

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 Sky 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 sky friendly lighting.



SAFETY

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



HEALTH

All life on Earth, including human beings, evolved to the circadian rhythms of the natural light-dark cycle of day and night. Dark sky friendly lighting minimizes disruption of rest, reproduction, and feeding cycles.

Help Us Reclaim and Preserve Dark Skies

Spread the word!

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

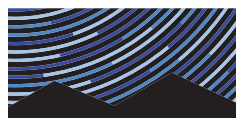
Support the Dark Skies Initiative

Staff from McDonald Observatory travel around the state and nation to educate groups about the importance of preserving dark skies and the benefits of dark sky friendly lighting. **Your support helps us continue our dark skies education and public outreach.** Contact info@mcdonaldobservatory.org to make a donation

Learn More

McDonald Observatory:
mcdonaldobservatory.org/darkskies

International Dark-Sky Association:
darksky.org



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This document was made in partnership with

TEXAN by 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 sky friendly lighting.



McDonald Observatory
Fort Davis, Texas

How YOU Can Help

Reclaim wasted light on your property and reduce your energy cost. **Install dark sky friendly lighting 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

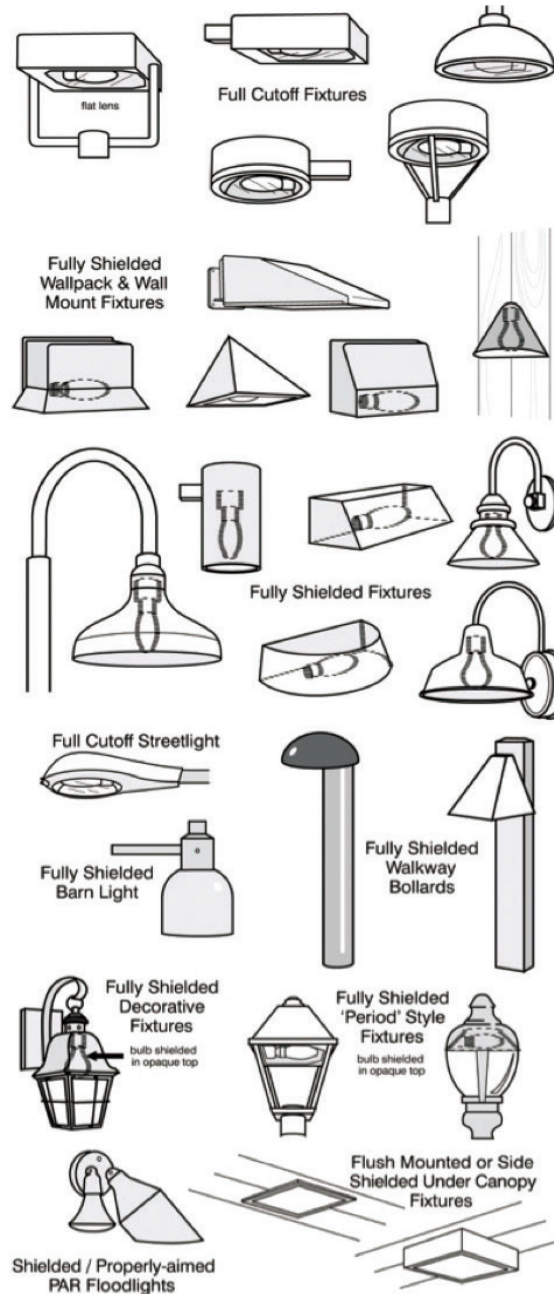
- ✓ Install fully shielded light fixtures
- ✓ Aim lights down to keep all light on your property
- ✓ Have lights on only when they need to be
- ✓ Use lower wattage LEDs with “warm” or “amber” color temperatures that are less than or equal to 3000 degrees Kelvin
- ✓ Enjoy the stars!

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

