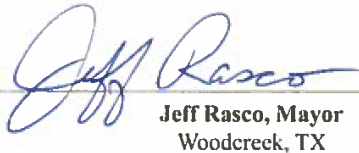
Best Regards,




Jim Chiles, Mayor
Wimberley, TX




City of Wimberley



Jeff Rasco, Mayor
Woodcreek, TX



Becca Hancock,
Executive Director
Wimberley Valley
Chamber of Commerce



Greg Webb,
Chair
Wimberley Valley
Dark Sky



@WimberleyDarkSky



David Baker,
Executive Director
The Watershed Association

