



Eaton County Parks

A MEMORABLE OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

EATON COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

Meeting of October 2, 2013

Resolution #04-2013

DARK SKY RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Eaton County Recreation Plan clearly identifies the respective goals and objectives to protect and provide diverse recreational opportunities throughout the entire Park system; and

Whereas, the Eaton County Recreation Plan identifies the Fox Park Observatory as a timeless and boundless resource, possessing value as a cultural, scenic, natural and scientific resource; and

Whereas, the designation of the Observatory as a Dark Sky Park carries with it the obligation to protect and preserve the unique environmental asset these types of Parks have to offer; and

Whereas, the Dark Sky designation provides social, economic and environmental progress; and

Whereas, there is convincing documented evidence that by suggesting regulatory provisions regarding development and renovations the Fox Park Observatory will maintain the highest quality experiences; and

Whereas, the Eaton County Parks Commission desires to maximize the potential within a Dark Sky designated facility by mitigating conflicting development, thereby protecting an environmentally significant asset and benefiting the local tourism economy;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Eaton County Parks Commission adopts the attached Dark Sky Policy for internal operations and share the policy with adjacent legal political subdivision development planners for future consideration; and

Be it further resolved, the Eaton County Parks Commission forward the policy to the various County Commission committees and the full County Commission for acceptance.

ADOPTED this the 2nd day of October, 2013, on a motion by Commissioner Hosey, seconded by Commissioner Powers. Motion carried.

Dr. Robert McConnell, Chairman, Eaton County Parks Commission



EATON COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

DARK SKY PARK POLICY

Exterior Lighting Guidelines:

All new proposed lighting should be fully shielded, meaning that emitted light from lighting fixtures is not permitted to, either directly or indirectly, be projected above a horizontal plane running through the lowest point of the lighting fixture.

Any new lighting fixture pole, structure, or other support device shall not exceed 15' in height.

Internally illuminated signs are not permitted. Externally illuminated signs should be lit from the top downward with fully shielded fixtures and should use the minimum amount of light necessary. However, it is recommended that sign lighting only be employed where it is clearly necessary. Reflective lettering is encouraged as an alternative to the use of an artificial light source.

Buildings that may be outfitted with motion sensor security lights will be equipped with a lighting control manual switch.

Lighting controls include manual switches, photo switches, dimmers, timer, motion or presence detectors, and any other device which may be used to control a light's operation or intensity. Intelligent use of lighting controls will result in energy conservation and mitigation of light pollution. However, controls will not be used as a substitute for replacing an unshielded light fixture that produces glare or light trespass. All outdoor lights will be fitted with a user-accessible, manual override switch or other control so that they may be turned off, if desired.

Interior Lighting Guidelines:

Interior lights must be evaluated for light trespass, when bright light escapes through windows and open doors. These situations will be mitigated with proper shielding of interior fixtures, minimal interior illumination levels, and where appropriate, window coverings.

Exemptions:

Lighting for emergency communication kiosks, alert systems, emergency egress, and similar functions is exempt.

Unless at the discretion of the emergency services, police/fire departments, or permitted by other relevant authorities, search lights, laser source lights, or other high-intensity light sources shall not be permitted.