

Dark Sky Duluth

darkskyduluth.org



What is the 'Dark Sky' idea?

The Dark Sky idea is to have visual access to the night sky, even in urban areas. This is achieved by having lights that light the ground at appropriate brightnesses for the activity or safety required, without shining light up into the sky.

Why is this important?

Besides the joy of seeing the stars, planets and other astronomical phenomena, it is known that the health of humans, and other animals, benefits from having dark at night. Well-designed night lighting improves the safety of pedestrians, drivers and property. Modern lighting solutions, including LEDs, motion-activated lights, and timers that turn off lights when they are not used at night. All of these changes use less energy, and lower the life-cycle cost of lighting.

Who benefits?

Humans and other animals benefit by having dark at night. Kids who live in towns and cities benefit by knowing about our planetary rhythms, our solar system, and the stars we can see when it's dark. Migrating birds and other animals benefit from dark. We all benefit from using less energy and spending less money on lighting. Property owners and people who are out at night benefit from safer conditions. Cities and regions can even benefit by advertising as a "Dark Sky" destination.

What about "Dark Sky Duluth"?

A number of folks in Duluth have been thinking about how Duluth can become a "Dark Sky" city. Many people live in this wonderful area because they are attracted to its beauty and enjoy interacting with its many natural wonders. Being able to see the Milky Way in town, or catch even more glimpses of Northern Lights, is a wonderful prospect. Using less energy and spending less money to light at night are bonuses, and make "Dark Sky" ideas easier to adopt. The City of Duluth has enacted a Dark Sky-friendly lighting policy. This effects "new" lighting the most. There is a lot we can do to adapt or change existing lighting to support dark skies, both in public and private realms.

What can I do?

- Use "dark sky-friendly" lighting around your home or business
- Learn about national and international Dark Sky initiatives--these include cities, regions, "star parks," observatory areas, and dark sky reserves.
- Watch documentaries like "The City Dark" or other presentations about dark skies
- Let your neighbors and representatives know about Dark Sky Duluth
- Join in supporting Dark Sky Duluth and create projects that further Duluth as a Dark Sky city
- Call 218 - 722 - 7599 (the office of Meteck & Co.) and let us know you are interested!