

Generations of people are growing up in high density urban centers having never seen the wonders of a starry night sky—and the implications go far beyond stargazing. Poorly designed outdoor lighting wastes energy, hampers visibility, and threatens health and safety.



Benefits of Dark Skies Friendly Lighting



COST

A properly shielded light fixture reclaims wasted up-light, directing it to the ground and permitting the use of a lower wattage light source—saving YOU money! Billions of dollars spent on electricity can be saved each year in the United States by using dark skies friendly lighting.



SAFETY

Keep your eyes safe from glare produced by overly bright, unshielded light sources. A dark sky does not necessarily mean a dark ground. Smart lighting that directs light where it is needed ensures safety and starlight.



HEALTH

Humans, wildlife, and plants evolved to the rhythms of the natural light-dark cycle of day and night. Dark skies friendly lighting minimizes disruption of reproduction, feeding, and rest cycles.

Help Us Preserve and Improve Dark Skies

Spread the word!

Encourage your neighbors and community to implement dark skies friendly lighting. Many cities, including Dripping Springs and Wimberley, as well as state and national parks in Texas including Big Bend Ranch State Park, Big Bend National Park, Enchanted Rock, and many more are dark sky destinations!

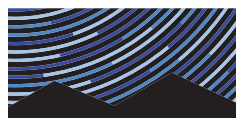
Support the Dark Skies Initiative

Staff from the McDonald Observatory travel around the state and nation to educate individuals and businesses on the benefits and importance of preserving dark skies. **Your support helps us continue our science education and public outreach.** Contact kinch@astro.as.utexas.edu to make a donation TODAY!

Learn More

McDonald Observatory:
mcdonaldobservatory.org/darkskies

International Dark-Sky Association:
darksky.org



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Fort Davis, Texas

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This document was made in partnership with

TEXAN  NATURE

Preserving Texas' Night Skies



Over the past 100+ years, dark night skies have been rapidly vanishing due to increasing light pollution and a lack of dark skies friendly lighting.



McDonald Observatory
Fort Davis, Texas

How YOU Can Help

Reclaim wasted light on your property and reduce your energy cost. **Install dark skies friendly lighting and fixtures** that are designed to direct light where it is needed and keep the stars at night big and bright!

Quick Tips for Being Dark Skies Friendly

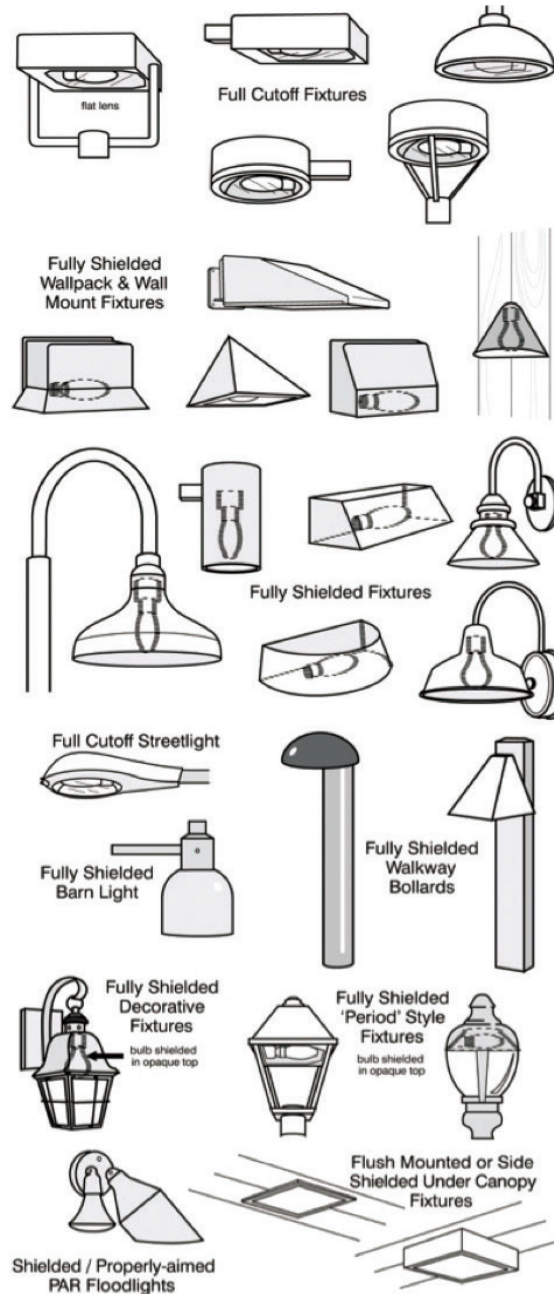
- ✓ Install fully shielded light fixtures
- ✓ Aim your lights down to keep all light on your property
- ✓ Have lights on only when they need to be
- ✓ Use lower wattage LEDs with “warm” or “amber” color temperatures that are less than or equal to 3000 degrees Kelvin
- ✓ Enjoy the stars!

Stars up!

Lights down!

Examples of Acceptable Lighting Fixtures

Fixtures that shield the light source to minimize glare and light trespass and facilitate better vision at night



Examples of Unacceptable Lighting Fixtures

Fixtures that produce glare and light trespass

